



Historic Courthouse
635 2nd St SE, Milaca, MN 56353
320-983-2160
www.millelacsSWCD.org

The mission of the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District is to assist area people with soil and water resource management.

Frequently Used Acronyms:

(AgBMP) Agricultural BMP Loan Programs

(SCS) State Cost Share

(BWSR) Board of Water & Soil Resources

(CLWMP) County Local Water Mgmt Plan

(SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District

(MASWCD) MN Assn. of Soil & Water Cons. Districts

(MLLWMG) Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt Group

(NRBG) Natural Resources Block Grant

(PFM) Private Forest Management

(LSP) Landscape Stewardship Plan

(NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service

(WCA) Wetland Conservation Act

(SRWMB) Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board

(CWF) Clean Water Fund Grant (BWSR)

(TSA 3) Technical Service Area 3

(MAWQCP) MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program

(WPLMN) Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network

(1W1P) One Watershed, One Plan

(PTM) Priority Target Measure

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 14, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

The meeting of the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board was held in Conference Room D at the Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse, Milaca, Minnesota with a remote option.

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2

Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Member, Kathy Stoeckel, District 1

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Adele Olson, SWCD Intern

Visitors:

Cmsr Liaison , Genny Reynolds

NRCS, Barb Zeroth

District 1 Candidate, Mark Riverblood

Members Absent: none

1. **Call to Order** Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure – Verbal**
Hoefert – No Conflict
Beckstrom – No Conflict
Lasalle – No Conflict
Janski – No Conflict
Stoeckel – No Conflict
3. **Motion by Beckstrom to approve the agenda as presented;** LaSalle second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - Additions: none
 - Deletions: none

4. **Motion by LaSalle to approve the consent agenda as presented;** Stoeckel second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- a. Approve September 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Approve Monthly Financial Report
 - i. Treasurer's Report
 - ii. Checks written #7626 - #7645 and electronic transfer's #e20-074 - #e20-081 totaling \$35,877.19.
- c. Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases
- d. Approve authorized project payment for contract C17-0721-5 to a ML Lake shoreland buffer for Mark and Julie Goodlund in an amount not to exceed \$887.50 or 50% of the est. cost of \$1,775.00 to be paid from C17-9721 FY17 Coordinator grant.
- e. SRW 1W1P Planning Grant P20-9953 fiscal expenditures to be reimbursed:
 - i. Wenck - \$14,415.00
 - ii. Kanabec SWCD - \$5,639.47
- f. Approve Supervisor 3rd Quarter compensation in the amount totaling \$1,605.54
- g. Administrators Leave: Oct 20-23, Nov 16-20, Dec 14-18

5. **Open Public Forum:** No public comment.

6. **Staff Reports/Presentations**

- a. Administrator's Report –
 - i. CARES Act reimbursable expenditures – Ms. Shaw reported the MLC Board approved SWCD CARES Act eligible expenses in the amount of \$10,305.12. This includes payroll, 2 laptops, camera/microphone, and GoToMeeting for remote work, as well as \$5,000 for workspace cubicle upgrades for improved safety. LaSalle inquired if there was risk the expenses would not be reimbursed. Cmsr Reynolds confirmed the expenses were approved by MLC. **Motion by Beckstrom to approve the CARES Act expenses;** Hoefert second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

Shaw reported the PEIP healthcare open enrollment has begun. The January 2021 PEIP renewal increase is 9.7% higher than the previous 10 year's average of about 3%.

The SWCD MOU for space and shared services will expire Dec 31. Ms. Shaw met with the county administrator to review possible updates to services and a proposed change to the space. MLC would like to use the small back room for expanded Tech Services space. Shaw reports this would not create a problem for the SWCD and would recommend board support. No increase to charges are planned for space or services.

MASWCD hosted a meeting of Area 3 managers and reviewed the resolutions process and legislative outlook.

7. **District Policy, Planning, Activities, Projects, & Grants**

- a. District Work Plan Check In on Progress – Shaw reviewed the progress report. Adele Olson provided an overview of how the hydrologic unit code (HUC) numerical system is use to classify drainage areas across watersheds.
- b. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P)

- i. Rum River – there will be a meeting of LGU attorneys upcoming Oct 20 to discuss organizational agreement options and answer liability and process questions.
- ii. Snake River – An Ag input focus group will be held Oct 15. Bob Hoefert has agreed to attend.
- c. FY2021 BWSR Local Capacity Services & Buffer Law Implementation Grant agreement - **Motion by Beckstrom to execute the agreement**; Stoeckel second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- d. MASWCD Area 3 – Business Meeting voting (*approve, disapprove, discussion*)
 - i. Approval of Minutes, Annual Meeting – 9/26/19
 Approved X Disapprove _____ or Discussion: none
 Number Supervisors for: 5 Number Supervisors Against: _____
 - ii. 2021 Dues – proposal same as 2020 - \$300
 Approved X Disapprove _____ or Discussion: none
 Number Supervisors for: 5 Number Supervisors Against: _____
 - iii. Approval Sept. 2020 – Area III Treasurers Report
 Approved X Disapprove _____ or Discussion: **budget format was confusing**
 Number Supervisors for: 5 Number Supervisors Against: _____
 - iv. 2021 Budget (fiscal yr Sept 1-Aug 31)
 Approved X Disapprove _____ or Discussion: none
 Number Supervisors for: 5 Number Supervisors Against: _____
 - v. By-laws – provide comments on proposed changes, if any
 Discussion: Beckstrom noted he would like to see the officer election NOT need to happen annually. Terms could be for multiple years. Janski noted the Exec cmte states “all persons can hold office for 3 terms” but could not find a clear definition of the Term length in the bylaws.
 - vi. Voting – Executive Board: Director, Co-Director, Treasurer, Secretary
 - 1. Director –
 Kurt Beckstrom, Mille Lacs SWCD – nominated by Mille Lacs SWCD
 Number for: 3 (LaSalle, Hoefert, Stoeckel) Number against: 2

 Russell Kurhajetz, Carlton SWCD – nominated by Bob Fox, Carlton SWCD
 Number for: 2 (Beckstrom, Janski) Number against: 3
 - 2. Co-Director -
 Jake Janski, Mille Lacs SWCD – nominated by Mille Lacs SWCD
 Number for: 4 (LaSalle, Beckstrom, Hoefert, Stoeckel) Abstain: Janski

 Marcia Stromgren, S St. Louis SWCD – nominated by Marcia Stromgren, S St. Louis SWCD
 Number for: 0
 - 3. Treasurer -
 Frank Turnock, Aitkin SWCD – nominated by Russell Kurhajetz, Carlton SWCD
 Number for: 5 (LaSalle, Beckstrom, Hoefert, Stoeckel, Janski)
 - 4. Secretary -
 Robert Hoefert, Mille Lacs SWCD – nominated by Mille Lacs SWCD
 Number for: 4 (LaSalle, Beckstrom, Stoeckel, Janski) Abstain: Hoefert

- e. MASWCD Resolutions Voting – to accommodate remote participation only one member will be asked to sign to attest to the accuracy of the vote.



Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2020 RESOLUTION BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Each current SWCD Supervisor is entitled to **ONE** vote on each resolution.
- Mark the vote of each Supervisor in **ONE** category (approve or disapprove) for each resolution.
- Each resolution can receive only as many votes as the number of Supervisors named on the ballot.
- ALL SUPERVISOR VOTES MUST BE TALLIED & SUBMITTED ON THIS BALLOT.**
- E-mail ballots to sheila.vanney@maswcd.org
- Only member SWCDs are eligible to participate.

SWCD Name: Mille Lacs

	name of voting Supervisor
1	Andre LaSalle
2	Kurt Beckstrom
3	Robert Hoefert
4	Kathy Stoeckel
5	Jake Janski

The number by each Supervisor's name above should correspond to his/her votes in below table. e.g., for each resolution, the vote of Supervisor 1 should be recorded in one of the two "1" (green) columns.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY

I certify that this ballot represents an accurate tally of the votes of the supervisors named above.

Susan Shaw, District Administrator

10.14.2020

Name of SWCD supervisor or employee

Date

DEADLINE: Ballots must be received by **November 12, 2020**. Late ballots will not be accepted.

Mark votes with a ✓ or an X.

#	Resolution Title	APPROVE					DISAPPROVE				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
1	CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE GRAZING INCENTIVE ACT			X	X		X	X			X
2	ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIVILIAN CONSERVATION GRAZING CORPS	X	X	X	X	X					
3	INCREASE MASWCD ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR SWCDs	X	X	X	X	X					

Mark votes with a ✓ or an X.

#	Resolution Title	APPROVE					DISAPPROVE				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4	LEVERAGING NRCS PROGRAM FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT 1W1Ps, NOT SUPPLANTING THEM WITH STATE WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS						X	X	X	X	X
5	POLLINATOR HABITAT ON PUBLIC LAND	X	X	X	X	X					
6	SUPERVISOR PER DIEM	X	X						X	X	X
7	MAINTAIN OR RESTORE CO-MINGLING OF NRCS AND SWCD STAFF WITHIN FIELD OFFICES		X	X	X		X				X
8	STATE COST-SHARE FOR FARMSTEAD WINDBREAK AND LIVING SNOWFENCE ESTABLISHMENT			X	X		X	X			X
9	STATE COST-SHARE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT						X	X	X	X	X
10	INCREASED STATE COST-SHARE FOR UNUSED WELL SEALING			X		X	X	X		X	
11	NRCS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP) PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES		X		X		X		X		X
12	INCREASED FLEXIBILITY FOR MINNESOTA WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA) ACTIVITIES RESULTING IN IMPACTS THAT ARE NOT READILY QUANTIFIABLE AND/OR MEASURABLE			X			X	X		X	X
13	MASWCD MEETINGS AND VOTING IN THE EVENT OF A DECLARED FEDERAL OR STATE EMERGENCY	X	X		X				X		X
14	CREP PROGRAM WORK GROUP						X	X	X	X	X
15	SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS FOR SWCDs ON MULTI-PURPOSE DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT						X	X	X	X	X
16	STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS FOR APPLICATION OF MASWCD GUIDING PRINCIPLES		X	X	X	X	X				
17	INCREASING CRP PAYMENT LIMIT						X	X	X	X	X
18	SUPPORT FOR NITRATE NITROGEN STUDIES AND ITS IMPACT TO SE MN GROUNDWATER AND DRINKING WATER		X	X	X		X				X

Mark votes with a ✓ or an X.

#	Resolution Title	APPROVE					DISAPPROVE				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
19	CREATE SHORT-TERM SET-ASIDE PROGRAM TO STABILIZE FARM COMMODITIES AND IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH				X		X	X	X		X
20	ADEQUATE FUNDING TO SWCDS FOR DNR WELL MONITORING		X	X	X	X	X				
21	ALUMINUM RECYCLING AT MASWCD STATE CONVENTION	X	X	X	X	X					

- f. RIM Joint Powers Agreement -SWIFT contract 183863 – authorization to execute. **Motion by Stoeckel to authorize the Administrator to execute;** Hoefert second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

8. Financials

- a. Stoeckel approved the statement audit
- b. 2019 Audit

Motion by Hoefert to approve the 2019 financial audit and authorize signature of the representation letter; LaSalle second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- c. **Motion by Beckstrom authorization to incur approximately \$9,000 expense for the 2021 tree sale;** Stoeckel second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- d. **Motion by LaSalle to approve Wahkon Stormwater Mgmt FY19 CWF grant C19-2703 payment to S.E.H in the amount of \$1,853.76;** Beckstrom second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

9. Informational Updates

- a. Watersheds, Workgroups
 - i. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (Janski) – Shaw will attend to answer future funding questions
 - ii. Snake River SWCD Forestry (LaSalle) – done as conference call and included a forestry funding update
 - iii. TSA Area 3 (Hoefert) – attended by phone
 - iv. Outreach/Education (Janski & LaSalle) – consensus that the MLC newsletter was the most effective publication to reach the public. Discussed a nomination for the MASWCD Employee of the year award.

10. Meetings & Events

- a. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski).....Oct 19 @ 10am, Remote
 - b. SWCD Forestry (LaSalle).....Nov 19 @ 10:00, Remote
 - c. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom)Oct 26 @ 9:00, Remote
 - d. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee (Janski).....Oct 22 @ 5:00, Remote
 - e. 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee (Beckstrom)Oct 26 @ 10:30, Remote
 - f. One on One Meetings
 - g. Snake River 1w1p Ag Focus Group (Hoefert).....Oct 15 @ 6:00, remote/HCH Conf rm D
- Motion by LaSalle to approve meetings and events, Hoefert second. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Stoeckel. Opposed: none. The motion carried.

11. Supervisor Updates

Beckstrom provided an NACD update


12. Evaluate the Meeting:

- a. Was the meeting effective in moving the district work plan goals forward? Good enough

13. Next Regular Meeting – Needs to be rescheduled as Nov 11 is Veterans Day.

Motion by LaSalle to hold the meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Historic Courthouse, Conference Room D/remote, Hoefert second. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Stoeckel. Opposed: none. The motion carried.

14. Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

 VP
 Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary
 Jake Janski, Alternate

11-10-20
 Date

