



Who we are as an organization – Mille Lacs SWCD is applying a civic governance approach to SWCD actions and activities. The work of the SWCD and the outcomes of its activities will produce a base of active citizens with common interest in sustainable soil & water conservation. All stakeholders are committed to organize, educate, and apply policy according to principles and standards instituted in democracy.

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
(CAI) County Agricultural Inspector

(NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service
(WCA) Wetland Conservation Act
(SRWMB) Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board
(CWF) Clean Water Fund
(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
(JAA) Job Approval Authority

Mille Lacs SWCD Board Meeting – MINUTES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse, Conference Room D with remote option.

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3
Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2 (virtual)
Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5
Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4
Member, Dan Campbell, District 1

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw
Watershed Coordinator, Harmony Maslowski (virtual)

Visitors:

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

Members Absent: none

1. **Call To Order** – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
 - a. Pledge of allegiance
2. **Conflict of Interest Declaration** – Supervisors were requested to identify any real or perceived conflicts of interest they may have regarding meeting business. The conflict-of-interest declaration form was provided to each for signature. Beckstrom attended virtually so he reported he had no conflict.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – (additions and deletions of new business or committee reports)
 - additions - 10. Updated SWCD meetings
 - deletions - _____

Motion by LaSalle to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

4. **Open Public Forum** - Board policy limits public forum time for board meeting topics not scheduled within the agenda to 10 minutes, but allows time extension by vote. - **No public comment.**
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approve February 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approve February Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E21-021- E21-038 and checks written #7712-7721, totaling \$30,617.85.
 - c. Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases

Motion by Beckstrom to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

6. Staff Reports/Presentations

- a. **SWCD Staff Presentation by Harmony Maslowski**, Watershed Organizer/Coordinator – updated the board on the Mississippi St. Cloud 1w1p decision making process and Snake River 1w1p progress.
- b. **Administrators Report** –
 - Shaw reported the district is already almost sold out of trees which is a couple months earlier than typical. Staff will attempt to find additional trees from nurseries to fill some of the orders anticipate to come in yet.
 - Facebook is being updated periodically. Recent posts have included a public well survey and tree sale information.
 - Shaw is working with the intern Adele Olson to apply for \$1,000 grant funding from the Rum River Community Foundation which would cover ½ her time to work with schools and interested teachers to engage classrooms in the geologic atlas well location project. If awarded the SWCD would need to commit match to the grant with \$1,000 toward the effort and hire Adele as a temporary intern. As prework for this grant project Adele has launched a public survey on the SWCD website and is in communication with teachers. Four teachers have responded with interest.
 - The Milaca HS teacher Jessica Taylor oversees a student intern program and has a student interested in being placed in the SWCD. This is a work and career preparatory program. It would be a commitment to provide supervision and 2 hours during the school day, M-Thursday, either as paid or unpaid role. Students are selected for the program as qualifying to participate by GPA as well as interest. Students are placed for a semester either Sept-Jan or Jan-May.

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

- a. **Work plan progress reports (WPPR)**– Shaw noted a table of contents has been created to provide an ongoing reference for Supervisors regarding all the projects being managed, as well as the specific projects being reported any given board meeting. Supervisors can keep these work plan progress reports for reference when interacting with the public, legislators or in making recommendations as part of your committee roles.
- b. **Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) - updates**
 - i. **Rum River – 1W1P Policy Cmte RUM River** (Janski/Campbell)
The Policy Cmte has requested the MLBO be invited to participate in the Implementation JPA. Shaw has reached out through MLBO staff to extend the invitation.
 - ii. **Snake River – Management Board/CAC & 1W1P Policy Cmte SNAKE River** (Beckstrom/Hoefert)
Discussion by the TAC includes the hope that member boards will review and contribute ideas to the implementation goals and actions.
 - iii. **Mississippi St. Cloud / Sartell** (staff)
 - 1. Resolution to establish the planning boundary
Motion by Beckstrom to approve the resolution to establish a split planning boundary.
Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none.
The motion carried.
 - 2. Resolution to support a Miss St. Cloud 1w1p project
Motion by Hoefert to approve the resolution to support a 1w1p planning project.
Second by Campbell. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none.
The motion carried.
- c. **Personnel Cmte Report – financial asst hiring plan**
Shaw reported she had worked out an informal agreement to contract with the Benton SWCD on a temporary trial basis to provide admin support with payroll. Both the MLSWCD and Benton are running the same version QB 2021 allowing Shaw to explore if payroll could be done remotely.
Motion by LaSalle to proceed with the trial with Benton SWCD utilizing funds budgeted for the admin position. Second by Campbell. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

8. Financials

- a. **Approve Statement Audit (Finance Committee Member)** – LaSalle has been provided training on how reconcile the bank statements. February has been done.
- b. January/February Treasurers Report – tabled until Shaw can complete

9. Informational Updates

- a. Water Management/Workgroups – no updates this month.

10. Approved SWCD Meetings & Events - Motion by LaSalle to approve supervisor attendance/reimbursement for the following meetings. Second by Beckstrom. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- a. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee (**Janski/Beckstrom**)..... Mar 25 @ 5:00, Remote
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert)no meeting
- 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee-no meeting
- 1W1P Snake River TAC (**Beckstrom** as PC liaison) Mar 11 @ 1:30, Remote
- c. TSA Area 3 (**Hoefert/LaSalle**)..... Mar 24 @ 10:00, Remote
- d. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (**Janski/LaSalle**)..... Mar 15 @ 10:00, Remote
- e. SWCD Forestry Association (**LaSalle/Janski**)..... Mar 18 @ 10:00, McGregor/Remote
- f. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (LaSalle/Janski).....no meeting
- g. Internal Operational Committee Meetings no meetings planned
 - i. Finance (Hoefert/LaSalle)
 - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle)
 - iii. Conservation (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - iv. Public Outreach (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator please schedule monthly as needed
- h. MASWCD/NRCS Locally Led Conservation training for supervisorsMar 31@10AM or 1:30PM, Remote
Anyone who wants to attend, please do so.
- i. MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capital (**Beckstrom/Janski**)Mar 18, Remote

11. Supervisor Updates

Janski reported he was unsuccessful getting a response from legislators to set up legislative appts remotely. Suggests supervisors each send letters instead. Jake drafted a template letter using the MASWCD briefing materials for the core message. Supervisors can tailor to suit and email or sent on their own.

Hoefert reported there are two bills in the senate proposing \$24 million for SWCDs which is good news. Rep Hanson has proposed a bill for \$12 million from the CWF plus \$25 fee per transaction for deed transfers or splits.

Beckstrom reported the NACD discussion continues on fire prevention and what SWCDs role could be.

Janski reported the Area 3 Exec committee met. Janski plans to propose bylaw changes regarding the officer terms. Suggesting the terms be changed to 2-year terms instead of all three officers serving 1-year terms. He will draft for an upcoming meeting.

12. Evaluate the Meeting – staff presentation and Q & A is effective

13. Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, April 14 - 6PM, Historic Courthouse, upstairs Board room/remote option

14. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM

Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary

Date

04-14-21