



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 Special Board Meeting – AGENDA
Monday, May 24, 2021 – 4:00pm

Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse, Conference Rm D (lower level).

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2

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

Visitors:

Greg Schiebout, Borgholm twp resident

Members Absent: none

1. **Call To Order** – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 4PM
 - 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.
3. **Purpose of Special Meeting**
To review of progress on the DRAFT Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
4. **Engagement Plan**
5. **Issue Statement Pages**
6. **Strategies Discussion** – The board was asked to respond to three questions about the issue statement strategies: Which strategies are you most excited about? Where do you see challenges? What opportunities could address the challenges?

Surface Water Quantity

Excitement expressed for:

- Preventing wetland loss and degradation – maintain what we have, give water time to infiltrate but not inundate ag, recharge groundwater, keep water flowing but at a controlled rate, retaining water on the land for the correct amt of time, without losing cropland, keep wetlands functioning – you can't recreate that.
- Collaboration with road authorities – important

- Urban BMPs – development is going to happen

Surface Water Restoration

Excitement expressed for:

- Re-meander ditches and straightened streams
- Conduct shoreline surveys

Challenges:

- Create a Rum River Watershed Discovery Farm Site – use of pesticides appropriate to the label, pesticides even used at approved levels still having effect on quality of life

Surface Water Protection

Excitement expressed for:

- Urban forestry/forestry – ash and elm loss from disease and pests, more diversity needed to protect forest

Challenges:

- Multipurpose drainage management – restore meandering channels for streams and ditches
- Mille Lacs Lake protection – is the goal practical given the size of the lake?

Ground Water and Drinking Water Quality

Excitement expressed for:

- Geologic Atlas – experience shows there can be multiple minor aquifers that are inconsistent over a ¼ mile area with really different quality, the geologic atlas would provide info needed for putting in subdivision etc

Challenges:

- Consistency with regulatory approaches

Knowledge and Data Regarding Groundwater

Excitement expressed for:

- Support Mille Lacs County in completing the Geologic Atlas

Challenges:

- Support residential groundwater quality testing – nitrogen leaching into groundwater remains in groundwater, do we have a seat at the table with agencies regarding how and where data is collected (pesticides for example)?

Restore Degraded and Protect High Quality Habitat in Lakes, Streams, Rivers, and Wetlands

Challenges:

- Restore geomorphology through incorporation of natural stream channel design – changes noted in fish species in Bogus Brook over a couple decades and concern its related to pesticide use for weed control which effectively leaves more bare ground vs cultivating left more cover between the crop. Is urbanization also contributing? Switch from livestock farming 20 yrs ago to now primarily row crops.

Comments:

- Arsenic in groundwater and where is it coming from.
- What is effecting base flow.

Invasive Species

Challenges:

- Most invasives we cannot get rid of and will be part of the future. Do we throw a lot of money at it or wait for the environment to adapt?

Comments:

- Healthy plant communities help protect against invasives

Protection, Management, and Restoration of Upland Habitat

Challenges:

- Concern about expanding protected area that the state has control of, comes off the local tax base and the state may not do anything to manage that land. Concern that even locally controlled public land may not be feasibly managed well.

7. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 6PM



Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary

06-09-21

Date

Our specific purpose or vision is to organize more sustainable partnership between government and community, by developing and supporting an active role for all citizens in managing soil & water resources, that will ensure soil and water resources can meet the needs and the common good of all citizens.