



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

(MLLWVG) 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, June 9, 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

Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Member, Dan Campbell, District 1

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Visitors:

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

NRCS, Barb Zeroth

Adele Olson, intern

Members Absent: none

Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6: 01 PM

1. **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.

2. **Approval of Agenda** – (additions and deletions of new business or committee reports)

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

3. **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.

Barb Zeroth reviewed the NRCS report details.

4. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approve May 12 Regular Meeting minutes

b. Approve May 24 Special Meeting minutes

c. Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E21-085- E21-103 and checks written #7743-7756, totaling \$37,570.20.

d. Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases

- e. Administrators leave request June 21-25

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

5. Staff Reports/Presentations

- a. SWCD Staff Presentation: Adele Olson, SWCD intern presented information on the outcomes of the Rum River Community Fund grant project to grow a community connection with youth while developing a county groundwater and geological atlas. Next steps include providing a poster with a QR code that would link interested individuals to the well location survey.
- b. Administrators Report - Shaw mentioned that beginning July the pandemic flexibility with open meeting law will expire. Voting members will need to be present in person to vote or if participating virtually their physical location must be open to the public and posted. The district could maintain a virtual option for guests and observers.

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

- a. Work Plan Progress Reports (WPPRs) – Shaw briefly overviewed the program reports.
- b. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates
 - i. Rum River – 1W1P Policy Cmte RUM River – Janski reported that the Policy Cmt was provided a primer on how the watershed plan will be laid out at the May meeting. The contractor also submitted a request for contingency funding for the additional work done above the original work plan estimate. The Policy Cmte wanted to explore an person/virtual combined option for the June meeting.
 - 1. Contract Amendment between MLSWCD and Sherburne SWCD for services above and beyond the original contact. An additional \$3,700 will be available to reimburse MLSWCD for outreach and an additional \$2,000 for notetaking duties.

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

Janski noted that the Policy Cmte had not yet confirmed a liaison for the June 14 TAC meeting and asked if Campbell would be interested in attending.

- ii. Snake River – Management Board/CAC & 1W1P Policy Cmte SNAKE River- Beckstrom reported there was additional discussion about the value of maintaining a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) format for the Snake watershed as a 1w1p organizational framework is developed.
- c. Area3/MASWCD Business
 - i. A3 Resolutions Meeting report – Janski reported on the hybrid A3 meeting last week. Aitkin SWCD presented a resolution to ask BWSR and MASWCD to support forestry programs. The resolution was passed by the membership. The fall meeting will be hosted by So St Louis.
 - d. Authorization for Chair signature - MDH Groundwater Protection Initiative Accelerated Implementation Grant.
Motion by Beckstrom to authorize chair signature of the grant agreement. Second by Campbell. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - e. DNR agrees to continue funding Benton SWCD to provide CRP support in ML county – Shaw reminded the board that Benton SWCD received funding from DNR for a Farm Bill Specialist to serve both counties.
 - f. Well sealing for Dean Bemis, Contract # FY19-3, total project cost is \$1,281.00. Cost share amount is 50% or an amount not to exceed \$640.75, whichever is less.

No action is required of the Board to complete and sign contract payment vouchers since the Board originally authorized the payment amounts when approving a contract. The Administrator signs these contract payment vouchers. Shaw asked if the board would like to continue the practice of approving the

voucher anyhow. The Board agreed the Administrator is authorized to sign the payment voucher and no action is needed by the Board, but would like to know when contracts are completed and if the payment amounts change from the estimated project cost.

7. Financials

- a. Approve Statement Audit (Finance Committee Member) – LaSalle reported that he reconciled the May bank statements himself in QuickBooks.
- b. December Treasurers Report – Shaw reported progress on development of the 2021 program log with a target date for a completed formal treasurer’s report after June 30, 2nd quarter.

8. Informational Updates

- a. Water Management/Workgroups
 - i. Forestry Association (May 20 update) – LaSalle reported on the reforestation goals of an LCCMR grant.
 - ii. Personnel Cmte (May 24 update) – LaSalle reported the Personnel committee discussed staff measures or metrics to be developed for 2022. Shaw will be doing mid-point evaluations with all staff. The Committee will make itself available to any staff that want to meet with them June 16 and will do a mid-point review with the Administrator that same day.
 - iii. Joint Conservation Cmte/Public Outreach (June 9 update)(Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - Tree program - Beckstrom reported the committee discussed Tree program goals. They suggested a main value is contact with the public. They recommend keeping the program as at least a break-even program. LaSalle would like to have cross over discussion about the program as a Finance committee to find out more about what other districts are doing to use their tree sales or similar rental programs as income streams.
 - Inclusion & Diversity - Campbell reported on a discussion about how to ensure enough groups are being included in SWCD conservations. Beckstrom suggested surveying members of the Board to find out who they feel they are able to represent.

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

- a. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee (Janski/Beckstrom)..... Jun 24 @ 5:00, Remote/hybrid TBD
Dan may attend as liaison to the TAC June 14
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert)..... Jun 28 @ 9:00, Remote/hybrid
1W1P Snake River Policy Committee @ 10:30, Remote/hybrid
1W1P Snake River TAC (Beckstrom as PC liaison)June 10 @ 1:30, Remote
- c. TSA Area 3 (Hoefert/LaSalle) Jun 23 @ 10:00, Remote/TBD
- d. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle).....June 21, 10:00, Remote
- e. USDA/NRCS Local Work Group (Beckstrom)June 29, 1:00, Conf Rm D
Beckstrom requested the meeting offer a remote option.
- f. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Janski).....Jul 15 @ 10:00, Remote
- g. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (LaSalle/Janski).....Jul 21 @ 1:00, Remote
- h. Internal Operational Committee Meetings
 - i. Finance (Hoefert/LaSalle)
 - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle)June 16 @ 3:00, conf rm A
 - iii. Conservation (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - iv. Public Outreach (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator please schedule monthly as needed

10. Supervisor Updates

Beckstrom reported high attendance at the Winds and Wildfire online conference. This year is the NACD 75th anniversary, Beckstrom will attend the Chicago meeting.

11. Evaluate the Meeting – no comments made

12. Next Regular Meeting – July 14 - 6PM, Historic Courthouse, conference room D/remote option will continue to be offered for presenters and the public. Board members will meet in person.

13. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM



Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary

07-14-21

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.