



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, July 14, 2021

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

**Members Present:**

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Member, Dan Campbell, District 1

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:**

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

**Visitors:**

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

NRCS, Deb Hermel

Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2 (remote)

**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)
  - additions - Mille Lacs Watershed Mgmt Group mtg Aug. 16
  - deletions - administrator leave; no staff presentation

**Motion by LaSalle to approve the agenda as amended.** Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: 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. –

Deb Hermel reported on program work. She noted the Local Work Group (LWG) report will be coming out soon. There are a couple field days upcoming in neighboring areas. Beckstrom attended the LWG meeting and provided input that NE MN natural resources should merit targeted funding from programs.

**4. Consent Agenda**

- Approve June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E21-104- E21-136 and checks written #7757-7768, totaling \$37,662.81.
- Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases

d. ~~Administrators leave request July 20-23~~

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

**5. Staff Reports/Presentations**

- a. SWCD staff chat – ~~Q&A: Lynn Gallice, Shoreland Tech – buffer program work~~
- b. Administrators Report - Shaw reported foot traffic in the courthouse has not returned to pre-covid levels but staff have been asked to come back to the office a couple times weekly.

The Clean Water Fund competitive grant RFP is open from June 30-Aug 17. Shaw has inquired with NRCS and Casey Field if there are projects we could address with a grant application. Board authorization is not required to apply but Shaw will report to the board at the August meeting if an application will be submitted.

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

- a. Work plan progress reports – Shaw reviewed the progress reports for the board. Updates included buffer law implementation and the 1w1p progress for the Rum River and Mississippi-St. Cloud watersheds.
- b. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates
  - i. Rum River – 1W1P Policy Cmte RUM River ..... (Janski/Campbell)

Janski reported the committee reviewed what to expect for content in the draft plan and draft implementation table. They discussed how meetings might be held in the future and reviewed the timeline.

- ii. Snake River – Management Board/CAC & 1W1P Policy Cmte SNAKE River ..... (Beckstrom/Hoefert)

Beckstrom reported the Policy Cmte is asking each LGU to report what type of organizational structure they prefer for the future. There are three proposed organizational structures described in the meeting materials. Janski read the proposed resolution for support for consideration. Shaw provided background about the existing SRW Mgmt Board structure.

1. Resolution to support merged organization option:

**Motion by Hoefert that the Mille Lacs SWCD support a Merged Snake River Watershed 1W1P governing framework.** Second by Campbell. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- iii. Mississippi St. Cloud / Sartell ..... (staff)  
Details are in the work plan progress report but we are waiting to hear if planning grant is awarded.

c. Area3/MASWCD Business

- i. Area 3 Fall Mtg - Save the date Tuesday, September 21
- ii. MASWCD Annual Convention – currently planned for fully in person Dec. 12-14

The board would like staff to provide a recommendation for conservationist of the year for the August meeting to meet the MASWCD September state competitive award deadline.

Jake will attend the MASWCD resolutions committee meeting on Aug 17

d. DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring program contract 07.01.2021-06.30.2022

**Motion by LaSalle to approve administrator signature on DNR groundwater level monitoring contract 196106.** Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

**7. Financials**

- a. Statement Audit (Finance Committee Member) – LaSalle reported the statements looked good.
- b. Treasurers Report – Shaw reported on payables and receivables. Peterson Company will be in the office July 27 to perform the year end 2020 audit - no action

- c. **Motion by Campbell to approve supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter compensation as reported.** Second by LaSalle Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- d. Wahkon Stormwater Mgmt FY19 CWF grant C19-2703 - S.E.H. two invoices:  
**Motion by Hoefert to approve payment to S.E.H invoices for May in the amount of \$4,099.98 and June in the amount of \$1,841.84 under FY19CWF grant C19-2703.** Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- e. SRW 1W1P Planning Grant P20-9953 fiscal expenditures to be reimbursed:  
**Motion by LaSalle to approve payment to Kanabec SWCD in the amount of \$4,877.78 under the SRW 1w1p grant P20-9953.** Second by Hoefert Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- f. 2022 draft budget and proposed allocation request to Mille Lacs County – Shaw and LaSalle reported they had reviewed revenues and expenditures together July 9<sup>th</sup>. The largest expenditure for the SWCD is its investment in staff. Funding from state grants are anticipated to be comparable to the last biennium. There is very little or no wiggle room to reduce other expenditures. There is also little or no room to increase revenue from SWCD generated sources of income like equipment rental and tree sale, other than what the market might bear if charges were raised. The idea scenario would be to ask for a budget increase from Mille Lacs County to address cost of living increases. However, MLC is facing a deficit budget. Considering this the finance committee presented three budget scenarios to the board for consideration.  
  - Proposal #1 – demonstrated the fiscal impacts to the SWCD if MLC provided the same level of funding being provided for 2019-2021 (\$107,750). This might allow the SWCD to fill the financial support vacancy with a partial time position.
  - Proposal #2 – projected a reduction to the capacity match portion by half (\$96,375). This would also limit filling the financial support position with more than a part time position. But it would additionally trigger reductions of state revenue beginning 2023 and continuing for at least years following.
  - Proposal #3 – demonstrated the fiscal impacts of no capacity match was provided. This would leave no option to fill the financial support position and an unsustainable situation for the SWCD.
  - Proposal #4 - After discussion a fourth proposal was developed which was to request what the SWCD needs to balance a minimal budget while filling the financial support position. A number was estimated that would reflect the cost of living increases not recognized the past 3 years (\$130,125).

**Motion by LaSalle to request increased funding from Mille Lacs with a cover letter and explanation.** Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

**8. Informational Updates**

- a. Water Management/Workgroups
  - i. Technical Service Area 3 – meeting held June 23rd
  - ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group - Janski reported the group is still working on lead tackle collection outreach. The MLBO is compiling lake water quality data for the website. The group is applying for a Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation grant.
  - iii. Forestry Association - upcoming
  - iv. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee - upcoming

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

- a. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee (Janski/Beckstrom) .....July 22 @ 5:00, Hybrid
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert) ..... next mtg Sept 27 @ 9:00, Hybrid
- 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee .....@ 10:30, Remote
- 1W1P Snake River TAC (Beckstrom as PC liaison) .....July 8 @ 1:30, Remote

