



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, August 11, 2021

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

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Members Absent:

Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2

Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Member, Dan Campbell, District 1

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Shoreland Tech, Lynn Gallice

Visitors: none

Call To Order – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Three board members were unable to attend, so without a quorum this will be an informational meeting only and actionable items will be deferred to the September meeting.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration – no action

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

- additions - _____
- deletions - Items needing action 1, 4, 6e and 9 will be deferred to the September meeting.

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. - No public comment.

4. Consent Agenda – deferred to the September meeting

5. Staff Reports/Presentations

- a. SWCD staff chat – Q&A: Lynn Gallice, Shoreland Tech – Ms. Gallice gave a presentation on the work she is doing with landowners around Mille Lacs Lake to install enhanced buffers. These are all projects' landowners are doing on their own, with no financial assistance, only technical design and planting plan assistance from the SWCD.
- b. Administrators report – Shaw reported that she will take leave the week of August 16-20. A new county coordinator has been hired and will start the last week in August.

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

a. Work Plan Progress Reports (WPPRs) -

Suggestions were shared to identify how best to use the work plan reports to inform decisions or actions to be taken during monthly board meetings. One idea is to separate the WPPRs. Instead of binding them as a group and reviewing together as an agenda item, separate them per agenda action item. Shaw will test this for the September meeting.

Shaw asked for input on the amount and type of information included in the WPPRs. Board members feel the WPPRs are really good overall. It may be worth exploring if the WPPRs could be formatted in a way to split them into a very concise summary piece, without entirely losing the detail about the program purpose, goals and outcomes. The advantage of a concise summary would be for audiences who are interested but not invested enough to read the full WPPR.

b. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates

i. Rum River – 1W1P Policy Cmte RUM River – update included in the WPPR.

1. Policy Cmte representative to review/comment on the draft plan by Sept.13

ii. Snake River – Management Board/CAC & 1W1P Policy Cmte SNAKE River - no new info

iii. Mississippi St. Cloud / Sartell - no new info

c. Personnel Committee report – Casey Field has submitted a letter of resignation. His last day will be August 27th. The personnel committee met with Casey for an exit interview before the board meeting.

d. Area3/MASWCD Business

i. Award nominations due Sept 17 – Shaw briefly described the four MASWCD competitive awards and the one non-competitive award options. Shaw recommended the board consider the local chapter National Wild Turkey Federation – Rum River Longbeards for the non-competitive Outstanding Conservationist award. The Longbeards committee is an active supported of outdoor sport activities like archery and shooting sports with Milaca school. Many of the members individually participate in forestry, tree planting, conservation planting and RIM easement management. Additionally, the group has expressed interest in submitting a proposal to the SWCD for the nomination. Shaw will work with the Longbeards committee to prepare a nomination proposal for the September meeting.

e. Temporary officer appointments – deferred to the September meeting.

7. Financials

a. Statement Audit (Finance Committee Member) – LaSalle reconciled the bank statement with the Quickbooks accounting system August 5th.

b. Annual financial audit for year end 2020 – Shaw reported the CPA firm Peterson’s Company LLC did an in-office audit July 2th. The district should expect the audit to be finalized late September.

c. Treasurers Report – Shaw reported that time tracking is up to date per grant. Receivables and expenditures are up to date in the program log and QuickBooks. The Wahkon grant will be audited by BWSR in the next few weeks. Shaw plans to engage assistance from Benton SWCD for financial assistance starting late August.

8. Informational Updates

a. Water Management/Workgroups

i. Technical Service Area 3 (Hoefert/LaSalle)

ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (Janski/LaSalle)

iii. Forestry Association – LaSalle reported there was a meaningful presentation on the impacts of climate change on forests.

iv. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee – LaSalle reported he appreciated the deep dive taken at the meeting to explain the history of the Snake River Watershed Management Board. The explanation of operational framework decisions to be made to transition to 1w1p was very clear.

- 9. SWCD Meetings & Events – Approval of planned meetings was deferred to the September meeting.**
- a. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee (Janski/Beckstrom) rep must review/comment by Sept 13th
 - b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert) **Aug 16 @ 9:00, remote/tbd**
 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee no August meeting
 1W1P Snake River TAC (Beckstrom as PC liaison) **Aug 12 @ 1:30, Hybrid**
 - c. TSA Area 3 (Hoefert/LaSalle) Sept 22 @ 10:00, Duluth/Hybrid TBD
 - d. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle) **Aug 16 @ 10:00, in-person**
 - e. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Janski) Sept 16 @ 10:00, tbd
 - f. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (LaSalle/Janski) no meeting
 - g. **Internal Operational Committee Meetings**
 - i. Finance (Hoefert/LaSalle) tbd
 - 1. Statement reconciliation w/Quickbooks (LaSalle) monthly
 - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle) tbd
 - iii. Conservation (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - iv. Public Outreach (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator please schedule monthly as needed

10. Supervisor Updates - none

11. Next Regular Meeting – September 8 - 6PM, Historic Courthouse, conference room D. A remote option will continue to be offered for presenters and the public. Board members will meet in person.

12. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:26PM



 Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary

09-08-21

 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.

