



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, June 8, 2022

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

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2

Treasurer, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Secretary, Dan Campbell, District 1

Member, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Participating Guests:

Watershed Coordinator, Harmony Maslowski

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

Members Absent: none

Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6: 03PM

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 - Items.4.c NRCS report, 6.f DNR groundwater contract, 6.a.iii.1 Miss St. Cloud draft MOA
- deletions - _____

Motion by Beckstrom to approve the agenda as amended. 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. - **No public comment.**

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approve May 11,2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

b. Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E22-078- E22-095 and checks written #7849-7862, totaling \$44,273.77

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

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

5. Staff Reports/Presentations

- a. Administrators Report - Shaw reported the 2021 year-end audit was started today by Petersons Co LLC.

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

- a. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates

- i. Rum River – 1W1P Policy Cmte (Janski/Beckstrom)

- 1. Kanabec County action to withdraw – Kanabec county is not a required partner and there are no priorities identified that are contingent on their participation. No other partners have indicated a desire to withdraw to date. Cmsr Reynolds reported BWSR was able to answer some concerns MLC had and she is optimistic that MLC will participate.

- 2. Example resolution provided to attorney for review – any comments should be made asap.

Masloski - Anticipated final Steering Cmte meeting time will be used to familiarize everyone with the work plan in July.

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

Beckstrom reported that the SRW 1w1p policy committee discussed who would be invited to be part of the JPE board. The decision was that Isanti and Chisago were to be invited, but the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) was not. BWSR may yet determine if the state will require the MLBO be invited. Janski asked why not invite the Band? Beckstrom expressed that he felt not inviting the MLBO would be a missed opportunity, however Cmsr Craig Smith and Cmsr Oslin did not want the band invited. Smith told BWSR he would not be happy if BWSR required the invitation. Beckstrom noted the MLBO is a valid gov unit and appropriate for them to be invited. Beckstrom noted that this is an historic opportunity for conservation to do good work in a watershed. Hoefert noted the plan partnership will provide access to money to implement conservation and it is unjust not to provide willing partners funds to do good things.

Maslowski reported the TAC will review the draft plan. Last outreach event had good turnout and input at the Mora event. Two tables reviewed issue statements and responded to strategies. Beckstrom felt both events were well organized. Wished all PC members would have been there to hear the comments.

Hoefert reported the Policy committee decided the size of the advisory committee would not include lake associations.

- iii. Mississippi St. Cloud / Sartell – 1W1P Policy Cmte (Campbell/Hoefert)

- 1. Draft MOA was reviewed by the steering committee June 8 - it is still being reviewed by partner staff in hopes to come to a working agreement before a draft will be provided at an upcoming policy cmte meeting.

- b. Area3/MASWCD Business – Hoefert, Janski and Beckstrom will be attending

- c. MDA Noxious Weed Grant extension SWIFT #208327 (action)

Current grant expires June 30, 2022 – approval to extend to Dec 31, 2022 and authorize signature.

Motion by Beckstrom to authorize Shaw to sign the extension amendment. Second by LaSalle.

Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- d. Personnel

- i. Financial Specialist hiring update – an interview is scheduled for Friday. LaSalle, Shaw and Dillon Hayes will participate in the interview. The position is posted for continuous application.

- ii. Watershed Coordinator resignation effective June 10, 2022.

- iii. Staff capacity planning – Shaw is drafting a staff capacity plan to utilize for short and long term budgeting. The financial position is key to fill ASAP but there are additional capacity gaps that need to be filled, watershed coordination, outreach, forestry and ag assistance. Once the district has a financial person onboard then the administrator will have greater capacity to seek grants.

- iv. Juneteenth – close the office? Staff are all planning to take personal leave on Monday, June 20th.
Permission from the board requested to close the office.
Motion by LaSalle to approve closing the office June 20th. Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- e. 2017 Strategic Plan Review - renew it as it, update it or sunset it? **(discussion)**
Beckstrom felt the strategic plan was great when we created it and maybe should be updated but its relevance is not a high now because we have the civic governance framework. Possibly discard and write a new one later that incorporates the civic governance process. Janski noted that the district is piloting civic governance, the bd has not committed to taking into a 5-year plan. But agrees that once we complete the pilot we can re-look at updating the strategic plan or have a strategic planning session sometime in the winter, dovetailed with the end of the civic governance pilot.
Janski asked the members who were not there when the strategic plan was created in 2017 if the document is helpful? LaSalle thought it had good big picture goals but not so much the how. Campbell thinks it's a basic guide. Shaw feels that the civic governance process provides a model for how to meet the goals named in the plan.
Decision to set up a strategic planning session for the winter. Consider how we would do it internally if we can, or possibly in leu of a regular meeting? Janski and Shaw will start brainstorming about what we can or cannot do internally.
- f. DNR Groundwater level monitoring SWIFT contract #213169..... **(action)**
Motion by Beckstrom to approve Shaw to sign. Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

7. Financials

- a. Reconciliation of Bank Statements (Finance Committee Member) – LaSalle reconciled the May bank statements with the QuickBooks accounting system.
- b. Financial Update **(action)**
 - i. 2023 draft budget request to Mille Lacs County – due June 10
Mille Lacs County has requested budget needs the “shoots for the moon” and depicts what all departments could do if funding were available. The County will continue to have significant levy constraints but this information will help inform the County board as they begin the budgeting process for 2023. Shaw reviewed a budget framework proposed base on a staff capacity needs plan. The anticipated state grant and county funding needs will be broken out among each role demonstrating gaps in funding. Shaw will review the final draft financial impact with the finance committee (LaSalle, Hoefert) before sending to Mille Lacs County.
Motion by Beckstrom to approve the finance cmte to authorize what will be submitted to MLC. Second by Campbell. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
- c. SRW 1W1P Planning Grant P20-9953:..... **(action)**
 - i. fiscal expenditures to be reimbursed
Motion by Beckstrom to approve payment to Stantec in the amount of \$3,150.00 for period ending May 20, 2022 **under the SRW 1w1p grant P20-9953.** Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - ii. Consultant request for access to contingency funds – Shaw updated the Board that the consultant has requested additional funding above what was originally budgeted and contracted in order to complete the planning process. The time required to facilitate meetings and narrow priorities among partners in the project have extended far beyond the original schedule. Shaw is seeking Snake 1W1P policy committee approval and BWSR authorization before increasing available funds allocated to the consultant work.
- d. Midwest Active Citizenship Initiative (MACI) membership dues \$500 **(action)**
Motion by Beckstrom to approve membership payment to MACI in the amount of \$500. Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

8. Informational Updates

- a. Water Management/Workgroups
 - i. Technical Service Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert)
 - ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (Janski/LaSalle)
 - 1. **Mille Lacs Community of Stewards Picnic - Saturday, July 9, 2022, 10-2pm at Father Hennepin State Park.** Janski will be there doing plant identification. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Event is planned for Sept 17th at McQuoids.
 - iii. Forestry Association(LaSalle/Campbell)

At the last meeting Paul Dickson and another private forester expressed resentment about SWCDs pulling work away from private foresters. They felt SWCDs may be acting as competition for private foresters. LaSalle felt the civic governance process our district is using keeps us on the right foot.
 - iv. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee(LaSalle/Beckstrom)

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

The motion carried.

- a. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee (Janski/Beckstrom)~~June 23 @ 5:00, canceled~~
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert)..... both approved to attend June 27 @ 9:00, *tentative*
 - 1W1P Snake River Policy CommitteeJune 27, 9am-12pm unless there is a SRWMB meeting then later
 - 1W1P Snake River TAC (Beckstrom as PC liaison) cannot attend..... June 9 @ 1:30
- c. Mississippi-St. Cloud Watershed Policy Committee (Campbell/Hoefert) TBD
- d. TSA Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert) June 22 @ 10:00
- e. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle) June 20 @ 10:00, remote
- f. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell) July 21 @ 10:00, Location TBD/remote option
- g. Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (LaSalle/Beckstrom) TBD
- h. Internal Operational Committee Meetings
 - i. Finance (Hoefert/LaSalle)
 - 1. Statement reconciliation w/Quickbooks (LaSalle) monthly
 - 2. Budget refinement remotely
 - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle)
 - 1. Hiring process – interview committee (LaSalle)..... June 10
 - 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 will attend NACD meeting in Puerto Rico in July. MASWCD mtg upcoming next week. BWSR Board end of the month.

LaSalle – wouldn't it be cool if we sponsored a crop of no-till sweet corn.

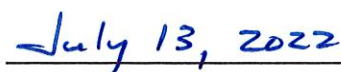
11. Evaluate the Meeting – no comment

12. Next Regular Meeting – July 13, 2022 - 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.

13. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM



Dan Campbell, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary



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.