



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, October 12, 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

Members Absent: none

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Financial Specialist, Stephanie Souer

Participating Guests:

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

Darren Mayers, BWSR Board Conservationist

Jason Weirnerman, BWSR Board Conservationist

Brian Steffen, NRCS Team Lead out of Cambridge

Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6: 04 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)
Chair Janski asked the board how they wanted to manage the meeting time given there are a few items on the agenda that could lead to lengthy discussion. Item #6 - resolutions voting could be moved to later on the agenda or done individually after the meeting. Decision to move resolutions voting to end of meeting after approval of meetings and events.

Motion by Hoefert 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.

Mr. Steffenson the NRCS Team Lead provided a five-county report. Mille Lacs has 3 CSP payments in progress. The format for NRCS assistance is to work across county lines so if assistance is needed in an area of expertise a representative with particular training will cross counties to provide assistance.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve September 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E22-163- E22-187 and checks written #7889-7898, totaling \$23,215.01.
- c. Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases
- d. Administrators leave request Sept 17-21

Motion by LaSalle 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 Ms. Souer’s work on with the financials is a great help.
 - i. Shaw gave an impromptu presentation to a junior high science class last week when requested. It was a good experience, very enjoyable. A thank you card was sent from the kids.
 - ii. Interseeder storage – John Otten has agreed to store the two interseeders and tree planter again this winter at the same rate as 2021, \$75 each for a total of \$225. Staff will proceed.
 - iii. Buffer program update: Matthew Remer of Isanti SWCD reported that he has finished the monitoring and determined required buffers in the 2022 annual spot check area in the southern third of the county are 100% compliant. Isanti will be billing us soon.
 - iv. Soil health grant memo - \$14,500 funds available for landowner who want to apply soil health practices. 20% can be used for technical assistance.
 - v. BWSR has inquired for scoping purposes about Treasurers training for interested support staff or board members. In 2015, BWSR offered a SWCD Treasurer’s training which covered such topics as the role of the SWCD Treasurer, the Role of the Treasurer in Incorporating Strategic and Resource Plans into the SWCD Budget, and some local government finance basics. Having been seven years since training was provided, BWSR surveyed interest. Shaw responded in the affirmative.

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

- a. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates
 - i. Rum River Watershed Partnership (RRWP) updates..... (Janski)
 - 1. 45 day courtesy review of 2023 RRWP Work Plan - This is an opportunity for the board to provide comments for the implementation planning committee to consider at their November meeting. Janski asked the board if they would like to approach this topic as a group at this meeting or as take-home assignment and comment to Shaw after the meeting? Hoefert commented that 25% cost share for BMPs is sometimes out of reach for producers. Shaw will share this with the Implementation Planning Committee (IPC).
 - ii. Snake River – Management Board/CAC & 1W1P Policy Cmte..... (Beckstrom)
 - 1. Consider approval to submit the Sept. 30, 2022 Draft Snake River Watershed Mgmt Plan to BWSR for 90 day review.

The draft plan presented for consideration of approval to submit includes language within the Land and Water Resources Narrative that indicates “Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe owns land in the watershed, which is used for multiple purposes and is important to tribal natural resource, economic, and environmental programs.” And “Native American communities of Ne-zhingwaakokaag (Pine City, Pine County), and portions of Chiminising (Isle, Mille Lacs County) and Gaa-zhiigwanabikokaag (Hinckley, Pine County) reside within the watershed.”

Beckstrom shared the context of discussion when the Snake 1W1P Policy Committee last met to approve a final draft of the comprehensive watershed plan to be sent to BWSR for 90 day review. At that meeting Mille Lacs County Cmsr Dave Olsin provided generic language to be used in the plan which noted only that there is tribal land in the watershed but did not include any additional description of tribal governing communities nor the value of the resource to that governing body. Kanabec County Cmsr Craig Smith also proposed that language in the plan be limited to

acknowledging there is tribal land in the watershed. The Pine County Cmsr motioned the additional descriptors be included. The motion passed in favor of including the additional descriptive language. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Oct 24 when it will be determined how many partner boards approve sending the plan with the descriptive language to BWSR. The planning MOU indicates consensus is needed by all planning partners before the plan can be sent to BWSR for review.

Motion by Beckstrom to approve the draft plan as it stands with the language “Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe owns land in the watershed, which is used for multiple purposes and is important to tribal natural resource, economic, and environmental programs.” And “Native American communities of Ne-zhingwaakokaag (Pine City, Pine County), and portions of Chiminising (Isle, Mille Lacs County) and Gaa-zhiigwanabikokaag (Hinckley, Pine County) reside within the watershed.” and submit to BWSR for 90 day review. Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

iii. Mississippi St. Cloud / Sartell – 1W1P Policy Cmte(Shaw)
Darren Mayers, BWSR Board Conservationist reported the partnership has submitted the planning grant to BWSR.

b.i. Area3/MASWCD Business – Resolution voting (moved to later on the agenda)

7. Financials

a. Reconciliation of Bank Statements (Finance Committee Member) (LaSalle)

b. Financial Update: Stephanie Souer, Financial Specialist, provided a financial overview as of end of third quarter and compared to the same period in 2021.

i. PEIP health insurance renewal rate increases for 2023 were provided for board review.

c. SRW 1W1P Planning Grant P20-9953 fiscal expenditures to be reimbursed:..... **(action)**

i. Stantec - \$2,637.50 invoice #1984130

Motion by Beckstrom to pay Stantec in the amount of \$2,637.50, invoice #1984130, for work done August 20-September 16, 2022. Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. The motion carried.

ii. Kanabec SWCD invoice for \$180 – Shaw apologized for not having the documentation at the meeting and requested the item be tabled till November meeting to allow time to verify the expense.

d. Supervisor 3rd quarter compensation report – expenditure report was provided.

e. MN Dept of Admin – Government Surplus property contract renewal (action)

Motion by Beckstrom to approve renewal of the contract. 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/Shaw)**

Lake SWCD requested additional TSA funds from the TSA group because a project has gone overbudget due to unforeseen construction costs. Lake and TSA staff have identified a portion of the cost as reasonable overage costs. Lake SWCD has secured additional grant funds to cover most of the overages however they are still on the hook a project mgr for approximately \$40,000. The TSA denied the request due to insufficient information and hesitancy to create a precedence of covering project overages with area funds. However small SWCDs can navigate the liability of large projects it is now being discussed among partner SWCDs.

The TSA partners expect to pay more for engineering and construction due to market changes.

- ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (Janski/LaSalle)
Healthy Land Healthy Lake event was hosted and the roundtable discussion between shoreland owners was effective. A plaque was provided to Margaret Voss recognizing her for her work in the community. Janski has a photo for a news release.
- iii. Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell)
LaSalle attended remotely. The group did a tour of a reforestation project. Lindberg updated the group on the LCCMR tree planting grant. LaSalle responded to a survey on local forestry capacity.

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. Rum River Watershed Partnership (RRWP) JPE Board (Janski/Beckstrom)..... Nov 30 @ 5:00
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert) Oct 24 @ 9:00
1W1P Snake River Policy Committee Oct 24 @ 10:30
- c. Mississippi-St. Cloud Watershed Policy Committee (Campbell/Hoefert) TBD
- d. TSA Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert) January 25 @ 10:00
- e. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle) Oct 17 @ 10:00
- f. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell) Nov 17 @ 10:00
- 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
 - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle)
 - iii. Conservation (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - iv. Public Outreach (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator please schedule monthly as needed

10. Area 3/MASWCD Business – Resolutions voting..... (action)

Board supervisors agreed to take the resolutions voting materials home and complete individually after the meeting. Each will submit their completed voting record to Shaw by Friday, Oct 21. Supervisors should not discuss their voting with other supervisors in order to follow open meeting law. Shaw will post the results of voting in the November board packet for public meeting review and discussion.

11. Supervisor Updates

Beckstrom will be attending an MASWCD meeting at the Staples college regarding training more soils students for the work force. MASWCD will also be hosting an NACD meeting.


12. Evaluate the Meeting

13. Next Regular Meeting – November 9, 2022 Historic Courthouse, Conf Rm D. A remote option will continue to be offered for presenters and the public. Board members will meet in person.

14. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM



 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.