



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:

(1W1P) One Watershed, One Plan (BWSR program)
(AgBMP) Agricultural BMP Loan Programs
(BMP) Best Management Practice
(BWSR) Board of Water & Soil Resources
(CAI) County Agricultural Inspector
(CWF) Clean Water Fund
(JAA) Job Approval Authority
(JPA, E or C) Joint Powers Agreement, Entity or Collaborative)
(RRWP) Rum River Watershed Partnership (JPE board)
(MRSC) Mississippi River St. Cloud
(SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District
(LGU) Local Government Unit
(MASWCD) MN Assn. of Soil & Water Cons. Districts

(MLBO) Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
(MLLWMG) Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt Group
(MLSWCD) Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District
(NACD) National Association of Conservation Districts
(NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service
(PFM) Private Forest Management
(SCS) State Cost Share
(SRWMB) Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board (JPE board)
(SRW PC) Snake River Watershed Policy Cmte (MOU board)
(TSA 3) Technical Service Area 3 – SWCD Engineering
(MAWQCP) MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program
(WPLMN) Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network
(WCA) Wetland Conservation Act

Mille Lacs SWCD Board Meeting – MINUTES
Thursday, March 9, 2023

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 – remote
Member, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Members Absent: none

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw
Stephanie Souer, Financial Specialist - remote

Participating Guests:

NRCS, Barb Zeroth

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

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 - Add 5.i Landowner resource concerns raised in Princeton twp

Motion by LaSalle to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Beckstrom. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle. 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 elaborated the report provided.

4. Consent Agenda

- Approve February 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E23-021 – E23-039, checks written #7939-7946, and credit card batch fees totaling \$32,990.24.
- Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases

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

5. District Policy, Finance, Planning, Activities, Projects, Grants (60 min.)

a. Financials

- i. Financial Update (Souer)
Souer added the deposit detail to the packet because we received several grants in February. The rest of the deposits are from tree sales.
Agreement from discussion that future reports need only depict only the current month details and year to date summary.
- ii. Treasurers report – grant funding looks good at this time (Souer)
- iii. Reconciliation of Bank Statements (Finance Committee Member) - LaSalle reconciled the bank statement with the QuickBooks accounting system and reported that the accounts look good.

b. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates

- i. Rum River Watershed Partnership JPE Board Janski (Beckstrom)
Janski reported the Implementation Planning Committee (IPC) has met once as the partners have been submitting request for funds. The IPC will meet Monday to vote on distribution of funding among partners per work plan goals. Then the JPE Board will meet to approve funding.
- ii. Snake River Watershed 1W1P Policy Cmte Beckstrom (Hoefert)
 1. SRW 1W1P Planning Grant P20-9953 fiscal expenditures to be reimbursed:..... **(action)**
 - a. Internal work plan budget move – approved and recommended by the Snake Policy Committee board.
 - b. Stantec - \$450.00
 - c. Kanabec SWCD - \$8,151.89

Motion by Beckstrom to approve the internal funding move, payment of Stantec in the amount of \$450.00 and Kanabec SWCD in the amount of \$8,151.89 under the SRW 1w1p grant P20-9953. Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

2. Resolution to adopt the plan **(action)**

Beckstrom reported with enthusiasm that the Policy Board took action to develop a joint powers agreement to form an implementation entity including county and SWCD members.

Motion by Beckstrom to adopt the Snake River Watershed Comprehensive Plan. Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- i. Miss/St. Cloud 1W1P Policy Cmte Campbell (Hoefert)
Stephanie Souer reported the partnership is hosting the 'We Are Water' display at the Sherburne County Historical Society through March 24th.

- c. Data practices policy update – policy #2023-03..... **(action)**

Motion by LaSalle to approve the update of authorized staff on the policy, Second by Beckstrom. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- d. Rental equipment – damage deposit (discussion)

Souer reviewed the MCIT coverage document and it looks as if we don't have coverage for what we need. Souer will look into it more to find out what we are covered for. Beckstrom suggests keeping a damage deposit for careless use of the machine. Need to determine if we are covered if employees are not delivering the equipment. The Tye has probably lived its useful life so a damage deposit is less important.

- e. Envirothon donation request/Youth Education strategic planning (discussion)

A request for \$250 was made by the Area 3 Envirothon committee. MLSWCD has \$500 budgeted for education related activities.

Motion by Hoefert to approve \$200. Second by Beckstrom. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- f. Civic Governance Strategic planning progress report and next steps..... (discussion)

Jake will sit down with Shaw in preparation for the April meeting.

- g. Area3/MASWCD Business (discussion)
 - i. Legislative Day at the Capitol report – Janski attended the briefing Tuesday. The ask is for \$44 million for the biennium or \$22 million per year. At that level each SWCD would get \$100,000 per district plus an amount per area based on a resource related equation. There is a lot of support for the bill. Janski was not able to participate with other SWCDs to visit legislators in person so Shaw reached out to SWCDs who share legislators with us to get feedback. While the majority support SWCDs and our mission and funding locally, they do not support the omnibus process. MASWCD provided a template letter for communicating with legislators. Jake will draft a letter for each of our reps and send out.
- h. Personnel reviews/committee report (Janski/LaSalle)
 - i. Probationary employee status
Motion by Beckstrom to end the probationary status for Stephanie Souer begin status as a regular full time employee. Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - ii. Hiring plan update (Shaw)
Watershed based outreach coordinator position will be a new challenge because our employee needs to meet many needs throughout the watershed. A job description will be negotiated with input from partners. Pending outcomes of the Rum JPE meeting and funding decisions we anticipate work plan agreements in place needed to fund an Ag tech.
- i. Landowner resource concerns raised in Princeton twp. (discussion)
Shaw shared that landowners were calling for resource information related to a conditional use permit multiple family development proposal in Princeton township. Dan Campbell reported that he attended the Princeton twp. public hearing based on personal interest. He observed that residents attending raised questions groundwater and septic safety. Campbell felt a development like this should be located on municipal sewer and water and wondered if there were examples of similar development in the area. Beckstrom commented that he thought the MLBO has done high density property in rural areas that are now linked to a sewer system.

Campbell also asked if there was anything the SWCD Board could or would want to do. Janski asked for discussion about the SWCDs role in decisions outside of our jurisdiction. Beckstrom responded that he felt the SWCD can be a very important source of resource information. Whether the info provided is positive or negative, let the chips fall. Beckstrom agreed there would be increased impervious surface so stormwater management would be needed. The board could stress this need. We could provide soils info and depth to water table.

LaSalle asked, if everyone follows the laws is there was any precedent for our board commenting? Hoefert, felt input from the SWCD would be pertinent if the development is near a resource of concern like the river. Janski, asked for clarification if the board was talking about proactively involving ourselves in a zoning issue. We have not previously involved ourselves in zoning, for example if there were a feedlot proposed. Beckstrom shared examples of how other SWCDs have provided resource info when solar power developments have been proposed in other regions of the state. LaSalle agreed we should be in an informational role and provide generic information.

Campbell thanked the board for a good discussion. As resident he plans to speak with members of the twp. Janski suggested Campbell encourage the township board to reach out to the SWCD for information and resource for them to assist with decisions. LaSalle suggested by telling them we are a non-biased resource they might be more encouraged to reach out to the SWCD. Janski thanked Campbell for bringing up the issue for discussion.

6. Informational Updates

- a. Tree Sale update (Souer)
Souer reported the tree sale on track to sell out. She provided a report of net sales depicting the total potential revenue if all are sold. Janski/LaSalle suggest keeping an anecdotal notes on what people are

looking for and what we are selling out of. The webpage and Facebook are updated frequently about what is sold out.

b. Water Management/Workgroups

- i. Technical Service Area 3 - no meeting (LaSalle/Hoefert)
- ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (Janski/LaSalle)
Planning meeting was held today for the April 15 Lunch and Learn event to take place at the Red Door Inn resort. Lindberg Ekola is the guest speaker. Hopefully the watershed coordinator will be hired by the June 24 and able to present at that Lunch and Learn event. March 20 Shaw will attend the MLLWMG meeting to talk about strategic planning for Compass goals.
- iii. Forestry Association - no meeting (LaSalle/Campbell)
- c. Kanabec county groundwater atlas workshop (info)
Shaw encouraged board to attend and/or share this opportunity.

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

- a. Rum River Watershed Partnership (RRWP) JPE Board (Janski/Beckstrom) March 23 @ 4:30
Implementation Planning Cmte liaison role (Janski) Feb 13, March 13 IPC remote
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert) TBD Mar 27 @ 9:00
- c. 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee (Beckstrom/Hoefert) Mar 27 @ 10:30
- d. Mississippi-St. Cloud Watershed Policy Committee (Campbell/Hoefert) Mar 24 @ 1:30-3:30
- e. TSA Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert) Mar 22 @ 10:00
- f. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle) Mar 20 @ 10:00
- g. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell) Mar 16 @ 10:00
- h. Internal Operational Committee Meetings
 - i. Finance (Hoefert/LaSalle)
 - 1. Statement reconciliation w/Quickbooks (LaSalle) monthly
 - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle)
 - 1. Hiring process as needed
 - 2. Civic Governance review TBD
 - iii. Conservation (Beckstrom/Campbell) TBD (to prepare for cropping season)
 - iv. Public Outreach (Beckstrom/Campbell)
 - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator please schedule monthly as needed

8. Supervisor Updates - none

9. Evaluate the Meeting – Janski asked if the board is still ok with this mixed financial agenda format. The board agreed it was good to keep informational only items separate from decision making discussion.

10. Next Regular Meeting – April 12 - 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.

11. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 8PM



Dan Campbell, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary
Jake Janski, Board Chair

4/12/23
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.