



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, May 11, 2023

Page Township Hall 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:**

Lindberg Ekola, BWSR

**Members Absent:** none

**Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 - move item 6.c FY20 NRCS AFA Proposal Factsheet up to 5dii as background to a proposed resolution for action; add 5f. LCCMR grant tree planter acquisition; add 7i. June 9 Resolutions meeting
  - deletions - \_\_\_\_\_

**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. - **No public comment.**
4. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approve April 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - b. Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E23-056- E23-081 and checks written #7955-7960, and credit card batch fees \$17.45, totaling \$22,841.54.

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

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

**5. District Policy, Finance, Planning, Activities, Projects, Grants**

- a. Financials .....table to June meeting
  - i. Deposit Detail
  - ii. Budget to Actual
  - iii. Treasurers Report
  - iv. Reconciliation of Bank Statements (Finance Committee Member)

- b. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates
  - i. Rum River Watershed Partnership JPE Board ..... Janski  
IPC meeting held this week to review Statement of Work format changes. Mille Lacs SWCD staff are working on some internal contracting and procedural things to prepare for executing contracts.
  - ii. Snake River Watershed 1W1P Policy Cmte .....Beckstrom  
Shaw shared the JPE with our designated ML county attorney but has not heard back.
  - iii. Miss/St. Cloud 1W1P Policy Cmte ..... Beckstrom (alternate)  
Beckstrom attended in person.

- c. Personnel committee report ..... (LaSalle)
  - i. Hiring process – LaSalle and Shaw did first round interview for the Financial Specialist position. Second round interviews will be scheduled the following week. The Ag technical position description is under review and will be posted once completed. The Watershed Coordinator position needs to be developed with input from the Rum partnership committee.

- d. Area3/MASWCD Business..... (Beckstrom-A3 Director/Janski-A3 Exec Cmte)
  - i. Area 3 Resolutions meeting facility agreement ..... (action)  
MLSWCD needs to sign an agreement for the University because Area 3 is not an entity and requires an insurance liability coverage.

**Motion by Beckstrom to sign the agreement and get reimbursed for the fee by Area 3.** Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- ii. Call for resolutions..... (discussion/action)

- 1. Advocating federal funding for forestland protection (FY20 NRCS AFA Proposal Factsheet)  
Lindberg Ekola of BWSR provided information and a proposal for consideration that would hopefully bring federal funding to the State and SWCDs for forestry work in the future. SWCDs might consider a resolution or letter of support for this idea.  
Watersheds with Landscape Stewardship Plans (LSPs) and Watershed Comprehensive plans are doing forestry work. Federal funding would bring funding and match toward resources for staff time and cost share to assist interested landowners. The idea is to request IRA funding that would be distributed to NRCS through RCPP. There is strong interest in area 8 and area 7.  
Janski commented of the draft resolution that as a member of the resolutions committee, he found the wording of the resolution burdensome. He would favor resolution language that clarifies if the action has been taken or not. Maybe some of the whereas information could become background information. Janski suggested the board could approve the concept but adapt language for discussion at the Area 3 meeting. Janski invited Lindberg to attend the Area 3 meeting June 9.

**Motion by Beckstrom to approve the advocating federal funding for forestland protection resolution.** Second by Hoefert.

**Discussion –** Janski will assist where he can with editing the language of the resolution. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- 2. 2023 sunseting resolutions – consider renewal  
Janski shared the list of resolution that will expire if not renewed. Hoefert expressed concern that if the SWCDs get taxing authority in the future the responsibility for funding might fall entirely back on the local community. Hoefert want to ensure the State carries the majority of the

responsibility for SWCD funding. If the outcome of this legislative session favors funding for SWCD this resolution may not be necessary and can be pulled from consideration at the Area 3 meeting. Discussion followed to determine if any of the current resolutions need renewal to address funding initiatives.

**Motion by Beckstrom to approve the renewal of the resolution on statutory funding authority for SWCDs.** Second by Hoefert. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- e. Civic Governance Strategic planning progress report and next steps ..... (tabled to June meeting)  
Janski and LaSalle met to see confirm where there are gaps between them in their understanding of the value of civic governance to the district. They have developed some actionable items and will meet with Shaw.
- f. LCCMR grant – funds are available in the grant for tree planter acquisition. The board discussed needs and will continue to consider ideas.

## 6. Informational Updates

- a. Tree Sale update ..... (Shaw)  
The sale is completed and Shaw will provide a sale summary at the June meeting.
- b. Water Management/Workgroups
  - i. Technical Service Area 3 ..... (LaSalle/Hoefert)  
Treasurers report looked good. They have a new engineer. Concern was expressed by one board member that engineering needs are not being met for SWCDs but SWCD staff seemed to express communication is working.
  - ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group ..... (Janski/LaSalle)  
Held the first lunch and learn event which highlighted the Keep it Clean Campaign and legislation being reviewed. A DNR conservation officer in attendance felt the legislation would be helpful for enforcement to prevent littering. Next lunch and learn June 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Forestry Association .....(LaSalle/Campbell)
- e. ~~FY20 NRCS AFA Proposal Factsheet.....(info)~~

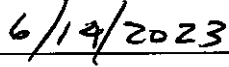
## 7. Approved SWCD Meetings & Events - Motion by Hoefert to approve supervisor attendance/reimbursement for the following meetings. Second by Campbell. Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

- a. Rum River Watershed Partnership (RRWP) JPE Board (Janski/Beckstrom)..... June 22@ 4:30
- b. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert) ..... TBD May 22 @ 9:00
- c. 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee (Beckstrom/Hoefert) ..... May 22 @ 10:30
- d. Mississippi-St. Cloud Watershed Policy Committee (Campbell/Hoefert) ..... June 1 @ 1-3:00, Location TBD
- e. TSA Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert) ..... June 28 @ 10:00
- f. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle) ..... May 15 @ 10:00
- g. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell) ..... May 18 @ 10:00
- h. Internal Operational Committee Meetings
  - i. Finance (Hoefert/LaSalle)
    - 1. Statement reconciliation w/Quickbooks (LaSalle)..... monthly
    - 2. Finance Committee ..... TBD
  - ii. Personnel (Janski/LaSalle)
    - 1. Hiring process..... TBD
    - 2. Civic Governance review ..... TBD
  - iii. Conservation (Beckstrom/Campbell) ..... Feb to prepare for cropping season
  - iv. Public Outreach (Beckstrom/Campbell)
  - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator ..... please schedule monthly as needed
  - vi. Area3 Resolutions meeting (open to all) ..... June 9, Cloquet Forestry Center

## 8. Supervisor Updates

9. **Evaluate the Meeting** - Shaw thanked members for being well prepared to discuss decisions and not rubber stamping items proposed.
10. **Next Regular Meeting** – June 14, 2023 - 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 7:32PM

  
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Dan Campbell, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary

  
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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.