



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  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

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, Pam Kuhn

Watershed Organizer, Molly Clyne

Resource Conservationist, Lynn Gallice

**Participating Guests:**

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

Supervisor Dan Campbell (District 1) attended remotely from a public location at the Black Range Museum, 3 Carro Ln, Hillsboro, New Mexico 88042

**Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance**– Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. Dan Campbell provided a verbal declaration that he had no conflicts of interest regarding meeting business.
2. **Approval of Agenda**  
**Motion by Hoefert to approve the agenda.** 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 February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - b. Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases
  - c. Administrators leave request April 11-19

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

**5. Strategic Planning.....(tabled)**

**6. Organizational Business, Fiscal and Grants ..... governing/decision making items**

a. Financial Update ..... (Treasurer/Financial Specialist)

Ms. Kuhn gave a detailed overview of the financial reports and balances in accounts.

i. Treasurers Report, Monthly Transactions Quick-Report and Balance sheet

Approve Monthly Disbursements - Electronic transfer's #E24-23- E24-46, credit card fees and checks written #8034-8042, totaling \$48,774.97.

**Motion by LaSalle to approve the monthly disbursements. Second by Hoefert.** Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

ii. Reconciliation of Bank Statements ..... (Finance Committee Member)

LaSalle came in and reconciled the bank statements and found that all accounts balanced.

b. Grant Activities

i. Rum River Watershed Partnership WBIF Implementation (SOW 2023-MLSWCD-UBMP-3)

1. Contract WBIFC23-3265-1: Cost share application for a shoreline restoration for Thomas and Carol Kuelb in an amount not to exceed \$4,875.99 based on 75% of the eligible cost of \$6,500

**Motion by Beckstrom to approve** cost share application for a shoreline restoration for Thomas and Carol Kuelb in an amount not to exceed \$4,875.99 based on 75% of the eligible cost of \$6,500. **Second by Hoefert.** Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

ii. Rum River Watershed Partnership SOW 2023-MLSWD-Well Sealing & Groundwater PD..... (action)

This is a new contract accessing supplemental WBIF funds for project development to identify and seal wells. \$15,000 is available for project development and \$10,000 for sealing wells at a 60% cost share match.

**Motion by Beckstrom to approve the Rum WBIF Statement of Work 2023-MLSWCD-Well Sealing & Groundwater PD. Second by Hoefert.** Affirmative: Beckstrom, Hoefert, LaSalle, Campbell. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

iii. LCCMR Tree Planting Grant

1. Sub-agreements being executed ..... (info)

This will be for technical assistance to landowners and cross training partner staff on forestry implementation through March 31, 2025.

- Contract for services with Steve Hughes \$2,000 has been executed by the Administrator.
- Contract for services with Dan Steward \$2,000 planned to be executed shortly.

iv. Innovative Irrigation Practices to Protect GW Quality & Quantity RCPP Grant

Information provided by the partnership indicated estimated project costs have increased and were tentatively approved by the group. Both the pooling agreement and MLBO contract would need to be amended prior to incurring costs exceeding the valued of the existing contract.

1. Pooling agreement amendment needed..... (tabled)

**7. Implementation, Activities, Project Updates.....(info or presentations)**

a. Mille Lacs lake protection efforts .....Lynn Gallice

Ms. Gallice provided info in a written report and staff presentation to the board. Targeting a bay on Mille Lacs lake for shoreline restoration with Rum WBIF funds.

b. Groundwater/drinking water safety - Ms. Gallice shared about the work she is doing to provide well water test kits and cost share to seal wells with MDH and Rum WBIF funds.

- c. Agriculture/Soil Health .....Willow Dean  
Written update provided.
- d. Forestry..... Molly Clyne  
Written report provided. Ms. Clyne invited the board to the forestry open house to be held at the Borgholm town hall Saturday, March 16, 2024. She provided a presentation on the scope of LCCMR grant accomplishments to date.
- e. Community Conversations ..... Molly Clyne  
Ms. Clyne reviewed activities underway to meet Rum WBIF “type B” community conversation development goals.
- f. Outreach/Information
  - i. Conservation tree sale.....Pam Kuhn  
Ms. Kuhn reported there are lots of trees to sell yet! Sale will end late April, pickup will likely be May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Invitation to board members to assist with the distribution event.  
Ms. Kuhn asked for input from the board on species to sell for 2025.
  - ii. Election info and community awareness ..... Shaw  
Discussion about outreach needed to encourage people to file for open SWCD supervisor positions.
  - iii. Website/social media

**8. Personnel & District Capacity ..... no activity**

**9. Informational Updates**

- a. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P) updates
  - i. Rum River Watershed Partnership JPE Board ..... Janski/Shaw  
Minor plan amendment public hearing upcoming. Already developing the FY25 workplan budget application to submit to BWSR.
  - ii. Snake River Watershed 1W1P Policy Cmte..... Beckstrom (Hoefert)/Dean  
The Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board decided not to dissolve until they see the 1W1P demonstrate “moving dirt” or getting projects implemented. The 1W1P partnership board has developed a policy that allows flexibility with cost share rates.
  - iii. Miss/St. Cloud 1W1P Policy Cmte ..... Campbell (Hoefert)/Dean  
No Feb or March board meeting. Expecting the April meeting to occur.
- b. Area 3/MASWCD Business..... (Janski-A3 Director)
  - i. Legislative Day at the Capitol and Briefing overview was provided as a recorded webinar. Information provided includes:
    - Advocacy toolkit
    - SWCD aid one-pager
    - Easements one-pager
 Janski noted that legislation has been put forward by the DNR to address the concern raised about the need for rough fish protection. This addresses an Area 3 resolution submitted to MASWCD in 2023. Planning for the 2024 Area 3 June Resolutions meeting is progressing.
- c. Water Management/Workgroups
  - i. SWCD Engineering Technical Service Area 3 ..... (LaSalle/Hoefert)
  - ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group .....(Janski/Clyne)  
Ms. Clyne gave a brief presentation to the group regarding her role. Strategic planning meeting upcoming in April that Molly will attend.
  - iii. MN SWCD Forestry Association .....(LaSalle/Campbell)

**10. 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) ..... Mar 21@ 4:30
  - i. Implementation Planning Committee (IPC) liaison (Janski) ..... Mar 11@ 12:30
- b. Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (SRWPP) JPE Board (Beckstrom/Hoefert)..... Mar 25 @ 10:30
- c. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting (Beckstrom/Hoefert)..... TBD @ 9:00

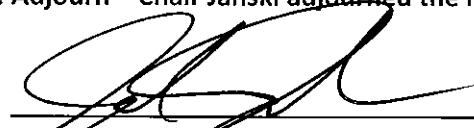
- d. Mississippi-St. Cloud Watershed Policy Committee (Campbell/Hoefert) ..... TBD @ 1-3:00
- e. TSA Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert) ..... Mar 27 @ 10:00
- f. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt. Group (Janski/LaSalle) ..... Mar 18 @ 10:00
- g. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell) ..... Mar 21 @ 10:00
- h. Area 3/MASWCD meetings
  - i. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting, Cloquet Forestry Ctr..... June 7
- i. 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

**11. Supervisor Updates - none**

**12. Evaluate the Meeting** – timeliness and content of the staff presentations was great.

**13. Next Regular Meeting** - April 10, 2024, 6PM, Historic Courthouse, Conference Rm D w/public remote option

**14. Adjourn** – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM

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

4/10/24  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.