



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, June 12, 2024

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

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Vice-Chair/Secretary, Dan Campbell, District 1

Treasurer, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Member, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Financial Specialist, Pam Kuhn

Participating Guests: none

Members Absent:

Member, vacant, District 2

Supervisor Jake Janski (District 3) attended remotely from a public location at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, room 1105, 360 Union Boulevard Lakewood, Colorado 80228.

Call To Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Chair Campbell 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)
Motion by Hoefert to approve the agenda as amended. Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Janski.
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 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. Information Only: Partner Reports, Project Summaries, News Releases
 - c. Administrators leave request July 18-26

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

5. Strategic Plan Mid-Point Evaluation..... (no activity)

6. Organizational Business, Fiscal and Grants

a. Financial Update

i. **Motion by Hoefert to approve the May** treasurer’s report and monthly transactions report which include electronic transfer’s #E24-102 - E24-133, credit card fees and checks written #8065-8077, totaling \$66,126.59 and subject to audit.

Second by LaSalle. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Janski. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

ii. Reconciliation of Bank Statements – LaSalle reported everything looked good.

iii. MLC 2025 Budgeting process has begun. Shaw will develop a draft budget for review by the finance committee and plan to provide it to MLC by July 12, 2024. Target date to provide a final draft budget to MLC will be October. Shaw will provide information to the finance committee before the July board meeting.

1. 2025 supervisor per diems..... (tabled)

b. Audit will be July 24, 2024 – Peterson’s Company provided a letter communicating what is expected between the MLSWCD Board, management and Peterson’s firm.

c. District vehicles

i. Coverage information was provided regarding employee use of personal vehicles. When employees are using personal vehicles for work their personal insurance applies first and the SWCD coverage would kick in if their coverage was exhausted.

ii. No new information regarding vehicle replacement.

d. Grant Activities

i. BWSR Soil Health Staffing grant (C24-0139) – has been executed and the first installment of funding has been received.

ii. LCCMR Tree Planting Grant (ID 2022-260)

1. DNR Grant Contract Agreement #241214 – The contract end date has been extended to June 30, 2025, to allow more time to receive the tree planter. Anticipated delivery summer 2024.

2. Payments for budgeted activities

Motion by LaSalle to approve payment for Dan Steward for services and mileage in the amount of \$385.76, as well as catering expenses to Heavenly Fresh in the amount of \$483.19 and Teals Grocery in the amount of \$61.55. **Second by Hoefert.** Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Janski.

Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

iii. Central ML County Targeted Well Sealing FY23 grant agreement (C23-6045)

Motion by Hoefert to approve payment under contract C-23-6045-6 for a completed well sealing for Margaret Vos in the amount of \$387.50 based on 50% of the eligible cost of \$775.00 not to exceed \$387.50. **Second by LaSalle.** Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle, Janski. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**

7. Implementation, Activities, Project Updates

a. Mille Lacs Lake protection efforts (Lynn Gallice – lead) staff report provided

b. Groundwater/drinking water safety (Lynn Gallice – lead) staff report provided

c. Agriculture/Soil Health (Willow Dean – lead)..... staff report provided

d. Forestry (Molly Clyne – lead) staff report provided

e. Community Conversations (Molly Clyne – lead)..... staff report provided

f. Outreach/Information

i. Conservation tree sale (Pam Kuhn – lead)

Ms. Kuhn provided a tree sale summary and reported revenue in the amount of \$2,276.00

ii. Website/social media (Molly Clyne – lead)

- iii. Election info/community awareness/candidate recruitment (info)
 - Filing period was May 21-June 4: nomination districts 1,2 and 4 are up for re-election
 - Letters of interest for the vacant district 2 seat will be accepted through July 1

8. Personnel & District Capacity

9. Informational Updates

- a. Comprehensive Watershed Planning updates
 - i. Rum River Watershed Partnership (RRWP)..... Janski/Shaw
Implementation Planning Committee (IPC) meeting was June 10, the FY25 draft outreach plan was reviewed and there was discussion about forestry cost share policy development.
 - ii. Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (SRWPP) no meeting
 - iii. Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB)..... no meeting
 - iv. Miss/St. Cloud 1W1P Policy Committee (MRSC).....Campbell (Hoefert)/Shaw
Staff comments were submitted, primarily grammatical suggestions, however staff recommended the consultant get input directly from tribal partners regarding any historical content describing tribal interests.
- b. Area 3/MASWCD Business..... (Janski-A3 Director)
 - i. MASWCD Resolutions/Policy Development (info)
Resolutions approved by Area 3 must be received by MASWCD by July 21
Jake reported 2 resolutions were presented and approved by Area 3. One resolution was presented by Lake SWCD and geared toward climate change compelling the MASWCD Board to create an overarching principle on climate change.
The second resolution was presented by Aitkin and was meant to compel MASWCD to develop a recommended statewide WBIF standardized cost share rate for Forest Stewardship Plan writing.
 - ii. Supervisor participation survey (discussion)
Janski is proposing a survey to Area 3 supervisors to learn if members are attending, what was working to cause them to participate. Conversely, for those not attending, why? Is it a lack of interest, or the format like date or location? Understanding more may help with the development of future meetings.
 - iii. Area 3 Fall meeting will be hosted by Lake SWCD and held in Grand Marais, September 9-10th.
July 8th is the deadline for room reservations so supervisors should contact staff before that deadline to reserve a room at the government rate. Janski will attend as Area 3 Director. Shaw will plan to attend. Campbell will consider.
- c. Water Management/Workgroups
 - i. SWCD Engineering Technical Service Area 3 (LaSalle/Hoefert)
 - ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group (Janski/LaSalle)
The group continues to plan and seek speakers for events. They dropped the work “management” from their name. They are exploring fundraising.
 - 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: Hoefert, LaSalle, Janski. Opposed: none. The motion carried.

- a. Rum River Watershed Partnership (RRWP) JPE Board (Janski/open)..... June 27 @ 4:30
 - i. ~~Implementation Planning Committee (IPC) liaison (Janski)..... June 10 @ 12:30~~
- b. Snake River Watershed Management Board Meeting (open/Hoefert) June 24 @ 9:00
- c. Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (SRWPP) JPE Board (open/Hoefert)..... June 24 @ 10:30
- d. Mississippi-St. Cloud Watershed Policy Committee (Campbell/Hoefert) June 26 July 8 @ 10:00
- e. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group (Janski/LaSalle)..... June 17 @ 10:00
 - i. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake event
 - ii. Lunch & Learn event
- f. SWCD Forestry Association (LaSalle/Campbell) July 18 @ 10:00


- g. Area 3/MASWCD meetings
 - i. Area 3 Fall Meeting, Cloquet Forestry Ctr Sept 21-22
 - ii. MASWCD Annual ConventionDec 11-13
- 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. Personnel Reviews TBD
 - iii. Conservation (open/Campbell)
 - iv. Public Outreach (open/Campbell)
 - v. One on One Meetings with Administrator please schedule monthly as needed

11. Supervisor Updates


12. Evaluate the Meeting – thank you to Dan for chairing the meeting

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

14. Adjourn – Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 7:08 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.