

# Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District



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[www.lacqui-parleswcd.org](http://www.lacqui-parleswcd.org)

## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

DATE: April 1, 2010

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Lac qui Parle SWCD Celebrates 60 Years!*

An unusual late season winter storm struck the Twin Cities over March 24-27 in 1936. The first wave of the storm brought high winds and thunderstorms. The lightning and thunder set off many burglar alarms in the downtown areas. As the temperature dropped the precipitation turned into snow, dumping 15.2 inches in Minneapolis. It was a dirty snow as strong winds brought in soil particles from the west (common during the Dust Bowl Era) that mixed with the snow. This mixture of snow and soil caused severe visibility problems at times.

On April 19, 1950, the Secretary of State issued charters for the Lac qui Parle Soil Conservation District and the Yellow Medicine Soil Conservation District. District supervisors were elected for each. The Districts were organized to secure technical help from the federal government in planning and applying soil and moisture conservation. One federal staff person with an office in Clarkfield was shared between the 2 Districts until November 1953, when an office was opened in Madison.

Over the past 60 years the SWCD has evolved to provide a local entity for farmers and others to work with local, state, and federal organizations in solving land-use problems and maintenance of soil fertility, erosion control, and water quality.

Join us to celebrate 60 years of conservation work in Lac qui Parle County at an Open House on Thursday, April 22, 1:30 - 4:00, in the Conservation Office at 122 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Madison. There will be coffee, cake, and door prizes!