



Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District 2008 September Newsletter

122 Eighth Avenue South #1, Madison, MN 56256

telephone: 320-598-7321 x 3

The mission of the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user to help him/her protect Lac qui Parle's natural resources.

Outstanding Conservationist

The Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce Jim & Denise Connor of rural Madison have been named LqP SWCD 2008 Outstanding Conservationists.

Jim has transitioned the farming operation from ridge till to no-till and strip-till to protect the soil in his fields. Jim doesn't have livestock, but a nutrient management workshop sponsored by the SWCD inspired Jim to buy manure from a neighbor as part of a nutrient management plan. Two farmed wetlands have been enrolled in CRP.

Not only does Jim practice good stewardship, he is willing to provide youth the opportunity to learn about conservation first-hand. As old groves were removed, tree habitat was replaced. Madison Girl Scouts planted trees for a wildlife planting while learning about the function of different kinds of tree plantings. The Connor's also welcomed an elementary Arbor Day celebration, allowing students to plant the trees in their farmstead windbreak renovation.

Over the years Jim has worked with the District to install 7 water and sediment control basins, and is currently exploring the possibility of a joint project with a neighbor. As an elementary science fair judge, Jim gave high points to a student project demonstrating how these basins help keep sediment out of surface water!

Join us in congratulating Jim and Denise, Lac qui Parle SWCD Outstanding Conservationists!



Jim & Denise Connor & family



Student-planted trees ... look pretty good, don't they!

**Tired of going around your tile intakes? Up to \$400 per replacement available now!
Call the Conservation Office 320-598-7321 x3 for more information – \$\$\$ going fast!!**

Supervisor Elections

SWCDs are political subdivisions of the State, and each SWCD is governed by a board of elected supervisors. SWCD supervisors set policy, provide direction for each local SWCD, hire employees, and are responsible to see that the operations of the District are run effectively and according to law and rule. Although SWCDs are independent local units of government, they have very close ties to county government. SWCDs do not have taxing authority and must rely on county government to supplement their operating expenses. SWCDs fill the crucial niche of providing land and water conservation services to owners of private lands. Landowners trust SWCDs to provide needed technology, funding and educational services because they are established in each community, governed by local leaders and focused on conservation of local soil and water resources.

Lac qui Parle County is divided into 5 nominating districts according to similarities of soil, rainfall, topography, and other land use issues. Although SWCD supervisors are elected on a county-wide basis, they must live in the district they represent. The option exists to have SWCD supervisor nominating districts population based rather than land based. What do you think? Call, send us a note, or drop by the office to voice your opinion.

Three of the five LqP SWCD supervisor positions will be on your ballot this fall. Candidate information will be available on the MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts website at www.maswcd.org. Check them out!

County-wide election of SWCD Supervisors LAND BASED *election process in place*

District I: Augusta, Mehurin, Manfred, Garfield, Freeland, & city of Marietta

District II: YellowBank, Agassiz, Perry, Walter, Arena, & cities of Bellingham, Rosen & Nassau

District III: Lake Shore, Hantho, Cerro Gordo, Madison, & cities of Madison & Louisburg

District IV: Hamlin, Riverside, Maxwell, Providence, & city of Dawson

District V: Lac qui Parle, Baxter, Ten Mile Lake, Camp Release, & city of Boyd

Nominating district election of Supervisors POPULATION BASED *optional election process*

District I: Augusta, Mehurin, Manfred, Garfield, Freeland, Madison, Hamlin, Providence, Cerro Gordo, & city of Marietta

District II: YellowBank, Agassiz, Perry, Walter, Arena, Lake Shore, Hantho, & cities of Bellingham, Rosen, Louisburg & Nassau

District III: city of Madison

District IV: city of Dawson & wards 1,2,3

District V: Lac qui Parle, Baxter, Ten Mile Lake, Camp Release, Riverside, Maxwell, & city of Boyd

LqP River Watershed Tour

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership is hosting a watershed tour Tuesday, September 16, to showcase water quality methods and land management practices completed during the last three years of implementing projects on the land. The tour will meet at Veterans Park in Dawson at 4:30 p.m. with the bus leaving at 5:00 p.m. and returning about 8:15 p.m. We will visit monitoring sites, note geological points of interest in the watershed and view practices installed to improve water quality in the river. A picnic supper will be held at the newly constructed storm shelter at Del Clark Regional Park near Canby. There is no charge for the tour and supper - just reserve your seat on the bus by calling Mary at 320-598-3319 or email at mary.homan@lqpc.com by September 13.

District Supervisors

John Rebehn....Chairperson

Ed Radermacher....Vice-chair

LeRoy SchuelkeSecretary

Bob Ludvigson....Treasurer

Jeff JohnsonPublicity & Information

District Staff

Terry WittnebelDistrict Manager

Leslie Kvidera....District Technician

Deborah Hoffman....Program Assistant

Curtis Nordaune....District Eng. Tech

Assisted by **NRCS Staff**

Burton Hendrickson....District Conservationist

JonPaul Pringle....Soil Conservation Technician

There's always more to learn...

As the school year came to an end last spring, Terry was kept busy with a variety of education projects. At the LqP Valley Service Learning Workshop for 7th & 8th grade she did a session on resource stewardship. County 6th graders received spruce trees along with information on tree planting and care. How are the serviceberries (a species native to Minnesota) growing, which were presented to all kindergarten students? There were classroom presentations for LqPV 5th and 6th grades, and Bellingham 6th grade. Terry helped Mary Homan, LqP Clean Water Partnership, with *Rendezvous at the River* Storytime at Dawson Riverfest. Preparing for the school year ahead, she organized an Early Childhood Project WILD workshop for 48 preschool teachers and assistants from area schools. What a great way to end the summer!



Preschool teachers examining an owl pellet



Do I Need a Permit?

Storm Damage Requirements

If you had storm damage and are replacing or restoring your structure, please contact our office.

Individual Sewage Treatment System Permits are required for any installation, alteration, modification or reconstruction of an ISTS system or if you add a bedroom to your home.

Feedlot Permits

All feedlots with over 10 animal units must be registered with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Lac qui Parle County. Feedlot permits are required when a new feedlot is proposed or upon expansion of an existing feedlot.

If you have any question or would like to obtain a permit, contact:

Lac qui Parle County Environmental Office
Courthouse, 600 6th Street, Madison MN 56256

Are they worth saving?

Recent storms have affected almost everyone in Lac qui Parle County with much damage occurring to our trees. Older farmstead windbreaks were especially hard hit. The trees that are still standing have broken limbs, leaving them susceptible to insects and disease which may not allow them to recover or survive for more than a few years.

It may be time to think about replacement. If you would like some advice on what to do next, or to see if we have a program that will fit your needs, call Les at 320-598-7321 x 3.

DNR Mentor Hunt

Are you interested in helping youth gain an appreciation of the outdoors? DNR and Pheasants Forever have joined forces to assist youth who might otherwise not have an opportunity to experience pheasant hunting. Interested youth with gun safety training participated in a lottery - those chosen are teamed with Pheasants Forever members around the state who will serve as a hunting mentor with each youth and his/her parent for a special weekend hunt experience. Only one gun is permitted for each 3 person team. The hunts take place on private land. This is the first year for this project. If you would consider allowing a special trio to hunt on your property, contact a LqP Pheasants Forever board member.

Don't forget – the Wetland Conservation Act applies to EVERYONE!
Before starting **any** project, check at the Environmental Office to see if your proposed project may impact a wetland.

Cost Share available for erosion control – check your fields!

The state cost share program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners who install permanent practices designed to protect and improve soil and water resources. This funding is appropriated from the state's general fund, which means that public tax dollars are being used to share the costs associated with reducing soil erosion and improving or protecting a water resource. The SWCD Board of Supervisors decide which resource problems within their jurisdiction will be funded. Currently the LqP SWCD has funding available for practices such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, diversions, field windbreaks, and more. Through the EQIP program, administered by NRCS, federal dollars are also available for erosion control practices. Stop by to find out if an eligible practice can correct your erosion problem.

**Buffers are like the trim on your house –
they improve the appearance of your farm while improving water quality.
Receive an additional \$50/acre/year on 15 year CCRP contract
if located in priority area of the Watershed!
Buffers protect rivers, streams and ditches, and
can be used to “square up” your field.
Call Mary at LqP-YB Clean Water Partnership 320-598-3319 or
JonPaul at the Conservation Office 320-598-7321.**

Funds from the LqP County Water Plan help sponsor the mailing of this newsletter.

**Lac qui Parle County
Joint Agency**

Newsletter

FSA/NRCS/SWCD

122 8th AVE S

Madison MN 56256

Conservation Office 320-598-7321 x3

Farm Service Agency 320-598-3226 x2

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED