



# Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District September 2010 Newsletter

122 Eighth Avenue South #1, Madison, MN 5625

telephone: 320-598-7321 x 3

[www.lacquiparleswcd.org](http://www.lacquiparleswcd.org)

*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 Conservationists 2010

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce Charles and Ihla Thomson, and Dennis and Janell Thomson of Louisburg, as the Lac qui Parle SWCD Outstanding Conservationists 2010.

The Thomsons have demonstrated basic conservation practices over years of farming. About 20 years ago they were awarded a field windbreak as part of an SWCD promotion with area banks. They planted the trees east of where Dennis and Janell now reside which provide not only shelter from the wind, but a haven for wildlife as well.

To address wind erosion and maintain healthy soil, Dennis and his father Charles chisel plow fields, planting soybeans and corn on a rotational basis. Dennis also conducts regular soil tests. The Thomsons have installed numerous practices that protect water quality. They have a fair number of ditches running through their property, and have installed approximately 20 acres of filter strips through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). A grass waterway, a diversion, and a terrace have been installed to control water erosion. A water and sediment control basin (WASCB, or "638") is to be

completed this fall, and another terrace is scheduled to be built next year. They restored two wetlands by blocking tile, and the water held in spring provides great habitat for ducks and geese

The Lac qui Parle SWCD would like to recognize the dedication to conservation by the Thomsons ~ Charles and Ihla, Dennis and Janell. Congratulations!



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

September 21, 2010 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Dawson Highway Department Garage

LqP County households only (does not include businesses)

questions, call 320-598-3132 or contact the LqP County Environmental Office

## Who will you choose to represent YOUR soil/water resources?

On November 2, 2010, Lac qui Parle county voters will head to the polls to elect, among other positions, Supervisors for the Soil & Water Conservation District. These elected Supervisors play an important role in how we address a wide variety of environmental issues in both urban and rural settings throughout Lac qui Parle County.

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.

Three of the five LqP SWCD supervisor positions will be on your ballot this fall. Jeff Johnson represents District V (Lac qui Parle, Baxter, Ten Mile Lake, Camp Release townships and the city of Boyd); Jeff is running for another term. Two years remain in District III's unexpired term (Lake Shore, Hantho, Cerro Gordo, Madison townships and the cities of Louisburg and Madison). Appointee Paul Schwendemann has filed for this position. LeRoy Schuelke currently represents District IV (Hamlin, Riverside, Maxwell, Providence townships and the city of Dawson), but decided not to run for another term. Check the LqP SWCD website at [www.lacquiparleswcd.org](http://www.lacquiparleswcd.org) for more information. Candidate information is also available on the MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts website at [www.maswcd.org](http://www.maswcd.org). Check them out!

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

## Ag Waste Water Quality Grant Opportunity

The SWCD is working with the Environmental Office on an application for an ag waste water quality grant to help smaller producers install simple fixes that will protect water near their operation. This grant deadline is September 30, but we will continue to work past that deadline with anyone interested in future grant opportunities. For information, contact Jenny in the Environmental Office at 320-598-3132 or Terry at 320-598-7321 x 3.

The Wetland Conservation Act applies to YOU!

Before starting work, check at the Environmental Office to see if your proposed project may impact a wetland.

## Photo Contest

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership is sponsoring a Photo Contest. All photos must be from the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank watershed and taken within the last 3 years. Select photos will be published in a 2011 calendar and may be used on our website and brochures with credits given. Cash prizes awarded: 1<sup>st</sup> place \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$20. Judging will be completed by the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership TEAM which consists of partnering agencies from Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties.

You do not need to live within the watershed to submit a photo. Digital photos are preferred. There is a maximum of 3 photos per person. Picture ideas include scenic views of rivers and lakes, fun water activities, wildlife, or seasonal pictures - use your imagination! Contest entry form with map of the watershed can be downloaded from our website at [www.lqpybwatershed.org](http://www.lqpybwatershed.org); click on the Clean Water Partnership button. If you need a form mailed to you contact Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 or [mary.homan@lqpc.com](mailto:mary.homan@lqpc.com). Deadline for entering photos is September 30, 2011.

## Peoples Garden

The Lac qui Parle SWCD installed a native planting on their tree building property in June, 1995. At that time, 53 different native species were planted, and MN DNR has provided periodic controlled burns for maintenance. The purpose of this planting is to provide the public an easily accessible, close-up look at a variety of native plants. Natives are well adapted to our climate and soils, needing little maintenance once established. In

addition to providing better habitat for a wide variety of wildlife when used in conservation program plantings, native plants can also be a low-maintenance addition in your home landscaping.

Each week the District website and office display have showcased plants currently in bloom and so far, 28 species have been featured. The summer is drawing to a close – stop by the tree building site east of Madison on Hiway 40,

walk into the planting and feel the strength of the grasses, look for late blooming flowers, and don't forget to watch out for the wildlife!



**Getting your trees ready for winter** Young trees need the most help as their roots are still growing and unable to access the moisture they need to make it through the long Minnesota winters. Fall watering is especially important to the evergreens as they continue to grow late into fall and because they already have their leaves need moisture again in the spring well before other trees. Water 2" per week starting in September to freeze up to insure your trees have the moisture they need to make it through this winter.

## Plan for the Future

Are you thinking maybe it's time to do something about that little gully that appears each spring in your field? Or buffering the ditch? Your neighbor said he's really happy he replaced his open tile intakes.

There are a variety of cost share and incentive programs to help you protect your soil and water resources, but we need to hear from you now! In the past a practice could be installed within a few months of the initial inquiry, but now it's often a year or more from start of the process to finish. In some cases, preliminary field work and planning are required before the SWCD can even apply for funds! So stop by the office and talk to Les, Gary or Burt about solutions for what you see happening in your fields.

### District Supervisors

Ed Radermacher....Chairperson  
Jeff Johnson....Vice-chair  
LeRoy Schuelke....Secretary  
Bob Ludvigson....Treasurer  
Paul Schwendemann....P & I

### District Staff

Terry Wittnebel ....District Manager  
Leslie Kvidera....District Technician  
Deborah Hoffman....Program Assistant  
Curtis Nordaune....District Eng. Tech

Assisted by **NRCS Staff**

Burton Hendrickson....District Conservationist  
Gary Hoffman....Soil Conservation Technician

### 2010 Affiliates

#### *Business Memberships:*

Farmers Co-op Elevator, Bellingham  
United Prairie Bank, Madison  
Lac qui Parle Coop Oil, Dawson  
Minnwest Bank Central, Dawson  
Northern Plains Tiling, Madison  
Madison Bottling, Madison  
Farmers Mutual Telephone, Bellingham  
KleinBank, Madison

#### *Friend of Conservation Memberships:*

Paul & Lori Schwendemann  
Peggy Crosby  
Sonja & Larry Farmer  
Bob & Julie Ludvigson  
Farmers Union Insurance, Dawson

*Thank you for your support!*

## **Sign up now for CSP**

NRCS has an ongoing signup for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Accepted applications will be enrolled for a 5 year period, and receive an annual per acre payment on the cropland or pastureland that is enrolled. Participants have to maintain existing conservation practices that are on the land, and do at least one more enhancement activity per land use to earn the payment. The signup is continuous, but a scoring period will be announced after October 1, and all eligible applications in by the cutoff date will be considered for FY2011 enrollment. Call us soon at 320-598-7321 if interested in more information.

## **Public input needed**

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) has allowed us a great deal of local discretion addressing our local resource issues with federal money to provide incentive payments or cost-share to landowners who want to apply best management practices (BMPs). Through our Local Work Group, we in Lac qui Parle have been able to influence application scores so money is spent on projects that we think are most critical.

In September we will be deciding local priorities for 2011. We want to know what resource problems in Lac qui Parle County YOU think should be funding priorities. You do NOT need to be a farmer for your opinion to matter! If you are a resident of – or own land in – LqP County, please take a few minutes to fill out a simple questionnaire. Surveys were available in our LqP County Fair booth. Due to space limitations, the survey could not be included with this printing, but can be accessed on our website. Go to [www.lacquiparleswcd.com](http://www.lacquiparleswcd.com) and print the survey, or call 320.598.7321 x 3 to have one mailed to you. Surveys must be received in the SWCD office by September 24.

*When soil erodes, much of the displaced sediment - as well as the pollutants that are mixed with it such as pesticides, oil, grease, and excess nutrients - wash into our ditches, streams, and rivers. This in turn affects the quality of the water. Do what you can to protect water quality by keeping soil in place.*

### **Lac qui Parle County**

#### **Joint Agency**

#### *Newsletter*

#### **FSA/NRCS/SWCD**

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**Madison MN 56256**

Conservation Office 320-598-7321 x3

Farm Service Agency 320-598-3226 x2

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED