



Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District 2010 February Newsletter

122 Eighth Avenue South #1, Madison, MN 5625

telephone: 320-598-7321 x 3

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.

Something to Celebrate!

April 2010 two noteworthy events will coincide: NRCS will observe their 75th Anniversary, and it will also be LqP SWCD's 60th Anniversary. In addition, Curtis Nordaune has spent 45 years working with both of these agencies to protect the resources of Lac qui Parle County! An event to celebrate all that conservation work is being planned - watch for announcements and plan to join us!

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Have you seen some erosion in your field? Unsure what to do about it? The District has nearly \$30,000 of state cost share funds available for engineered erosion control practices and conservation tree plantings. Stop by the Conservation Office in Madison to discuss how we can help you keep that soil where it belongs.

Got Trees?

Are your trees doing what they are designed for? Can you see the neighbors through your farmstead windbreak and need to replace your entire grove? Maybe you just need a few replacement trees or you want some trees and shrubs to improve wildlife habitat. Whether you need trees for conservation or wildlife now is the time to get them ordered. Stop in the office and talk to Les. We would be happy to provide you with a free design and cost estimate with no obligation. Cost share funds may also be available.

District Supervisors

Ed Radermacher....Chairperson
Jeff Johnson....Vice-chair
LeRoy Schuelke....Secretary
Bob Ludvigson....Treasurer
John Rebehn....Publicity & 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
position open....Soil Conservation Technician

At the January reorganization meeting, the 2010 regular monthly meeting start time of the LqP SWCD Board of Supervisors was changed to 10:00 a.m. (first Thursday of each month). Visit our website at www.lacquiparleswcd.org for up to date meeting information, agenda postings, and meeting minutes.

Opportunities, Opportunities, Opportunities!!!

There are a proverbial alphabet soup of programs and potential conservation assistance opportunities currently available through the local NRCS/SWCD office. The signups are going on now, or will be shortly, with definite end dates for this year's consideration for funding. Following are brief descriptions of what is available:

WHIP - Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

This program will provide technical and financial assistance to property owners, in their effort to install, enhance, or manage wildlife habitat on their property. Examples of things that can be done are wetland restorations, native prairie plantings and/or management of prairie with prescribed burns, woody cover plantings for wildlife, upland wildlife habitat development, invasive species control, pollinator habitat development, and windbreak plantings. Payment rates are designed to be 75% of average cost.

WRP - Wetland Reserve Program

This program is currently combined with the Minnesota RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) to restore wetlands and associated uplands and protect via easement. Accepted applicants will be offered an easement payment based on a land appraisal, and cost share from NRCS and the state of Minnesota will be used to complete the restoration and plantings needed.

GRP - Grassland Reserve Program

See other article in newsletter for details on this one.

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program

This program provides technical and financial assistance to install conservation practices from A to Z. Payment rates are designed to cover from 50 to 75% of average cost. A small list of practices included are: Access control, crop rotation, cover crop, diversion, drainage water management, grassed waterway, irrigation system sprinkler, nutrient management, pesticide management, prescribed grazing, no-till, strip till, terrace, ag waste systems to correct pollution problems, well decommissioning, water and sediment control basins, windbreaks, and seasonal high tunnels. Many of the items included in WHIP are also eligible under EQIP. EQIP also includes an Organic Initiative for people that are organic or transitioning to organic.

CSP - Conservation Stewardship Program

This program will pay accepted applicants a per acre rate on cropland and/or pasture land, over a 5 year period to maintain their existing conservation systems and build on their current system by adopting enhancements.

CCRP - Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

This program will pay an annual rental to enroll cropland into 10-15 year contracts, and pay cost share to plant the required wildlife habitat cover. The CCRP has options for filter strips, wetland restorations, farmstead and field windbreaks, living snow fence, and grassed waterways. Extra incentives also apply.

All of these programs are in current signups or under a continuous signup, but have date cutoffs for consideration for this year's funding. *Hurry*, or miss an opportunity.

2009 Lac qui Parle SWCD Annual Report

The SWCD's annual report offers a complete summary of the District's successful year of conservation activities and accomplishments. The report begins with the District's vision and mission statement and continues with details about specific programs and events. A few highlights from 2009 include new projects (Granite Rock Outcrop program, live weekly radio broadcasts, rain garden demonstration site) and the opportunity to express local resource concerns to legislators (Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Gary Kubly, and project tour for Representative Andrew Falk). The report narrative is available in its entirety on the SWCD website at www.lacquiparleswcd.org.

The financial information will be posted on or before March 15.



Curtis Nordaune, Burt Hendrickson, Rep. Andrew Falk, & Terry Wittnebel set out on a tour of LqP County to view tax dollars, funded through the Conservation Office, at work protecting local soil and water resources. Falk was also interested in future resource needs within the County.

Building a garage, repairing a road, cleaning out an old stand of trees – 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.



January and February mean deadlines! It takes teamwork to meet the many planning, reporting, and grant application deadlines in the Conservation Office! Look for the 2010 Plan of Work posted on our website soon.

Trees for Babies

Each year the SWCD welcomes new additions (babies, that is!) to LqP families with the gift of a tree. If you have added to your family, birth or adoption, within the last 12 months, contact us between April 19 and May 28 for information on how and when to pick up your tree. Watch them grow together!

It's new!

The Lac qui Parle YellowBank Watershed District now has its own website. The LqPYB Clean Water Partnership has a page on the site. Visit them at www.lqpybwatershed.org.

The LqP Water Plan has funds to assist with well sealing. Call Terry at 320-598-7321 x3 for an application form. Projects started before application approval are ineligible.

Native Buffer cost share program

The District has a program to get native grasses established in areas that may not fit into other programs. The Native Buffer program offers cost share to establish local native grasses with a rental rate being paid for the first three years of establishment. After the first three years you have options including grazing, haying, seed collection and harvest for bio-fuels. If the Native Buffer Program sounds like it may work for you give us a call we will see if we can fit it into your plans. This program ends soon - don't delay!

A Special Thank You to PAST Affiliates

Affiliate Member fees are used here in our county. A conservation ethic is promoted through the education of present and future generations of land users. We help the land user gain access to available technical, financial, and educational resources. **In the current economic environment, we are especially appreciative of your support!**

Contact us for information on how you can become an Affiliate of the LqP Soil & Water Conservation District.

As an Affiliate, your name could be listed here!

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