



Lac qui Parle County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

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2010 Annual Report

The Lac qui Parle SWCD administers the Lac qui Parle County Comprehensive Water Quality Management Plan. The LqP SWCD District Manager serves as the Water Plan Coordinator. Water Plan activities are classed into three categories: Program Administration, Education Activities, and BMP Installation/Application.

Administration

Administrative funds cover the costs incurred by the SWCD for administering the County's Water Plan and the Ag Best Management Practices Low Interest Loan Program. Charges made by the SWCD are based on staff hours spent. Envelope and stamp purchases are reported, but the SWCD does not include copying costs, SWCD Board time, paper, labels, or other office supply costs.

The LqP County Commissioners suspended appointing the Resource Commission for 2010, so work plan implementation activities & budget remained the same as 2009. The LqP SWCD Board approved well sealing cost share activities and provided other direction/oversight as needed.

The Coordinator attended AgBMP Loan Program workshop in Redwood Falls. In spite of promotion efforts there were no new AgBMP loans conveyed, although there were several inquiries. There were also several inquiries about well contamination and testing which were referred to Countryside Public Health.

Traveling with a County Commissioner, Clean Water Partnership Coordinator, and LqPYB Watershed Manager, the Water Plan Coordinator attended the Water Management Summit in St. Cloud. The Coordinator worked with the Environmental Officer and 4 livestock producers to submit an Ag Waste Water Quality Grant, but the application deadline could not be met. Planning continues in anticipation of a 2011 application.

The Water Plan contributed \$6,000 (as previously directed by the Resource Commission) to the Clean Water Partnership. The Coordinator assisted the CWP with several grant applications, served on the CWP TEAM, and supported/participated in 4 TMDL stakeholder meetings.

Education

A water quality activity was presented to middle school classes. \$500 supported the annual Environmental Fair for 6th graders, an 11-county environmental learning event. Financial support and a presentation (local programs protecting water quality) were provided at a high school science class canoe trip.

The Water Plan partnered with the LqPYB CWP to organize & present Recycle the Rain Workshop (how to make your own rain barrel). An RC&D grant was applied for and received to help provide additional water quality activities for Dawson Riverfest. Funds were used to purchase a wooden rain barrel and other educational activity supplies for use at this event; the rain barrel became a drawing prize received by a community member living near the LqP River.

A booth at the Great Western MN Get together, a river clean-up project, a weekly live radio program April through October, and the SWCD quarterly newsletter were also cooperative efforts. A link was placed on the SWCD website to Salt Lake birding weekend, an action item in the County Water Plan Recreational Goal. The CWP and Environmental Office used the Water Plan County Fair booth in the Wildlife Building.

Laminating film and printer ink cartridges were purchased with Water Plan funds to support both Water Plan and CWP education activities.

BMP Application/Installation

Decommissioning wells remains a local priority, identified in the LqP County Water Plan *Priority Issue: Groundwater Protection, Objective A: Help all landowners act to protect the County's groundwater quality.* Cost share is provided at 75% not to exceed \$500/well. Of the 21 wells decommissioned, 10 were a hazard to animals or humans falling in, 14 were in well pits and/or subject to flooding, and 4 were within ½ mile of a public water supply. The projects were reported electronically to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Five applications for well decommissioning have been submitted for 2011 funds.