

Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District



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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.

Minutes February 5, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their February meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, Ed Radermacher, Bob Ludvigson, and John Rebehn. LeRoy Schuelke was absent. SWCD Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera, and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burton Hendrickson. Graylen Carlson, newly elected LqP County Commissioner, was also present. Rebehn called the meeting to order at 8:06 am.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the December 30, 2008 board meeting. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the January Financial Report, subject to audit, and pay the bills. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Review Annual Plan: Supervisors received draft copies of the Annual Plan for 2009 at the Planning Retreat, to review prior to the February meeting. Radermacher made a motion to approve the Annual Plan as modified. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2007 Audit: Johnson made a motion to approve the 2007 Audit as presented. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Web site Update: The website is nearing completion, and must be live on the Internet by March 15, 2009.
- Affiliate Program: Informational mailings will be sent to area businesses and individuals.
- Reporting Deadline Extended: The reporting deadline for eLINK has been extended from February 1, 2009 to March 1, 2009, for this year only.
- LinkPass Security Cards & Training: All of the preliminary procedure has been completed. The District employees are waiting to be scheduled to have their ID cards created. NRCS will sponsor current District staff.

New Business:

- Reorganization:
 - Officers Johnson made a motion that the officers' positions remain the same. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Officers are as follows:
 - Chairman: John Rebehn
 - Vice Chairman: Ed Radermacher
 - Secretary: LeRoy Schuelke
 - Treasurer: Bob Ludvigson

- PR&I: Jeff Johnson
- Meeting Dates and Times: Radermacher made a motion that the meetings remain the same, with meetings scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at 8:00 am. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Committee/representation Assignments: Ludvigson made a motion that the committees remain the same. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Committees are as follows:
 - Budget: Ludvigson & Rebehn
 - Plan: Johnson & Rebehn
 - Personnel: Radermacher & Schuelke
 - Legislative: Ludvigson & Schuelke
 - Resource Commission: Rebehn and Ludvigson
 - Technical Service Area: Johnson & Rebehn
(Previously called Minnesota River Source)
- Authorizations: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the Authorizations as recommended. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Authorizations are as follows:
 - Designated Depositories: Kleinbank, United Prairie; MinnWest Bank
 - Depository Authorization Designees: Hoffman & Ludvigson
 - Data Practices Responsible Authority: Wittnebel
 - Data Practices Responsible Authority Backup & Compliance Official: Hoffman
 - Technical Approval Authority for CREP, RIM CRP, CCRP, EQIP; Kvidera and Wittnebel
 - Technical Approval Authority for Ecological Practices: Kvidera
 - Engineering Authority: Curtis Nordaune
 - Ag BMP Authorized Representative: Wittnebel
- IRS Mileage Rate: Wittnebel stated that the IRS rate changed to \$.55, effective January 1, 2009. Since the board has established that mileage will be paid at the current IRS rate, no action was taken.
- Budget Warning: Wittnebel read a letter from Jacob Sieg, LqP County Auditor-Treasurer. In the letter, he stated that due to the Minnesota State Budget Crisis, “the county will not pay more than ½ of our requested appropriation until further notice.” He also stated, “This DOES NOT mean that your appropriation will be reduced. This is intended only as a preemptive measure so that the county can maintain flexibility in case of serious unallotments of 2009 state aid.” A short discussion followed and Wittnebel noted that she recently submitted the district request for the first half of our 2009 allocation from the county. Wittnebel also shared a memo in which the Governor proposed freezing wages. A short discussion followed.
- Flags: Ludvigson made a motion to charge \$.15 per flag. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Fabric Mulch: Kvidera proposed buying tree fabric in bulk, with neighboring districts. He stated that although the initial cost would be greater than the district had budgeted for 2009 the overall cost savings would be significant. Radermacher made a motion to approve the purchase. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- Area V Dues: Ludvigson made a motion to approve and pay the 2009 Area V Dues at \$400. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- NACD Dues: Ludvigson made a motion to approve and pay 2009 NACD Dues at \$775, instead of \$1,000, due to budget restraints. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- Pheasants Forever Membership: Radermacher made a motion to approve and pay the 2009 PF Membership as presented. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- State Cost-Share Tree Projects: Radermacher made a motion to pay 2009 State Cost-share Tree Projects at 75% (it had previously been approved at 50%). Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- State Cost-Share Changes: Kvidera informed the board of changes to certain State Cost-Share practices.
- MN River Source TSA Termination: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the termination of Lac qui Parle SWCD membership in MN River Source, with Rebehn as the Technical Service Representative, and Johnson as the Alternate Service Representative. Radermacher seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried. Radermacher made a motion to accept the invitation to join the Southwest Area Invitation. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- Personnel:
 - Area V Meeting (staff and supervisors) 02.19.09
 - Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol (staff and supervisors) 02.23-24.09

- Forum on Shoreland Rules in Agricultural Areas (Kvidera) 02.09.09
Johnson made a motion to approve attendance for the above meetings and events. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- WCA Administrative Training (Kvidera) meeting 3.19.09: In addition to Kvidera attending the WCA Administrative Training, he informed the board that he has an opportunity to attend an informal WCA training with Trudy and Kane, on 02.24.09. This training, although not required, will be beneficial for him, prior to the WCA Administrative Training in March.

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- Wittnebel encouraged the supervisors to check out the MASWCD Website for the most recent minutes.
- Wittnebel informed the board that the district recently received an engraved Honorable Mention plate from MASWCD, for Distinguished Service in 2008.
- Wittnebel noted NRCS recently released a request for proposals for the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) under the 2008 Farm Bill.

Water Plan Management Report:

- Wittnebel stated that the AgBMP Year-end report is nearing completion.

Technical Report:

- Kvidera informed the board that he has 20 tree projects scheduled for this spring.
- Kvidera reported that he completed some EQIP Status Reviews and has some CRP contracts to put together.
- Kvidera talked about Living Snow Fences, and posed questions about the possibility of Cost-Share being used for Living Snow Fence projects.

Education/Promotion Report:

- A monthly newsletter (with FSA) went out in January.
- She has been working on an activity for Storytime part in the Dawson Winterfest on Saturday, February 7, 2009.
- The booth for the Great Western Minnesota Get-together at the LqP Valley High School on February 14-15, 2009 is coming together. It will feature information on Rain Gardens.
- It is our district's turn to provide a committee member for the Environmental Fair this year.
- Soil and Water Stewardship Week is April 25 – May 3, 2009. The theme is Soil.
- Wittnebel has been asked to have a booth at the ECFE Parent Expo, coming up this spring at the LqP Valley High School.

District Conservationist Report:

- Copies of a report created by Burt Hendricksen, District Conservationist, were distributed and reviewed.

Meeting/Training Report:

- Planning Retreat 1.22.09 - The Board discussed the value of brainstorming sessions.
- FAC Meeting 1.23.09 - Hendrickson informed the Board that hazardous weather office closings and cancellations were discussed.
- Value of Manure Workshop 1.20-21.09 - Hendrickson was a presenter at the workshop on 1/20.
- Outstanding Conservationist Appreciation Dinner 01.28.09 - Wittnebel received a call to do a presentation for a local organization, and an affiliate membership was received as a result of the dinner.

Correspondence:

Emails (forwarded to supervisors beginning December 30, 2008 following board meeting)

- eNotes 01.06.09
- eNotes 01.13.09
- MASWCD Bits of Tidbits 01.2009
- eNotes 01.21.09
- eNotes 01.27.09
- 2009 NACD Conference news 02.02.09

Available for Review:

- MARC&D Annual Report 2008
- Prairie country RC& D Plan 2008-2012

Copies in Supervisors' Folders:

- Clean Water Council's Budget Recommendations
- MASWCD Board Members & new area map 1.23.09
- MASWCD Legislative Report
- 2009 NACD conference News 02.03.09
- NACD Conference News 02.04.09

Upcoming Meetings:

- Great Western MN Get Together 2.14-15.09
- Contractors' Workshop 2.18.09
- Area v Meeting 2.19.09
- Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol 02.23-24.09
- LqP SWCD Monthly Board Meeting 03.05.09
 - Mike Skoglund, Technician from new TSA (Murray County) will be giving a PowerPoint Presentation.

Additional Information:

- Commissioner Carlson informed the board that the county has available a multi-media room. The meeting room will accommodate a group of 60 people, and is complete the ITV. It is located in the new County Annex, formerly the west wing of the elementary school.

Adjourn:

Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Radermacher seconded the motion. All voted in favor, meeting adjourned.

Approved

Date

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.

DC Report
February 5, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

EQIP – We have not heard anything about an actual scoring period for the fiscal year 2009 EQIP. Rumblings are that this won't take place till April, May or even June with all funds to be obligated by July. New rule making process takes some time and has to allow for public input. We are being told to take applications and write the plans in Toolkit and have things someone ready to go when it is announced. Les has been concerned about using EQIP to help fund some tree plantings this spring. We could take applications, do the plan, and ask for a waiver of start prior to a contract being obligated. The waiver would probably be granted, but this does not guarantee that the application will be funded. May not know if funded until well after the trees are planted. We have been working on getting all our late rate EQIP agreements caught up. Several have had modifications made and signed to reschedule to this year. Several have finally brought their info in to get paid. Couple need a waiver because they haven't gotten anything done in the first 12 months. The biggest load we have left is that a TSP that was working with these individuals informed them late this past summer or fall that he would not be able to complete them. They have had to find a new TSP to take over, and it will be a little time before he has gotten their paperwork done.

CRP – We have gotten a handful of new CRP contracts signed and approved, and still have several to work on. Some of the allotments for the state on individual practices are dwindling down, so we may not be able to enroll all of the applications we have unless Minnesota asks for and is granted some more acres.

1026's – You wouldn't think there would be too many of these still coming in, but there seem to be a few new ones each week. We have processed around 25 since my last report. We have recently received some new letters that will need to be used when issuing new certified wetland determinations. I will have to get these incorporated into the process as I develop some for mailing out.

Administrative Items – NRCS has been talking about having to develop a new agreement related to the copy machine, but a message came a couple weeks ago that they will monitor the level of toner use, and a new agreement will be developed if it goes over a certain level. Gary indicated that if we use over \$500 of toner we will work on a new agreement.

Thanks for the invitation to the Supervisors' Retreat. For me it was a opportunity to think a little bit about why we exist and what our overall mission and goals should be. I often get wrapped up in the day to day processes and start to forget the big picture.

Upcoming Items -