

# Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District



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Madison MN 56256  
320-598-7321, Ex. 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.*

## Minutes March 5, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their March meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, Ed Radermacher, Bob Ludvigson, John Rebehn and LeRoy Schuelke. SWCD Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera, and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burton Hendrickson. Others in attendance: Gary Watson (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – AO); Graylen Carlson (County Commissioner), Randy Nelson (Prairie Country RC&D); Mike Skoglund and Russ Hoogendoorn (Southwest Prairie TSA). Rebehn called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

### **Minutes:**

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 5, 2009 board meeting. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Financial Report:**

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

### **Review Agenda:**

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

### **Old Business:**

- Review Annual Plan: Wittnebel informed the Supervisors that it had been recommended by BWSR, to add a breakdown of Staffing Needs to the Annual Plan and to add the 2009 Budget when the Plan goes on the website. She made the additions, and the Annual Plan will be available for viewing on the District website soon.
- Affiliates: Hoffman gave an update on the Affiliates program, stating that \$725.00 had been collected through February 28, 2009. Eight of the 12 who contributed in 2008 contributed again in 2009, and there has been one new contributor. Wittnebel anticipates that donations will continue to come in. Hoffman briefed the board on the use of the funds, and stated that thank you notes will be sent out later this month.
- Web site Update: The website is complete, with the exception of a few cosmetic changes. Year-end reports will be posted to the site.
- Budget Committee: The Committee will schedule a meeting for sometime later in March to discuss the budget, due to a potential loss of revenue.

### **New Business:**

- Southwest Prairie TSA Joint Powers Organization Agreement: Copies of the Southwest Prairie TSA Joint Powers Organization Agreement were previously sent to the Supervisors. Wittnebel asked if there were any additions, changes, or suggestions that should be made to the agreement. One suggestion was the addition of Errors and Omissions.

- 2008 Financial Report: Copies of the 2008 Financial Report were distributed. Hoffman did a brief walk-through and clarification of the report. Johnson made a motion to approve the Report, subject to audit. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Copy Machine Service Contract: Wittnebel shared with the board, that two companies are interested in providing a service contract for the Sharp AR-207 Copier. The board authorized Wittnebel to request an actual contract from the one company, and request quotes for a new copier from both vendors.
- Membership & Subscription Renewals: Radermacher made a motion to renew the Membership and Subscription renewals for Minnesota Volunteer and Land Stewardship, as presented. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Cost Share: Schuelke made a motion to cancel the following Cost-Share Contract, per written request by the producer. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - Merlyn Munsterman            CS 13 (07-08)            farmstead windbreak    \$ 737
- Cost Share: Johnson made a motion to approve the following Cost-Share Projects. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.
  - *CS 14 (07-08)*            Merlin Munsterman            farmstead windbreak    \$ 1106
  - *CS 1 (08-09)*            Brock Nygard            farmstead windbreak    \$ 1366
  - *CS 2 (08-09)*            Glen Radermacher            farmstead windbreak    \$ 1262
  - *CS 3 (08-09)*            Stanley Streich            farmstead windbreak    \$ 1467
  - *CS 4 (08-09)*            Stan Bjorgan            farmstead windbreak    \$ 1647
- Notice of Decision to Amend the Lincoln County Local Water Management Plan: Wittnebel read the Notice to the Supervisors as an informational item.
- Personnel: Following some discussion, Radermacher moved to approve that the appropriate staff attend the meetings and training sessions listed below. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.
  - New Supervisor/Staff Orientation, Marshall, 3.25.09: Kvidera and Hoffman should attend
  - WCA Administrative Training, Marshall, 3.19.09: Kvidera should attend. There would be no cost for the training.
  - First Detector Workshop, Lamberton, 4.7.09; Kvidera would like to attend. There is a \$25 registration fee. The course may also be taken in Farmington 04.02.09
  - Freedom of Information Act Listening Session, Montevideo, 3.10.09; All District staff are invited to attend.
  - Summer Help (Tree Program)
    - Kvidera expressed the need for a summer assistant to help with the tree plantings and the laying of fabric. The board authorized Wittnebel to consider the applicant who had expressed interest, and to place ads in the local newspapers if necessary. Watson stated that NRCS Office had set aside some funds, and would be able to employ the individual under the WAE (Work Actually Employed Program) following the completion of the District's busy Tree Season.

## Reports:

### District Manager Report:

- The office was closed on Thursday afternoon, 02.26.09 due to inclement weather.
- All required annual reports have been completed.
- Have been invited to attend a Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment Working Session in Mankato on 03.06.09.
- Matt Skaret has requested help with the Madison Tree Replacement Project. He asked for assistance with workshops and storage.
- Current projects include working with the Watershed District on a 10-year plan.

### Water Plan Management Report:

- The TMDL public information meeting in Dawson on 3.25.09 has been cancelled.
- There has been one Ag BMP loan inquiry, but the individual resides in a neighboring county.
- Handouts of the 2008 Water Plan Annual Report, including the Ag BMP Loan Program were distributed.

- Wittnebel stated that \$429 remains available from the 2008 Well-Sealing Cost Share Funds. She presented five well-sealing cost-share applications. Schuelke made a motion to approve the applications as presented. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried. The Applications are as follows:
  - Joe Radermacher \$ 257.00
  - Harold Kittleson \$ 257.00
  - Harold Kittleson \$ 257.00
  - Wayne Brehmer \$ 219.50
  - Gerald Stensrud \$ 182.00

**Technical Report:**

- Kvidera distributed copies of his Technical Report, and noted that it will be a busy planting season. *See attachment at end of minutes.*

**Education/Promotion Report:**

- Wittnebel gave her Education/Promotion Report and elaborated on the various activities. *See attachment at end of minutes.*

**District Conservationist Report:**

- Hendrickson passed out copies of his DC report, and shared additional details on the different programs. *See attachment at end of minutes.*

**Guest Report: Gary Watson, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist (AO):**

- Watson stated that looking the budget, the NRCS will continue to run on “auto pilot” through Friday, March 6, 2009.
- The State is approximately two million dollars in the red at this time.
- The NRCS Technician position (currently being served part-time by JonPaul Pringle) may remain unfilled for a while.
- EQIP money must be allocated by July. Watson stated that although the money has been received by the State, the rules have not been issued.

**Guest Report: Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC &D:**

- Nelson distributed handouts listing the Prairie Country RC & D activities and accomplishments in 2008. He elaborated on various past projects, and gave a brief overview of upcoming projects.

**Meeting/Training Report:**

- Forum on Shoreland Rules in Agricultural Areas Meeting 02.9.09 – Kvidera shared that the session included discussion on shorelands and bufferstrips.
- Great Western MN Get Together, 2.14-15.09 – The booth topic dealt with Rain Gardens. The staff felt that the event had been well attended. There were several inquiries concerning rain gardens, water barrels, and green roofs.
- Contractors’ Workshop, 2.19.09 – The attendance was low, but many of those who did not attend, requested the information.
- Area V Meeting/Employees’ Meeting, 02.19.09 – Reports were shared. Emphasis at the meeting was on Minnesota State Statute 103C, which states the purpose of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol, 2.23-24.09 – Ludvigson gave an overview of the event, stating that the Governors’ proposal includes cuts in conservation.
- Joint Farm Bill Assistance and Working Lands Initiative Staff Meeting, 2.26.09 – CANCELLED
- TEAM Meeting, 3.3.09 – Wittnebel reported.

**Correspondence:**

**Emails** forwarded to supervisors beginning February 5, 2009 (following the board meeting):

- AREA II Minutes, January 7, 2009
- eNotes, February 10, 2009
- NACD Economic Stimulus Update, February 17, 2009
- MASWCD Board Meeting Preliminary Agenda, February 23, 2009
- eNotes Weekly news Briefs, February 17, 2009
- NACD Action Alert: FY2010 Appropriations Requests
- eNotes, February 24, 2009
- MASWCD Legislative Update, February 27, 2009

**Available for Review:**

- Dawson dam removal project DNR update
- NACD Annual Report

**Copies in Supervisors' Folders:**

- MASWCD board meeting minutes, 1.20.09
- eNotes, March 3, 2009
- MDA Conservation Funding Guide website
- BAELIN Events *Socially Responsible Investing*

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Bellingham Wellhead Protection Public Hearing, 3.10.09
- MN River Source Meeting, Benson, 03.19.09
- Resource Commission meeting, Dawson, 3.25.09
- New Supervisor/Staff Orientation, Marshall, 3.25.09
- Wildlife Management Workshop for Private Landowners, Granite Falls, 3.28.09
- Southwest Prairie TSA Joint Powers 4.1.09
- SWCD Board Meeting, 4.2.09

**Guest Report: Mike Skoglund and Russ Hoogendoorn, Southwest Prairie TSA**

- Skoglund and Hoogendoorn gave a PowerPoint Presentation, as a visual demonstration of the projects they engineered in 2008. The projects shown were diversified, from waterways to dairy barn operations. They indicated that although we will not be a part of the Southwest Prairie until later this year, that we are welcome to submit project requests to them at any time.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m..

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Approved

Date

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

## TECH REPORT

Leslie Kvidera

March 5, 2009

### Trees

Inquiries about farmstead windbreaks continue to come in with many of them expressing interest in the upcoming EQIP sign up. Twenty-five tree plantings are planned for spring at \$48,500 of that \$11,525 is State Cost Share. Plantings include 10,000 trees and 67,000 feet of fabric mulch. Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, and Chippewa SWCDs are going together to get fabric mulch at a discounted price of \$59 per 500' roll. We will be getting one third of a container which will be 266 rolls. The discounted price will end up being less than the amount approved at the last meeting and has fifty more rolls. One problem- the shipment has to be dropped off at one location and will need to be transported to Madison from Montevideo. Supervisors any ideas?

We again we will be storing trees for the DNR and also storing and working with the city of Madison on their tree program.

### Native Buffer Program

The program has been slow here but I have had interest in a couple locations. Information was given and I am waiting to see if they want to proceed any further.

### Training

I met with Trudy Hastad, and Kane Radel, WCA specialist, from BWSR. It was very informative and helpful to see how the pieces fit together. I also attended a Shoreland Rules meeting in Redwood Falls on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Notes

Wildlife Management Workshop in Granite Falls 3/28/2009.

I sent fliers about the workshop to perspective land owners of granite outcrops, and possible LCCMR easements.

Minnesota Volunteer has a nice article about the granite outcrops.

activities during  
**February 2009**

Terry Wittnebel

### **Education/Promotion Report**

**Dawson Winterfest** Story time 7 Water cycle activity was in competition with an elementary basketball tournament – next time we will check the school calendar before we commit. (last year we had about 25 kids).

**Great W MN GetTogether Booth** on rain gardens turned out very well, & the event was well attended. Mary had a great book that had pictures showing you could have a rain garden even if you lived on a hill! We had quite a few people interested in the cost share she has available, & willing to be a demonstration site. Best of all, Duane Hastad (Heather Nursery) offered a site in Dawson, & they would provide the plants & take care of maintenance! Mission accomplished!!!  
There were also several inquiries on rain barrels, and even “green roof”

**ECFE Celebrating Families Expo** topic change to green energy/MN environmental literacy report card. I was going to do Soil, but this seemed more timely. I’ve been in contact with the Office of Environmental Assistance for some display material.

The **Environmental Fair** will be September 22 & 23 in Marshall. I am the subcommittee to do school contacts & scheduling. I’d wanted to get the info out this week, but it hasn’t happened.

I will be inviting Dawson & Bellingham 6<sup>th</sup> graders (didn’t go to Environmental Fair last year because of distance) to participate in the **Chippewa SWCD 5<sup>th</sup> grade Field Day** in May. I will be a presenter, & have spent some time getting material ready.

Mary had investigated the possibility of a regular **radio program**; CWP, SWCD(plus NRCS), Water Plan, EO to participate. Cost \$15 for 10 minutes, q&a. Approval???

DC Report  
March 5, 2009  
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

EQIP – We are narrowing down our late rate. As soon as the hired TSP's provide the promised items we will have these taken care of. We have been promised that the plans are to be done and in soon, but that is sometimes like saying the check is in the mail. The 2009 signup for EQIP is still hanging. No dates have been announced, and we have been told it may be June. The rule making process is still underway, and the comment periods are open yet. There are also some issues with the way data is shared between FSA and NRCS computers (or not shared) that are causing hangups also. No definite information to work off of with landusers about payment rates etc., yet.

1026's – You wouldn't think we would get too many of these right now, but it seems that 3 or 4 new ones come in each week. We have processed 17 responses to 1026's this past month, and 7 of those involved the issuing of certified wetland determinations. We have a new format of the letter that goes out with these, that we are now using. It outlines the landowner's full appeal options and also goes into some detail on why, if any areas are, identified as wetlands.

CRP – The continuous signup is still going. We did complete and get signed 5 new contracts this past month. We are also getting several new requests for possible enrollment. FSA has notified all the people with expiring acres for this fall that they may want to investigate the option of continuous CRP. This has brought in 15 new offers in the past couple weeks that will need investigation. We have also developed 6 modifications of existing CRP to add mid contract management or foodplots to their plan.

Administrative Items –

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – There is a net-conference being held in Montevideo on March 10 at 10:00 AM. This will be at the courthouse. The new Farm Bill has some language that changes how we may or may not be able to share information with our partners. This tele-conference will be introducing us to this new information. We would like to invite our SWCD partners, and any supervisors if they wish, to attend. I will need to send potential numbers to Montevideo, so let me know if you think you will be attending. Staff from Big Stone, Chippewa, Swift will also be at this location. I would strongly urge at least some of the SWCD staff to attend to be briefed on the new issues.

Contractor meeting – We held a meeting on February 18 at the courthouse. We shared this opportunity with Trudi Hastad (Watershed staff). All of our contractors were invited. Several couldn't come and asked us to mail out information which we did. Attendance was rather sparse, but we covered things like our contractor review form, Gopher State issues, keeping us informed about when they planned to get to a site or project etc. Trudi talked about issues with the Wetland Conservation Act.

Progress reporting – The field office received our official progress goals for fiscal year 2009 in the past couple weeks. Now with actual numbers that are in sight we have been actively documenting some items that move us toward those goals. These are planning goals (acres) and implementation goals also. The goals are often tied to which program they are involved in also, such as EQIP, WHIP, CRP, or CTA. When we report something like no-till being applied, or a CRP seeding being completed this will trigger additions to some of these goal items. It gets tricky sometimes because you don't always think about how the computer will read the information you input. Putting it in one way will apply toward our goals, but if we label it wrong it may not address anything in the goals. It can get confusing at times.

Upcoming Items – FOIA meeting – March 10, Montevideo, 10:00 AM  
Resource Committee Meeting – Madison Courthouse, March 25