

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 May 7, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their May meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, Ed Radermacher and Bob Ludvigson. John Rebehn and LeRoy Schuelke were absent. SWCD Staff present: Terry Wittnebel and Deborah Hoffman. There were no NRCS Staff present. There were no guests. Radermacher called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 2, 2009 board meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Schuelke made a motion to approve the April 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. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act: Wittnebel stated that it was strongly recommended to have Supervisors, and County Commissioner Representatives who regularly attend SWCD board meetings, sign Attachment C of the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act. Hendrickson had reviewed the content at the April meeting. Radermacher, Ludvigson, and Johnson signed the attachment.
- Southwest Prairie Joint Powers: Johnson made a motion to approve signing of the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Agreement as presented, when it is put before the next Joint Powers Meeting on June 16, 2009. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Farm Bill Technical Assistance Grant: The grant application is being reviewed, and will be completed before the deadline. Wittnebel noted that 5% of the funding must come from an outside source, which has frequently been the local Pheasants Forever organization.

New Business:

- Plat Directory: The general consensus was to refrain from purchasing new plat books this year.
- Madison Speedway "Go Green Night:" This topic was discussed, no action was taken.
- Resolutions: Johnson, Ludvigson, and Radermacher encouraged Wittnebel to investigate the possibility of submitting the same resolution proposed last year. The vote at the MASWCD Convention last year was close.
- District Performance Standards: Wittnebel received a District Performance Standards Checklist from BWSR. The list included minimum standards, and priority standards, including those that will be added to the process in coming years. Wittnebel indicated that she appreciated receiving the list, and found the office to be generally in compliance.

- Cost Share:
 - Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following Cost Share Project. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - CS 07 (08-09) Dean Dallman Farmstead windbreak \$ 946.00

Personnel

- Tree Program Technical Assistant: Jeffrey Ronglien was hired by the district to assist Kvidera. He will be later employed by NRCS, to be paid with WAE funds. Ryan Olson will be contacted if additional assistance is needed in the evenings or weekends, to comply with planting deadlines.
- Pay Equity Training: Johnson made a motion to approve Wittnebel's attendance at a Pay Equity Training Session on June 5, 2009 in Alexandria, MN. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- Wittnebel's LincPass Enrollment is still pending, due to data being incorrectly entered at a higher level.
- Wittnebel shared an e-mail from MASWCD regarding the Green Acres Program.
- Wittnebel found an interesting website dealing with Field to Market Calculations. The website address is www.fieldtomarket.org.
- Technical assistance has been requested for planning the Rain Garden in Dawson, MN. Wittnebel stated that she is very pleased with the promptness and efficiency of the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers.
- Hwy 31 Project remaining funds must be spent by 06.30.09. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the project.

Water Plan Management Report:

- The deadline for EQIP scoring is set to be completed by May 22, 2009. Letters were sent to those with Well Sealing applications, encouraging them to stop in to talk to NRCS staff concerning EQIP funding.
- EQIP funding may be available for new farmers, which is defined as farming for 10 years or less.
- Johnson made a motion to approve and pay the following Well-Sealing Cost Share payments:
 - Joe Radermacher WS 09-01 Well No. 854 \$ 257.00
 - Gerald Stensrud WS 09-02 Well No. 855 \$ 182.00
 - Wayne Brehmer WS 09-03 Well No. 856 \$ 219.50
 - Harold Kittleson WS 09-04 Well No. 857 \$ 257.00
 - Harold Kittleson WS 09-05 Well No. 858 \$ 257.00

Technical Report:

- Copies of Kvidera's Technical Report were distributed. Within his report, he stated that tree projects are going well. He also noted that two applications for the LCCMR Granite Outcrop easements have been submitted. To view Kvidera's complete Technical report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Education/Promotion Report:

- Wittnebel gave her Education/Promotion Report, which included the launching of the Wednesday morning radio show, the Earth Day/Administrative Assistants' Day Open House, and upcoming events. For more information, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

District Conservationist Report:

- Copies of Hendrickson District Conservationist Report were distributed and reviewed. To view his full report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Meeting/Training Report:

- TEAM Meetings 04.07.09 and 05.05.09
 - The hiring of a TMDL Consultant was discussed.

Correspondence:

Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning April 2, 2009:

- NACD news release: NACD CEO selected for USDA Asst. Sec
- Area II minutes 9/09
- eNotes – April 7, 2009
- eNotes – April 14, 2009
- Budget Update, Clean Water update – Action Needed – April 20, 2009
- eNotes – April 21, 2009
- ENotes – April 28, 2009
- eNotes – May 5, 2009
- eNotes, 03.24.09

Copies in Supervisors' Folders:

- MASWCD Legislative Update 05.06.09
- Andrew Falk Capitol Update 05.06.09

Upcoming:

- Hazardous Waste Collection 05.07.09
- SWCD Board Meeting 06.04.09
- Rain Garden Workshop 06.11-12.09
- Area V Meeting 06.18.09

Adjourn:

Johnson made motion to adjourn the meeting. Ludvigson seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

John Rebehn

Approved

06/04/09

Date

Tech Report

May 7th 2009

Leslie Kvidera

Trees

Trees projects are going well with ten completed as of Wednesday, eight are scheduled and still waiting for the others to call back and set time. Jeff Ronglien our summer help is working out; he shows up on time and so far is doing a fine job.

Tree pickup day was on April 30th and went fair the only draw back were the trees that did not get delivered from Lincoln Oaks in North Dakota, something about snow, rain, and floods.

On April 18th 850 rolls of fabric arrived in Montevideo which I helped to unload and later with the help and trailer from Bob loaded 230 rolls and delivered to our tree barn. BOB DID NOT stay to help unload and since our summer help did not start for another week I had to get it done myself.

LCCMR granite outcrop

We are now taking applications for the easement program. Two landowners have signed easement applications. I attended the Mark Sand and Gravel Company's conditional use permit hearing on the thirteenth of April where the zoning committee passed what they were asking for. The area included the old quarry but not the granite outcrops visible from the highway. They also put conditions on the permit subject to the wetlands that could be affected in the area from the mining, dumping, and washing that would be involved with a mining operation.

activities during
April 2009
Terry Wittnebel
Education/Outreach Report

LqPV Advisory Council met in April. The 7th & 8th grade **service learning workshop** was discussed. Bev Struxness asked if I would do a session again, & when I replied I'd have to check my calendar cuz it was rather full, she said they would schedule around me ☺ It will be May 14th.

We got a **newsletter** finished early in the month – we had more we could have put in, but it was already so full I didn't have room for photos!

I prepared 8 pages for the **website**, & have kept Deb busy doing numerous tweaks.

Earth Day was also **Administrative Professionals Day**. Mary (CWP) & I put together an Earth Day challenge to make green choices in the workplace, & served coffee, juice, rolls & fruit at the radio station. We put together bags of earth friendly items purchased from local businesses as door prizes. 28 people came for coffee with us. Project expense will come out of Water Plan, but the SWCD donated 10 bare root trees and some tree mats to include in the door prizes.

We helped the city of Madison with their tree **replacement workshop**. Deb put together tree species information sheets, I helped at their pre-plant workshop, and Les helped at their tree pickup day Saturday May 2. Participants are thrilled with the trees, but the city is still disappointed that more people aren't taking advantage of this opportunity.

Earth Day is also when we launched our **radio spot**. Burt, Mary & I debuted with an overview of our agencies, what we do, & of course talked about Earth Day celebration coffee. Later I had several people tell me they heard us. We will take turns, along with Jenny (EO) & Don (FSA) as dates coincide with programs or projects. **Soil & Water Stewardship Week** was April 26-May 3, so I volunteered to take the April 29 program.

I was asked to come to **LqPValley 5th grade** & do a soils presentation for 3 sections of students. I took Debbie with me. I did the soil formation role play, with erosion & ways we can prevent it. Tuesday I did water quality for **LqPValley 6th grade**, 3 sections.

Do you recall last fall I reported a contact from the **Science Museum** for free groundwater programming for 8th grade in our local schools? Our schools were among those selected, & the presentations are scheduled for mid-May.

Environmental Fair – registrations are in, & we will soon be working on the schedule. I'm in the middle of preparing confirmation letters to the schools.

I've spend some time getting our local schools registered for the **Chippewa 5th Grade Field Day**. This is in place of doing our own 6th grade field day for those who couldn't attend last year's EF. I will be a presenter for 2 days.

DC Report
May 7, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

Greetings from Caledonia MN. While you are having your board meeting I hopefully am enjoying a nice morning in the woods listening to turkeys gobbling, and enjoying the spring migration of birds in full swing. If the weather is good for my trip it should also be good for farming and a lot of spring planting will be taking place this week also.

FSA Update –

Program signups – We are taking applications to process for possible funding on EQIP, WHIP, and WRP. The EQIP application cutoff for the first scoring period is May 22. All applications received by that date will be scored and ranked for funding. We may have further scoring periods if needed to allocate all our program funds. It will be very busy when I get back from vacation. Terry was sending out some letters of reminder to people that were potentially going to do well sealing. Les has several potential farmstead windbreak projects to try and get applications for also. We have sent press releases to the paper and I will use the Wednesday radio spot on May 13 to discuss it.

1026's – I have processed 24 requests since last month, and have also completed the review and some field work on several requests for certified wetland determination. I will be processing the paperwork on these as time allows.

CRP – We actually still had a new contract signed in the past month for a filter strip. There has been a lot of pen and ink modifications to existing contracts related to mid contract management also. Generally this has involved someone wanting to do a prescribed burn and receive some cost share on an existing contract.

Administrative Items –

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Followup – I presented some information on this issue at our last board meeting. The SWCD staff all signed Attachment C and I sent them to the Area Office for NRCS signatures. I have since been informed that we should also have the supervisors sign Attachment C so we can more openly discuss some items at board meetings. I have given a copy of an email about this question to Terry to review with you.

WAE – Gary Watson has ok'd some WAE hours for me to hire help for the NRCS this summer. He ok'd us using these hours to extend the period of time that your tree planting aid will be able to work here. We are getting some paperwork processed so that Jeff Ronglien will be able to work for NRCS when he has completed his work with Les on the tree planting and fabric installation. If everything works out and we get the security clearance etc as soon as possible I will be able to use him as a WAE intermixed or alternately with days he will work for the SWCD. He will find out whether he likes tree planting labor or paper work labor, although I hope to get Jeff involved with some of our field work as it fits in with the work load.

Upcoming Items - May 4 – 9, 2009 Annual leave for turkey hunting/camping. Hoping for good weather.
May 22, 2009 – First EQIP scoring period cutoff for applications.