

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 June 4, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their June meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, Bob Ludvigson, Ed Radermacher, John Rebehn, and LeRoy Schuelke. SWCD Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Curtis Nordaune, and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burton Hendrickson. Others in attendance: Graylen Carlson (County Commissioner). Rebehn called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 7, 2009 board meeting. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Radermacher made a motion to approve the May Financial Report, subject to audit, and pay the bills. Schuelke 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:

- Hwy 31 (Clean Water Legacy) Repair: Ludvigson made a motion to spend the remaining Clean Water Legacy money of \$ 8266.17, for the necessary Hwy 31 repairs. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Farm Bill Technical Assistance Grant: Radermacher made a motion to approve and sign the Phase IX Farm Bill Technical Assistance Grant Application as presented. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Termination of MN River source JPB Agreement: Johnson made a motion to approve and sign a Resolution of the Lac qui Parle SWCD Terminating the MN River Source JPB (#7) Joint Powers Agreement. Radermacher seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.
- Rain Garden Demonstration Site, Dawson: Schuelke made a motion to approve County Water Plan money to be used for signage for the Rain Garden Demonstration Site, to be installed in Dawson, with the wording and the location of the sign is to be left to the discretion of the District Manager. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Resolution: Radermacher made a motion to approve and present the "Conditional Haying/Grazing on CRP Restored Wetland Upland Acres" Resolution to Area V for consideration. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Budget Update: Wittnebel shared her thoughts on an e-mail she received from the LqP County Auditor concerning state and county finances. She also noted that she recently met with Dave Sill from BWSR, to discuss how the districts may be financially affected due to possible changes in revenue.

New Business:

- Cost Share:
 - Radermacher made a motion to approve the following Cost Share Project. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Priority</u>
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- Outstanding Conservationist: Wittnebel encouraged the Supervisors and Staff to bring recommendations to the next meeting.
- Review District Policy: Wittnebel walked through the proposed District Policy Changes. The following actions took place:
 - Page 4: Johnson made a motion to add the following to 4. AGENDAS AND MINUTES. “*Agendas of the board meetings and minutes when approved will be posted to the SWCD website.*” Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Page 5: Radermacher made a motion to change the following under EMPLOYEE ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE “When NRCS closes the office due to inclement weather or holiday leave, the SWCD will follow suit but the chairman of the Board will be advised.” TO: “*When the Farm Service Center closes due to inclement weather or holiday leave, the SWCD will follow suit.*”
 - Page 6: Radermacher made a motion to add the following concerning personnel mileage reimbursement: “*at the current IRS rate.*” Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Page 7: Schuelke made a motion to approve adding “II” to RUSLE under Priority 5a; and to change “Feed Lot EVALuation computer model (FLEVAL) in 5c to “*Minnesota Feedlot Annualized Runoff Model (MinnFARM).*” Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Bellingham All School Reunion Parade: Johnson made a motion to approve participation in the Bellingham Parade, on Sunday, June 14th, and authorized Wittnebel to sign up another Earth Team Volunteer and purchase the necessary items, using both District and County Water Plan Funds, to promote conservation of our natural resources. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Set Date for July Meeting: Schuelke made a motion to move the regular July Board Meeting to Monday, June 29, 2009 at 8:00 am, to allow for the review and approval of the Hwy 31 Project expenses, by the June 30 grant deadline. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel

- Upcoming Meetings: Radermacher made a motion to authorize appropriate staff and supervisors to attend the following meetings: Area Employees’ Meeting in Marshall, 06.10.09 and Area V Meeting in Pipestone 06.18.09. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Holiday Pay for Technical Assistant: No action taken, indicating no holiday pay.
- Compensatory Time for Technician: Radermacher made a motion to allow Kvidera, District Technician, to exceed 30 hours of accumulative compensation time, through the busy Tree Planting Season, and to request a review of compensation time from previous years to determine if the Compensatory Time portion of the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Employment Policy Manual should be changed. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- The Tree Building, Lawn Maintenance Agreement has been signed and returned.
- The Wednesday morning radio show is going well.

Water Plan Management Report:

- Wittnebel showed the board a draft of the rain garden site in Dawson, as prepared by SW Prairie TSA engineers.

Technical Report:

- Kvidera’s report was presented by Hoffman. In the report Kvidera stated that there were 29 plantings, with one cancellation, and one non-cost-share left to complete.
- The tree planter broke down, and needed a new solenoid. He was able to borrow a planter from another District and was able to complete three plantings with it.
- Nine fabric mulch projects were completed as of Wednesday 06.03.09, with an additional five scheduled for Thursday and Friday.
- He started pruning trees on a windbreak enrolled in specially funded community windbreak, and will complete the project as time allows.

Education/Promotion Report:

- Wittnebel shared that the following activities took place: Visited LqP 5th and 6th graders, one topic was soil, and the other was water; the Science Museum visited the Dawson and LqP 8th grade

classes; the Envirothon took place at Camden State Park; Service Learning Session with LqP 7th graders; Trees were given away to new babies; 6th graders, and kindergarteners.

- Wittnebel noted that the following activities are in the planning stages: Nature Walk at the Dawson Riverfest; and the Environmental Fair, slated for September.

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 06.02.09
 - The new representative from Wenck Associates, who will be writing the TMDL Plans, was introduced.
 - The rain garden workshop in Dawson may be cancelled, due to lack of registration, but the installation and demonstration will go on as scheduled

Correspondence:

Email forwarded to supervisors forwarded to supervisors beginning May 7, 2009:

- AREA II Board Meeting, April 2, 2009
- eNotes - May 12, 2009
- MASWCD Action Alert on Legacy Amendment Conference Committee, May 14, 2009
- MASWCD Legislative Update May 20, 2009
- NACD action alert - Fiscal Year 2010 Conservation Program Cuts
- eNotes - May 19, 2009
- eNotes - May 27, 2009

Copies in supervisors' folders:

- MASWCD Board Minutes 3.24.09
- MASWCD Bits of Tidbits May/June
- eNotes – 06.02.09
- MASWCD Legislative Summary 06.02.09
- NACD Legislative Conference registration information
- Area V agenda 06.18.09
- Area V minutes 02.19.09

Available for review

- Area V minutes 02.19.09

Upcoming:

- Rain Garden Workshop 6.11-12. 09
- Area V Meeting 6.18.09
- MN River Source JPB, Benson, MN 06.26.09
- MASWCD orientation & Refresher 07.14-15.09
- NACD Legislative Conference, Washington, DC, 07.19-21.09

Adjourn:

Radermacher made motion to adjourn the meeting. Johnson seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Robert Ludwigson

Approved

August 6, 2009

Date

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

DC Report
June 4, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

First off, I enjoyed my vacation. I did not get a turkey, but had a good time with the family on our camping trip. It seems like a very long time ago already though.

Farm Bill Program Update –

EQIP – The first cutoff date for EQIP applications was May 22. We ended up with 42 valid applications by that date, and have received 4 since then. We were on a strict deadline to get the 42 plans written, uploaded into Protracts and ranked by May 29. The value of these applications comes to over 270,000 dollars. It looks like we will receive initial dollars in LQP to fund 35 of these applications. I should be hearing official confirmation on this very soon, and we will proceed to develop the agreements for signing and obligation of funds. I have completed the field checks for all the tillage scheduled for this spring, and will be trying to process for payment by the end of next week.

WHIP – We have 2 applications for WHIP. They are uploaded into Protracts and we should know next week whether they will be funded.

1026's – There hasn't been much time to work on these, but there have been several new ones received in the past couple weeks.

CRP – There was a notice from FSA that we were not to approve any CCRP contracts that involved the practices CP23, CP23A, CP27 and CP28 as the state had used their allotment of acres. Then a couple days later there were new instructions to continue, as they were asking for and anticipated receiving more acres of allotment. This would impact several of the pending applications we have to work on, as there are quite a few folders with these wetland practices as the only option to try and get them at least partially re-enrolled. The CP38 option was used up and stopped a couple months ago, and a request for more MN acres was turned down.

5% spot check – I have been able to do the field review on all the selected tracts that involve Highly Erodible fields. I still have to review several more tracts for potential wetland compliance. Then the results and outcome of the spot checks have to be entered into the computer. I do not anticipate any issues at this time. The HEL fields all had more than enough residue to meet the requirements of the Highly Erodible Plan rules.

Administrative Items – It has been recommended that I have the supervisors sign the Attachment C for the Certification of Conservation Cooperators, that allows us to share some of the information we usually need to discuss about cooperators' operations, when working on cost share applications. The Area Office felt by having these in place we will be able to be a little more open in discussions during board meetings. I thank Terry for getting 3 of these signed last month. I have 2 more for LeRoy and John this month if willing.

Upcoming Items – RC & D meeting, Willmar, June 10, 2009