

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 29, 2009 (Regular July Meeting)

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their July meeting on Monday, June 29, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, Bob Ludvigson, and LeRoy Schuelke. John Rebehn and Ed Radermacher were absent. SWCD Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera, and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burton Hendrickson. Schuelke called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 4, 2009 board meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the June Financial Report (through 06.28.09), subject to audit, and pay the bills as presented, and other usual and customary bills. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

No additions or changes were made to the Agenda.

Old Business:

- Outstanding Conservationist: Ludvigson made a motion to nominate the Patzer Family (including Tim, Todd, Stan and MaryJo) as the Outstanding Conservationists for 2009. A discussion followed. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Employee Policy – Compensatory Time: No action was taken, as there is a policy already in place.

New Business:

- FY2010 County & SWCD Base Grant: Wittnebel shared that FY2010 SWCD Base Grant Figures have been announced. It appears as though Cost Share will be cut almost in half from FY2009; General Services will remain about the same as FY2009; and Easement Services will decrease slightly from FY2009. The Local Water Management Plan (County Water Plan) Grant is up slightly from FY2009. Funding from LqP County for the second half of 2009 is still unknown, and funding for FY2010 will be discussed at upcoming budget meetings.
- Contribution Agreement Reimbursement Request: Johnson made a motion to approve the NRCS Contribution Agreement for \$ 1,875, and to authorize the District Manager to sign the agreement upon completion. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Review Annual Plan: The annual plan was briefly reviewed, with no action taken.
- DNR Monitoring Well Agreement FY2010: Johnson made a motion to approve and sign the DNR Monitoring Well Agreement for FY2010, for the sum of \$ 15.00 for each measurement, not to exceed \$1,230. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Minimum Contract Amount for Engineered Practices: Johnson made a motion to set a minimum contract amount of \$ 250 for Engineered State Cost-Share Projects. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Not to exceed 75%)	<u>Priority</u> Watershed
CS 14 (07-08)	Merlyn Munsterman	Windbreak	\$ 944	24027
CS 2 (08-09)	Glen Radermacher	Windbreak	\$ 1,015	22024
CS 4 (08-09)	Stan Bjorgan	Windbreak	\$ 1,633	22015
CS 5 (08-09)	John Plathe	Windbreak	\$ 527	22015
CS 7 (08-09)	Dean Dallman	Windbreak	\$ 946	22015
CS 3 (08-09)	Stanley Streich	Windbreak	\$ 1,295	22024
CS 1 (08-09)	Brock Nygard	Windbreak	\$ 1,276	22021
CS 16 (07-08)	David Kriese	Windbreak	\$ 357	24028
CS 6 (08-09)	Eric Lund	Windbreak	\$ 2,378	22015

- Water Plan Well Sealing: Johnson made a motion to approve the following Well Sealing Cost Share Payment. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WS 2009-06	Todd Stensrud	\$ 750.00

- Drill/Fabric Machine/Tree Planter Maintenance: Wittnebel and Kvidera noted that all three pieces of equipment had seen a great deal of use this year, and are in need of general maintenance. The consensus of the Board was to evaluate the equipment, and proceed with the necessary maintenance.
- District Van: The Board discussed the District Van, and stated that regular maintenance should be continued. They also stated that should major repair be required, they would re-evaluate the need to maintain the vehicle.
- General Services/Cost Share Grant Agreement: Ludvigson made a motion to Approve and Authorize the Appropriate Signature for the 2010 General Services/Cost Share Grant Agreement, upon arrival. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Personnel: Johnson made a motion to approve the following training sessions and meetings. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - WCA Training: July 20 in Owatonna (Kvidera); July 21 in Redwood (Wittnebel)
 - NASWCD Orientation & Refresher: July 14-15 in St. Cloud (Hoffman)

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- Wittnebel shared some Budget Pie Charts, and stated that Hoffman will be working on additional financial reports.
- Wittnebel's Link Pass application is still pending. Kvidera's and Hoffman's Identification Cards are finished and ready for pick-up.
- FSA will not be contributing financial assistance for a Quarterly Newsletter, due to budget constraints.
- The 09-10 Farm Bill Technician Application has been approved as presented for a .75 position. Wittnebel noted that instead of funds being disbursed to the district, they will be presented on a reimbursement basis.

Water Plan Management Report:

- Wittnebel restated that with the approval of the Financial Report at the beginning of the meeting, that the final expenses for the Clean Water Legacy Highway 31 Project had been approved. All work has been completed and final reports will be submitted to BWSR in July.
- The Rain Garden Demonstration in Dawson was cancelled, due to lack of participants.
- The Dawson High School Science Class had their annual canoe trip, and Water Plan money was used to help defer some of the costs. Wittnebel and Homan had addressed the group on their overnight stop.
- Wittnebel and a new Earth Team Volunteer (Jaime Wittnebel) participated in the Bellingham Parade in June. If staff members are available, the District will participate in the Marietta Parade in July.
- Carrying cases for The Incredible Journey, and other instructional programs, were purchased.

Technical Report:

- Trees and Fabric are done! There were 27 tree plantings, and all required plantings were completed by June 1.
- Kvidera will be meeting with Kane and Trudy concerning a potential wetland restoration site for the WCA Banking Program.
- Jeff Ronglien helped with observation wells.
- Reimbursement for District use of personal cell phones was discussed.

Education/Promotion Report:

- Wittnebel gave her Education/Promotion Report, and shared copies with those in attendance. To view her full report, *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:

- Pay Equity Training in Alexandria, 06.05.09; Wittnebel attended and reported.
- Area Employees' Meeting in Marshall, 06.10.09; Wittnebel attended and reported.
- Rain Garden Workshop in Dawson, 06.11-12.09; CANCELLED
- SW Prairie TSA in Marshall, 06.16.09; Johnson and Rebehn attended, Johnson reported.
- FAC Meeting in Madison, 06.17/09; Hendrickson and Wittnebel attended and reported.
- Area V Meeting in Pipestone, 06.18.09; Rebehn and Hoffman attended; Hoffman reported
- MN River Source JBP, in Benson, 06.26.09; Johnson attended and reported.

Correspondence:

Email forwarded to supervisors forwarded to supervisors beginning June 5, 2009:

- eNotes – 06.10.09
- MASWCD Notice: TV Show about Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund this weekend.
- eNotes – 06.16.09
- eNotes – 06.23.09

Copies in supervisors' folders:

- LqP YB Watershed meeting minutes 5.05.09

Upcoming:

- Biomass Feedstock Tour, Wadena 07.10.09
- NASWCD Orientation & Refresher 07.14-15.09
- NACD Legislative Conference, Washington DC, 07.19-21.09
- LqP SWCD Monthly meeting 08.06.

Adjourn:

Schuelke declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

LeRoy Schuelke

Approved

08/06/09

Date

activities during
June 2009 (report given 6/29 meeting)
Terry Wittnebel

Education/Outreach Report

Our **radio spot** seems to be going well. So far we haven't had to struggle for topics. I thought it would be an idea to have supervisors do a couple – why you're a supervisor, basics about what an SWCD is, what you consider important issues, that kind of thing. Volunteers?

Environmental Fair – I have invested a couple days working on the school schedules. Some years everything easily falls into place – this has not been one of those years! But I think we are pretty close to finishing, & will move on to preparing mailings.

The **Rain Garden workshop** in Dawson was cancelled because of low registration, but the demonstration site will be installed in July. I used Water Plan funds to purchase signs – I think it's an important component of a demonstration site.

The **Bellingham parade** went well. My out-of-town plans fell through, so I was able to drive the pickup. I got Jaime signed up as an Earth Team volunteer, & she rode with me. A number of parental "thankyou's" were expressed for the goldfish crackers. There are enough treats leftover I think we can do the Marietta parade July 11 (12?) (in my judgment not enough for Madison or Dawson). The signage on the pickup can promote tree plantings – we did those community/living snowfence plantings in Marietta.

Mary & I spent a morning doing water activities with **Dawson Girl Scouts**. Their state theme for day camps this year is water. Some of the girls impressed me with their knowledge – school or individuals, I can't say.

Greg Wyum, science teacher in **Dawson** & past recipient of our education award, takes students on a 2 day **canoe trip** on the LqP River (I think this was his 10th year). Mary & I addressed the group of 30 **high school students** during their breakfast on the 2nd day, explaining who we were & what our organizations do to protect the quality of surface water. We paid for their supper/breakfast (in the past paid for by the teacher) – again I used Water Plan education funds. We both felt this was an excellent partnership, that we got a lot of value for our investment, compared to the time & expense organizing a similar event on our own, we would still have been purchasing food!

Debbie went with Mary to Dawson to help with nature walk & water cycle activity for **Riverfest**.

Brainstorming with Mary, based on several inquiries about rain barrels, we are planning a **make-&-take rain barrel workshop**, probably toward the end of July, but maybe early August. Rain barrels are another BMP addressing runoff issues.

We are also working on a new project series – **Lunch 'n Learn** – to start in the fall.

DC Report
June 29, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

EQIP/WHIP – We have had 32 applications in EQIP funded and obligated so far. We also have funded and obligated 3 WHIP applications. The organic initiative signup is through tomorrow and we have 2 applications so far to work on with that option. It appears that they will likely be funded. It has been rather wild with some very close deadlines to get the plans together and signed. We also conducted the 3rd quarter audit during the past 2 weeks also. We did have 6 EQIP applications that would have been funded that the people cancelled out of. Several of these involved clearing the old grove and replanting. They were concerned about the cost of the clearing, as it appears the contractors were quoting prices that were quite a bit higher than what our payment schedule was willing to pay. We have some more applications pending, but at this time I haven't heard if more money will be available to fund more applications or whether they will actually announce a second scoring period which will allow consideration of applications that came in after May 22.

1026's & CCRP – There has been very little time to work on these items this past month. My goal is to crack down on these two issues as much as possible in the next 2-3 weeks. Jeff Ronglien is cleared to be working as a WAE now, and since the fabric is done I will be trying to incorporate him into assisting with these items. He isn't able to be on the computer yet, and when he is there is some required training he has to take immediately.

GRP – There was another program signup announced last week also. The Grassland Reserve Program is taking applications. Any received by July 24 will be scored and ranked for possible funding. This program can involve a 10, 15, or 20 year rental option or a permanent easement. The target of the program is shifting from “protecting and conserving grassland” to “assisting landowners to protecting grazing uses and related conservation values”. I will let you decipher that. This program is jointly administered by FSA and NRCS.

Technical report – JP will not be here for another week as he was in St Louis last week on training, and is on annual leave this week. Projects supposedly to be worked on shortly are tile installed for 638's/terraces on Steve Stamp, Craig Kanstrup, Marlin Jerpseth, and Merlin Larson. Earthwork to complete projects for Ron Larson, Duane Sandage, and Paul Volkenant will be this fall. We have a couple of sites planted to wheat which will allow some work later this summer with Jerry Schuelke. A waterway project will need survey and design since being funded in EQIP.

Administrative Items – I attended an NRCS sponsored organic training program that was held locally at Carmen Fernholz's farm on June 23. There were about 20 NRCS staff and private consultants at the session. Part of the session was on the organic certification process with Jim Riddle presenting, and then it consisted of on farm techniques and issues with a couple of practicing organic farmers presenting.