

Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District



122 8th Ave. S. #1
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 August 6, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their August meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: John Rebehn, Leroy Schuelke, Ed Radermacher, and Bob Ludvigson. Jeff Johnson was absent. Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera, Curtis Nordaune and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Rebehn called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Minutes:

Radermacher made a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 29, 2009 board meeting. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the June 30, 2009 and July 31, 2009 Financial Reports, 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 amended Agenda as presented, with a change to move the DC Report to the beginning of the meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

District Conservationist Report:

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

Old Business:

- Reimbursement for cell phone use: Radermacher made a motion to reimburse Kvidera for use of his cell phone, as presented. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. It was noted that District Staff should look into the possibility of purchasing a phone to be used by the district in the future.
- Outstanding Conservationist: The Board discussed different ways to recognize the Outstanding Conservationists, Affiliates and Rain Gauge Monitors.

New Business:

- Cost Share:
 - 2010 SWCD Base Grant Agreement: Schuelke made a motion to approve the 2010 SWCD Base Grant Agreement, and authorize Rebehn to sign the agreement. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - State Cost Share Contracts:
Radermacher made a motion to approve the following Cost Share Project. Schuelke 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> <u>Watershed</u>
▪ CS 09 (08-09)	Dallas Croatt	Farmstead windbreak	\$ 1630	24033

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following Cost Share Project. Radermacher 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> <u>Watershed</u>
▪ CS 10 (08-09)	Kevin Olson	Farmstead windbreak	\$ 653	24031

Schuelke made a motion to approve payment for the following Cost Share Project. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u> <small>(not to exceed 75%)</small>	<u>Priority</u> <u>Watershed</u>
▪ CS 15 (07-08)	John Sather	Windbreak	\$ 2,136	24041

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

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
▪ WS 2009-07	Leonard Erickson	\$ 500.00
▪ WS 2009-08	Brian Fernholz	\$ 367.50

- MCIT 2009 Dividend: Wittnebel informed the Supervisors, that we will receive a dividend check of \$ 2,167.00.
- District Capacity Award Form: Wittnebel reviewed the form with the Supervisors and attained the signatures needed for submission.
- Fair Booth: Different themes were discussed for the booth at the LqP County Fair. The preferred topic was Trees, including alternate tree species to replace Ash trees, due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Personnel

- SWCD Land Use/Open Meeting Training – August 20/27: Information was distributed.
- Upcoming Meetings: Ludvigson made a motion to authorize attendance at the following meetings. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:
 - Area Employees’ Meeting - August 26 (Wittnebel, Kvidera, Hoffman)
 - Farm Bill Assistance and Working Lands Initiative Joint Meeting – September 1 (Kvidera)

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- NRCS Contribution Agreement has been completed and sent. The request for reimbursement has also been submitted.
- The District donated tattoos and 25 staples for Marietta’s 125th Anniversary Celebration.
- The District van recently had a tune-up and new tires put on the front.
- The District pickup window will be replaced, due to being hit by a rock.
- LincPass ID cards are ready for pickup.
- The District received a copy of the new Joint Powers Agreement (with all the signatures) for the SW Prairie Technical Service area. The agreement was signed at their meeting on June 16.
- Billings for ‘09 and ‘10 Computer Partnership with NRCS may be arriving soon. The costs per computer have not been determined. It is also not known if NRCS will cover the cost of one or two computers used in the District.

Water Plan Management Report:

- The Clean Water Legacy Hwy 31 Project reports have been completed and submitted.
- The NRBG 07 (Water Plan) report has been completed.
- A Resource Commission meeting will be scheduled sometime in August, to set the FY10 Budget.
- The AgBMP Report was discussed.

Technical Report:

- Copies of Kvidera’s Technical Report were distributed and reviewed. To view his report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Education/Outreach Report:

- Copies of Wittnebel’s Education/Outreach Report were distributed and reviewed. To read her report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Meeting/Training Report:

- WCA Training – Kvidera attended in July
- MASWCD Orientation & Refresher – Hoffman attended in July
- MN River Basin Board – Wittnebel attended in July

Correspondence:

Thank-you

- o A Thank-you from Paul Schwendemann was read.

Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning June 29, 2009:

- o eNotes – June 30, 2009
- o MASWCD Board Meeting Agenda – July 14, 2009
- o eNotes – July 7, 2009
- o invitation to listening session at NACD’s 2009 Legislative Conference
- o eNotes – July 14, 2009
- o eNotes – July 28, 2009
- o web posting of MASWCD board May meeting minutes
- o eNotes – August 4, 2009

Copies in Supervisors’ Folders:

- o NACD news July 8, 2009
- o Dawson Sentinel article – Jeff Johnson recognition as LqP 09 U of M Farm Family

Available for Review

- o The Resource, summer 2009, “establishing & maintaining relationships with lawmakers”

Upcoming:

- o LqP SWCD monthly meeting, September 3, 2009
- o BWSR Training Academy, November 2 – 4, 2009 at Cragun’s

Adjourn:

Radermacher made motion to adjourn the meeting. Ludvigson seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

LeRoy Schuelke

Approved

09.03.09

Date

DC Report
August 6, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

1026's – With the help of Jeff Ronglien we have been able to process 44 1026's since the last board meeting.

EQIP – We have now been ok'd to fund all the EQIP applications that we received prior to the May 22 application period cut off. We are looking to end up with 40 separate EQIP/WHIP agreements for 2009. The total obligated dollars in just over \$400,000. We have processed several payments in the past month, but are not able to process payments on the new agreements yet. We are told it may be OK about mid August to do this. Some bills have already come in on some practices being applied.

CRP – We have developed a few CCRP contracts/plans for signing, and have completed the field work on most of the folders we have pending. Hopefully now that Jeff has access to the computer I will be able to get him somewhat involved in Toolkit and writing plans.

CSP – This newly named and revamped program looks to be up and going within a few days. CSP now stands for Conservation Stewardship Program. USDA just announced the interim rules were placed on the Federal Register on 7/29/09 and open for public comment till September 28, 2009. NRCS staff are undergoing introductory training on the program on August 5 & 6. We are instructed to initiate a strong promotional and educational program for the signup which is potentially going to start on August 10. Training instructions say we can't talk about the program with the public until the Secretary of Agriculture announces the signup. We think this will actually happen today. With the help of Terry and Deb we have tentatively scheduled public information meetings for August 13 in Dawson (10:00 AM) and Madison (2:00 PM). I hope to have enough information to also do a radio program next Wednesday. This will be entirely different than the old Conservation Security Program. Signup will be continuous and nationwide, with announced cut off dates for application consideration. We may have a lot of people eligible, but how many 5 year contracts we will get is very unknown, and how much the money will be to maintain, enhance, or apply additional conservation is also a big unknown. Dollar amounts will become known at the time will indicate to applicants that they are pre-approved. This will likely be in October. The work load looks to be very heavy at this time.

Administrative Items – I need to have John resign the Attachment C forms about sharing information as it was signed on the wrong line and they sent it back from the Area Office.

Upcoming Items – CSP Signup, Application period for first cutoff ??August 10-Sept 29??

activities during

July 2009

Terry Wittnebel

Education/Outreach Report

Deb & Curt interviewed **Outstanding Conservationists** – the photos & application ready to send.

Since our last meeting, our office has done the **radio spots** 4 times Les did Grassland Reserve Program & CREP maintenance burns, & I did a segment defining watersheds & the AgBMP program. I redid the **AgBMP brochure**.

Environmental Fair – we're getting down to final preparations.

Jeff drove the District pickup in the **Marietta parade** went well. The signage on the pickup promoted tree plantings – we did those community/living snowfence plantings in Marietta.

Deb & I have set up & promoted **CSP information meetings** for Burt.

Newsletter – Don said he hopes for newsletter funds after October 1. Try to wait till then (cost \$600-\$800 to publish – important not to lose our visibility, but perhaps radio is keeping us out there?) I thought I'd try to put something together as a handout for fair booth, then maybe put in bank lobbies?

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

Tech Report

August 6, 2009

Leslie Kvidera

Trees

Tree planter and fabric machine have both been repaired and ready for the next planting season. There will be one fall planting as we have enough potted spruce trees remaining to do a partial planting. This will be a good test to make sure the equipment repairs are ready for the spring planting. Shelterbelt replacement calls are still coming in I had three more inquiries this week so it looks like it will be another busy spring.

Clean Water Partnership

I have been out two times with Mary collecting water samples and will do collecting for her in the next few weeks as she is recovering from her knee surgery. We also looked at a couple sites for possible stream bank stabilization projects.

CREP

Getting a good start on CREP status reviews as the need to be done by the by the middle of September. So far only minor issues mostly thistles and some spray drift. Landowners are usually aware of the problems and very cooperative in dealing with issues that come up.

Meetings and Training

I attended WCA training in Redwood Falls on July 21st. The training was not so much new rules or regulations but rearranging and simplifying what was already in place.

CRP teleconference with NRCS and FSA on July 22nd.

Two radio shows in July one on the Grassland Reserve Program and one on burning.

Lac qui Parle, Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership TEAM meeting on July 7th.