

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 September 3, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their September meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: LeRoy Schuelke, Ed Radermacher, Jeff Johnson, Bob Ludvigson, and John Rebehn. Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera, Curtis Nordaune and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Rebehn called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. He began the meeting by congratulating Johnson on being recognized by the University of Minnesota as a "2009 Farm Family," at the recent Farmfest event.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the August 6, 2009 board meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Following a discussion on the renewal of maturing Certificates of Deposit, and random inquiries of some of the bills, Ludvigson made a motion to approve the August Financial Reports, subject to audit, and pay the bills as presented. Radermacher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

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

Supervisor Training: Civic Engagement for Watershed Planning and TMDL Studies:

Wittnebel gave an informative briefing on Civic Engagement, and how it may relate to future funding. A short discussion followed.

Old Business:

- Tree Program/Native Species: Wittnebel shared a MASWCD policy memo and copy of a MASWCD resolution concerning the Tree Program, Native Species, and Invasive Species. Concern was expressed regarding the use of the terms "required" and "recommend." Wittnebel was asked to confer with those issuing the memo, for clarification of the intent of the resolution and resulting policy.
- Fall Tree Planting with State Cost Share: Schuelke made a motion to allow for Spruce Trees to be planted this fall (as opposed to planting in the spring), with the same replacement guarantee that is in place for spring plantings, on the following State Cost Share Contract. 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>
o CS 09 (08-09)	Dallas Croatt	Farmstead windbreak	\$ 1630	24033

- FY2010 Farm Bill Assistance Grant: Johnson made a motion to approve and authorize the signing of the 2010 Farm Bill Assistance Grant as presented, for \$ 23,625. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried. The grant period runs from July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011.

New Business:

- NRCS Office Space Contribution Agreement: Schuelke made a motion to approve and authorize the signing of the 2009 NRCS Office Space Contribution Agreement, including payment of said bill, upon receipt. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Building Lease for SWCD: Wittnebel informed the board that future lease agreements would be made between the landlord, and the respective parties, as opposed to running the payments through NRCS.

Landlords will be asked to write up the agreements, and payments may be made on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis, depending upon the agreement. Wittnebel also noted that for 2010, there would be no charge for telephone and internet access, as that would be covered by NRCS. Hendrickson concurred.

- **Cost Share:**

- Water Plan Well Sealings:

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

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
▪ WS 2009-09	Diane Olson	\$ 219.50
▪ WS 2009-10	Kellie Lewis	\$ 500.00
▪ WS 2009-11	Kellie Lewis #2	\$ 500.00
▪ WS 2009-12	Reid Buer	\$ 257.00
▪ WS 2009-13	Donald Farmer	\$ 294.50
▪ WS 2009-14	Don Ransom	\$ 182.00
▪ WS 2009-15	Roy Tonn	\$ 257.00
▪ WS 2009-16	Bernice Hanson	\$ 182.00
▪ WS 2009-17	Bernice Hanson #2	\$ 257.00
▪ WS 2009-18	Bernice Hanson #3	\$ 257.00

Personnel

- Ludvigson made a motion to authorize attendance at the following meetings. Schuelke seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion carried:

- Rusle II Training – September 24 in Redwood Falls (Kvidera)
 - BWSR Training Academy – November 2-4 at Cragun's Resort (Wittnebel, Hoffman, Kvidera)
 - MN River Basin Water Quality Professionals Forum – October 1 in Redwood Falls (Wittnebel)

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- District brochures were updated and printed, with the intent to demonstrate accountability and visibility of District Programs, Practices, and Partnerships.
 - The 2010 Budget Request was submitted to the County Commissioners. The request was the same as last year
 - Ludvigson, Rebehn, Wittnebel, and Hoffman met with the County Commissioners on September 1, to give them a general overview of District programs. Wittnebel distributed copies of the District brochure, and the Highway 31 Project Report. The budget was briefly discussed, with the County Commissioners stating that their goal for 2010 is to award the District the same amount of funding that was approved for 2009. They have a target date of September 15, to complete their budget.
 - NRCS will not be charging the District for computer support in 2009. The charges for 2010 are still in the negotiations stage.
 - Senator Amy Klobuchar visited the Farm Service Center on Tuesday, August 25th. Wittnebel spoke with her, and passed on one of the updated SWCD brochures.
 - Wittnebel read a letter and shared pictures that she sent to LqP County Sheriff Dallas Schellberg, regarding use of an ATV on district property by the tree barn. She noted that damage has been done to the native grass planting from the ATV and perhaps other vehicles, and she asked that the department be aware of the destructive behavior and put a stop to it if possible.
 - The handle on the district van is broken, and a new one has been ordered.
 - Wittnebel participated in a conference call with the Office of the Legislative Auditor, on Tuesday, August 25, that dealt with the DNR owned and state easement properties in LqP County.

Water Plan Management Report:

- The Resource Commission met on Thursday, August 27, to set the FY10 Budget. Water Plan priorities were discussed. Budget project areas will be set at the same percentages as last year.

Technical Report:

- There were about 60 CREP Status Reviews to be completed. Kvidera will have them completed by September 9.
 - Inquiries are still coming in for tree plantings due to the storm damage in July of 2008. It looks like the 2010 tree planting season may be as busy as 2009 was.
 - Kvidera worked at the SWCD Booth at Farmfest in early August.

- Kvidera recently assisted the Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership, by conducting water testing.
- Scoring for LCCMR - Granite Outcroppings took place on Thursday, August 27. Kvidera felt that the scoring was favorable for LqP Applications.
- Nordaune noted that the RC&D meetings have been cut back to about eight meetings a year.

Education/Outreach Report:

- Plans for the Environmental Fair are falling into place, as Wittnebel and Hoffman were at another committee meeting on Wednesday, September 2.

District Conservationist Report:

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

Meeting/Training Report:

- SWCD Land Use/Open Meeting Training – August 20/27 – no one attended
- Area Employees' Meeting – August 26 – Wittnebel, Kvidera, Hoffman attended
- Farm Bill Assistance and Working Lands Initiative Joint Meeting – September 14 – date change from September 1 (Kvidera will be unable to attend)

Correspondence:

Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning August 6, 2009:

- Area II Board meeting minutes – July 2, 2009
- eNotes – August 11, 2009
- Invitation for the Minnesota NRCS State Technical Committee Conference Call August 25
- MASWCD Tentative Agenda – August 25, 2009
- ENotes – August 18, 2009
- MASWCD "Bits of Tidbits" - July/August 2009
- eNotes – August 25, 2009

Copies in Supervisors' Folders:

- Minnesota River Talk – Summer 2009
- eNotes – September 1, 2009

Available for Review

- SW Prairie Technical Service Area Minutes – June 16,

Upcoming:

- SW Prairie Technical Service Area Meeting – Marshall – September 9, 2009 (Johnson/Rebehn)
- Environmental Fair – Marshall – September 22-23, 2009
- Lincoln SWCD 65th Anniversary Celebration – September 29, 2009
- LqP SWCD Monthly Meeting – October 1, 2009
- BWSR Training Academy – Cragun's Resort – November 2-4, 2009

Adjourn:

Schuelke made motion to adjourn the meeting. Schuelke seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

LeRoy Schuelke

10/01/2009

Approved

Date

DC Report
September 3, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program signup is in progress. First scoring cutoff date is Sept 30. We have had a couple of public meetings to introduce, but they were poorly attended. I have been on the radio show on Wednesday morning twice to inform people of the process and potential. We have posters out throughout the county, and have been using radio public service announcements, and the newspapers with releases. So far there have been a handful of office inquiries, and one official application.

CRP – With Jeff's help I have been getting CRP plans developed and ready for signatures by applicants. We have 11 signed in past month, with at least that many more ready or nearly ready, with a handful of others to work on yet.

EQIP – We have been ok'd to process 2009 agreements for payments, and have several 1245's dealing with mostly well sealing, and tree clearing to process for payment. Several nutrient and pest management documents have been received to also get payments processed for. We have until Sept 15 to get done, or have to wait until after October 1.

1026's – We have processed 9 of these in the past month, but have several waiting.

Administrative Items – Lease issues – Terry has a copy of the agreement for rent to be paid to the NRCS for this year. This needs to be signed and gotten back to Laurie Otte at our state office ASAP. NRCS will no longer be able to handle the SWCD rent like in the past. A separate lease agreement needs to be developed directly with the landowner for the SWCD footage. This has to be developed this month from what we are being told. FSA is the lead in this office, and we are to have a FAC meeting to get this going. The instructions that FSA got from the state office have us waiting for a form, but we will be getting this going ASAP.

Upcoming Items – 2010 is the 75th anniversary of NRCS. We will be planning some sort of event in each field office. May also work locally with the Boy Scouts as it is their 100th anniversary. Ideas?