

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 October 1, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their October meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: LeRoy Schuelke, Ed Radermacher, Jeff Johnson, and Bob Ludvigson. Staff present: Les Kvidera, Curtis Nordaune and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Radermacher called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the September 3, 2009 board meeting. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented, subject to audit, noting that the Farm Program Balance would be adjusted after Hoffman received Kvidera's actual hours for September, and September interest is added. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

No changes were made to the Agenda.

Old Business:

- Building Lease for SWCD: There was no new information available.
- Tree Program/Native Species: The question arose last month, about why the MASWCD policy **requires** the use of native and non-invasive plant material in SWCD tree sales and conservation plans, when the resolution wording was **encourage**. Hoffman read the response from LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Director), which stated the following:

The resolution does say "encourage" districts. It requires MASWCD at the state level to "encourage" the districts to use natives. That is why we sent the reminder with a copy of the resolution. The issue at hand is that MASWCD and the districts need to promote the best conservation practices in the state and maintain a conservation ethic. Ultimately it is your district's decision on your use and promotion of natives.

Kvidera assured the board, that he promotes the native and non-invasive plant material in his tree sales. Radermacher suggested that Buck's response be kept on file, should any questions arise.

- 2010 Budget: Hoffman read a letter from LqP County Auditor-Treasurer, in which he stated that our 2010 Appropriation would be the same as it was in 2009. The board was pleased that there was no reduction in funding due to the financial pressures placed on local government as a result of losses in state funding. The Budget Committee will meet when time allows, noting that there will be no major changes between the 2009 and 2010 Budgets.
- Granite Rock Outcrop Easements: Kvidera reported that the two sites he recommended (Borgerson and Thomson) received the first and third highest ratings, and were approved. Ludvigson made a motion to approve the two sites for easements, as they had previously been approved for RIM easements. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

- **MASWCD Resolutions:** Supervisors were encouraged to return their completed voting pages to the District office. Wittnebel will compile their responses, and submit them to MASWCD. All supervisors present signed the 2009 Resolution Ballot (Revised) as required.
- **MASWCD Annual Convention Registration:** Johnson made a motion to approve accommodations, including meals, two rooms on Monday night, December 7, 2009, the Recognition Banquet on Tuesday, and mileage, for the Outstanding Conservationists. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Johnson made a motion to approve attendance of interested supervisors and staff, to attend the convention. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel

- **Personnel Committee:** Wittnebel is to meet with Hoffman and Kvidera for their annual reviews, and then schedule a meeting with the Personnel Committee.

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- One new AgBMP loan application has been processed.
- Wittnebel met with Yellow Medicine and Lincoln District Managers to discuss possible projects to apply jointly for a BWSR Competitive Grant. Training is scheduled on October 7, to discuss the grant application and reporting procedures.
- There is a training session on October 7, on the Lessard-Sams grant application process. Attendance at the training, and the need to work with local groups, was stressed.

Water Plan Management Report:

- Have received several inquiries on well sealings, and have taken in two new applications.
- Have been discussing several possible projects with Clean Water Partnership.

Technical Report:

- Nordaune stated that he attended the 65th Anniversary Celebration of the Lincoln County SWCD on Tuesday, September 29.
- Nordaune stated that his future plans include representing the District on the RC&D Board, and to spend less time with engineering practices.
- Kvidera gave a brief report on WCA issues, including a restoration order.
- Kvidera will be assisting in the Dawson River Clean-up Project, scheduled on Thursday, October 8. He also stated that he has helped with other Clean Water Partnership projects.
- Kvidera gave an update on the fall tree planting that he completed earlier this week. He also stated that several trees had been given away following the Lac qui Parle County fair, and that he still has a few potted trees left.
- Kvidera reported the CREP inspections were completed prior to the September 11 deadline.

Education/Outreach Report:

- Wittnebel's Education/Outreach Report was distributed and reviewed. Hoffman read the names of those who won trees at the LqP County Fair. To view Wittnebel's full report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

District Conservationist Report:

- Hendrickson Distributed copies of his report, and discussed it with the board. He brought a copy of the "And Justice For All" poster to the meeting, which indicates that the USDA and SWCD will not conduct their business and programs in a manner that violated EEO and Civil Rights Laws. To view Hendrickson's full report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Meeting/Training Report:

- Johnson attended a meeting of the Southwest Technical Service Area on September 9, 2009. He stated that our District will be billed \$1,000 at the beginning of the calendar year for services. He was pleased to state that the \$1,000 covers all projects that the Southwest Technical Service Area may do for the District, as that is what they are there for.

Correspondence:

Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning September 3, 2009:

- August 2009 Area II Board of Directors Minutes
- eNotes – September 9, 2009
- eNotes – September 15, 2009
- eNotes – September 22, 2009
- Web posting of MASWCD board meeting minutes 9/25/09

Copies in Supervisors' Folders:

- MASWCD Resolution Committee recommendations
- eNotes – September 29, 2009

Upcoming:

- MN River Basin Water Quality Professionals Forum, 10/01/09
- LqP SWCD Monthly Meeting, 11/05/09
- BWSR Training Academy, 11/2-4/09, Cragun's
- MASWCD Annual Convention, 12/6-8/09, Duluth DECC

Adjourn:

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Schuelke seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Jeff Johnson

12/03/2009

Approved

Date

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

DC Report
October 1, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

CSP – The first signup cutoff for the Conservation Stewardship Program ended yesterday. I did handle numerous inquiries, but the actual applications number around 10 for the county. We will be proceeding with getting these applications processed during the next month. Many people seemed to take the stand there were going to wait till the next signup, and take note how this first one was handled and what came of it.

EQIP – We have been shut down on processing payments since the middle of September, but this should be opened up shortly, and I have numerous payments waiting to be processed. Hopefully the people will find the time to come in and sign during the busy season.

1026's – With Jeff Ronglien's help I have been able to keep pretty current with these, but do have some certified determinations to get completed during the fall. We did process 36 in the past month.

CRP – We completed and had signed 29 different Continuous Conservation Reserve Program contracts since the beginning of July. We still have a half dozen to work on which will roll into the next signup beginning today. Most of these are offers that were just started in the past week or two and did not allow enough time to get processed for an October 1 start.

Administrative Items –

And Justice For All – Every year we review the memorandum of agreement between the SWCD and NRCS which indicates that the SWCD will not conduct their business and programs in a manner that violates EEO and Civil Rights Laws. When you enter this building there is a poster on display for all the public to take note. It is called the “And Justice For All” poster. The significance of this poster is that USDA prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. How many of you have ever noticed the poster? Please take a moment to check it out.

Bill Hunt – State Conservationist Bill Hunt was in the area last week, and visited us during our NRCS employee meeting. He is retiring in the near future, but the exact date was not divulged. It likely will be around the beginning of the calendar year. He plans to remain living in Minnesota because he felt of all the states he has lived and worked in he and his wife like this one the best. He has family scattered throughout the country and will be traveling some. In March he would have reached 15 years as the State Conservationist in Minnesota. He gave us a good pep talk about the work we do, and to continue.

Upcoming Items - October 1, A new federal fiscal year starts

activities during
September 2009

Terry Wittnebel

Education/Outreach Report

I'm not sure the video player in the **Fair Booth** worked as well as I thought, but it's not doing any good just sitting in this room. I happened to stop by briefly on Saturday, & in that short time someone asked me about a new windbreak, so I think the topic was a good one. Deb has the list of tree winners.

Environmental Fair – many last minute glitches required a lot of time to sort out, but the final result seemed to go well. We put up 10 tents this year (luckily before the rain started). Tuesday 23 schools brought 953 students, & Wednesday there were 838 students from 17 schools. Several home schools participated this year. We have a final wrap-up meeting next week - the final report will be finished soon.

This past month Burt did one **radio spot** on the CSP program.

Construction will start on the Dawson **rain garden demonstration site** next week.

The river is down in Dawson in preparation for the dam removal. I'm working with Mary on a **river cleanup** to be held next Thursday. There will be seventy 9th & 10th graders, with the City providing a big dumpster & DNR providing gloves & garbage bags through the Adopt-a-River program. She was going to contact the Dawson Chamber about getting involved in some way, so other than some manpower I'm not sure how we (SWCD/Water Plan) might need to help (provide refreshments, pay toward disposal of various kinds of debris, etc.). This has come together in just the last week, so all details haven't been resolved.