

Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District



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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 December 3, 2009

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their December meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2009, in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Ed Radermacher, Jeff Johnson, and Bob Ludvigson. LeRoy Schuelke and John Rebehn were absent. Staff present: Les Kvidera, Curtis Nordaune, Terry Wittnebel and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Senator Gary Kubly arrived as a guest, later in the morning. Radermacher called the meeting to order at 8:08 am

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 1, 2009 board meeting, and the Minutes from the November 5, 2009 board meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the Program Record and Fund Accounts portion of the October Financial Report, noting that regular and ordinary charges less than \$100 were paid, following the November 2009 Board Meeting Date, and to approve the current Financial Report as presented, subject to audit. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Additional Financial Action:

Usual and Ordinary Bills: Ludvigson made a motion to approve payment of usual and ordinary bills that may come due prior to the end of December, to eliminate the need to call a special meeting for the sole purpose of authorizing payments. The approved bills to be paid would include (but are not limited to) the City of Madison for utilities, Cenex, Outstanding Conservationists' reimbursements, newsletter, and Resource Commission Meeting per diem and mileage. A list of the bills paid would be included in the December Profit & Loss Detail Report. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Additional Financial Action:

Official Depository:

Johnson made a motion to approve the State Bank of Bellingham as an Official Depository effective September 2009, due to the recommendation of the board in September, to seek out the bank with the best CD rates. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

No changes were made to the Agenda.

Old Business:

- Building Lease for SWCD: Johnson made a motion to approve the SWCD Building Lease with Paul Moriarty, as presented, and to authorize rent payments. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2009 Budget Revision: Johnson made a motion to approve the 2009 Revised Budget dated October 2009, as previously discussed, to include the County Water Plan. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Outstanding Conservationists: Information was included in the Supervisors' folders, stating that the Patzer Family had been chosen as one of eight finalists for the State's 209 Outstanding Conservationist Award. The winner will be announced at the Annual Convention in Duluth, later this month.

- Recognition Dinner: Ludvigson made a motion to limit the Recognition Dinner this year, to the Outstanding Conservationists, and refrain from including volunteers, rain gauge monitors, and affiliates, due to budgetary concerns. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

- 2010 Budget Recommendation:
 - Personnel Committee: Johnson made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee as presented. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - 2010 Budget: Johnson made a motion to approve the 2010 Budget as proposed by the Budget Committee. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- LqP Water Plan – Comprehensive Plan: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the Resolution that the Lac qui Parle SWCD adopt the Lac qui Parle County CLWMP as its Comprehensive Plan for the period beginning January 1, 2010, through May 31, 2013. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Organization Name Change: Johnson made a motion to approve changing the name of the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Organization to Southwest Prairie Technical Services Area, as recommended. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- RC&D Director/Alternate Certification for 2010: Johnson made a motion to approve Curtis Nordaune to represent the LqP SWCD in the RC&D, with Les Kvidera as the alternate. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Water Plan Well Sealing: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following Well Sealing Cost Share Payments. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>Contact #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WS 2009-19	Anderson, Lee	\$ 375.00
WS 2009-20	Pederson, Pearl	\$ 257.00

Reports:

District Manager Report:

- Wittnebel gave brief overviews of some of the recent District activities. To view Wittnebel's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Water Plan Management Report:

- To view Wittnebel's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Technical Report:

- To view Kvidera's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Education/Outreach Report:

- To view Wittnebel's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

District Conservationist Report:

- To view Hendrickson's, report *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Correspondence:

Noted:

- SWMASWCD (Area 5) IRS Employer ID Number

Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning October 1, 2009:

- September 2009 Area II Board of Directors Minutes
- eNotes - October 6, 2009
- eNotes - October 13, 2009
- eNotes - October 20, 2009
- eNotes - October 27, 2009
- eNotes - November 17, 2009
- upcoming convention is featured on escn.tv
- eNotes – November 24, 2009
- eNotes - December 1, 2009
- MASWCD Convention additions/changes

Available for review:

- BWSR comments on Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for CRP
- LqPYB Watershed District meeting minutes 8/4/09, 9/1/09, 9/28/09
- MCIT Annual Report
- Working Together: A Plan to Restore the MN River

- RC&D minutes & project updates

In supervisors' folders:

- Business items for MASWCD Annual Meeting
- Feedlot Cost-share Size Limitation Emergency Resolution
- Year Round Grazing Systems seminar
- MASWCD mailing regarding MN Deficit for Current Biennium
- FYI appointment to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
- Environmental Fair report

Upcoming:

- LqP SWCD monthly meeting, January 7, 2009
- MAWD Drainage Seminar, 12/3/09, Alexandria Arrowwood Resort
- MASWCD Annual Convention, 12/6-8/09, Duluth DECC
- NACD Annual Convention, 1/31-2/2 2010, Orlando FL

Adjourn:

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Following the meeting, Senator Kubly spent additional time with two of the supervisors and staff, discussing conservation programs and funding.

Robert Ludvigson

01-14-2010

Approved

Date

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

December 3, 2009
District Manager's Report

- We received a dividend from MCIT (workers comp & property/casualty)
- I've continued to work with Yellow Medicine & Lincoln managers to develop a joint BWSR Competitive Grant application for Clean Water funds. The timeline to spend is shorter than the usual grant period, so we decided to keep it rather small so we are sure we can use it all. We applied for \$144,250 to use in the 6 impaired subwatersheds within the LqPYB Watershed for incentives for both buffers and CRP farmable wetlands, alternative intakes, and engineered practices.
- NRCS Contribution Agreement for NRI Data Collection was on the November agenda. NRCS decided they didn't have the money to do a contribution agreement, but I bartered District assistance for Burt to come in during his vacation to help with the Andrew Falk tour (the one that didn't happen!) Don't tell Burt, but we would have helped him out anyway. ☺
- I spent a day with Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, & Redwood managers working on our 2010 annual plans. There will need to be changes in 2011 plans, & we thought we might as well try to incorporate some of those changes while the training (BWSR Academy) was fresh in our minds.
- The tour for Rep. Falk took place December 1. Burt & Curtis went along to talk about various projects. It's the 1st such tour he's been on, & said he learned a lot. I took the opportunity to talk about project funding, grants, & our District views on BMP application "shotgun vs. watershed" approach.

Water Plan Report

I processed an AgBMP loan application for a liquid manure spreader.

There was a BWSR audit of the FY 08 NRBG grant (includes Water Plan & WCA) which involved the Watershed District & the Environmental Office. The FY 10 NRBG agreement is here - I went to the 12/01 County Commissioners meeting for approval & appropriate signatures, and has been returned to BWSR.

I intended to use up the remaining well sealing cost share money this fall, but it got late to approve the cs applications & still get the work done. I will just wait till next spring when we have 2010 money as well.

Technical Report
November- December 2009
Leslie Kvidera

Trees

I sent in the first order of trees on the 14th of October for 7,100 trees which will be a good start for next spring's plantings. As of the end of October we have seventeen plantings scheduled.

The fall planting for Dallas Croatt has been completed with fabric installed on his two conifer rows. His trees should do well as we have had plenty of moisture since then.

Our fabric mulch supply is looking good and should be adequate for the 2010 spring planting season which should help on expenses for next year.

NOTE TO SUPERVISORS- I will need a couple of straw bales to over winter some Ponderosa pines. If you have a couple please let me know.

LMR Granite Outcrop Grant

Applications have been finished and sent to the state office for approval. The two applications we have are for 75.1 acres and \$160,448. I am looking forward to getting these easements done as it has been a good learning experience and not so hectic with only two applications.

State Cost Share

State Cost Share site evaluations for 2009 include 3 first year, 10 five year, and 9 nine year evaluations. Curt and I have about half of the inspections completed and hope to finish the rest after the meeting on December 3rd.

We still have \$20,598 available for State Cost Share projects. This money must be encumbered by June 2010 or it will need to be returned so it is time to work on getting projects this winter.

Clean Water Partnership

I did four water samplings for Mary in October as she was still recovering from her knee surgery, we also had the Lac qui Parle River clean up with the Dawson school on the 19th, over 1,000 pounds of garbage removed and we did not lose any kids!

Work also continues on the Dawson Dam replacement where we are helping establish native plantings as buffer strips along the reconstructed river banks.

activities during
November 2009

Terry Wittnebel

Education/Outreach Report

The **tour** of conservation practices for Rep. Andrew Falk went well. We could see things in the field better than originally scheduled dates (most crops off the fields).

We finished up the **radio spots** with CWP's TMDL meetings. We'll start again sometime late winter or spring.

The Dawson **rain garden demonstration site** is finished. We will wait to put up the sign after winter.

The joint **newsletter** was sent in November – I hope you saw it!

The **Recognition Dinner** is scheduled for December 15 at the After 5. I will make centerpieces (double as gifts for Outstanding Conservationists). We had the dilemma of 4 families & 1 large wildlife print, so I got 4 small framed prints for them.

The Legacy Amendment Funding Bill included funding for the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center to develop a **Statewide Water Sustainability Framework**. I was asked to serve on the education task force, but after much a great deal of deliberation I turned it down. With planning and reporting that needs to be done now, I didn't feel I had the time.

DC Report
November 5, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

CSP – This has been our high priority item for the past month with several deadlines to meet. Madison ended up with 9 signed applications, but 2 have cancelled. I had all the rest entered into the computer and submitted as applications, but learned yesterday that 2 needed some corrections and will need to be resigned and resubmitted. Hope to get that done very quickly. There were some computer issues so the submitting deadline was pushed from October 30 to November 16. After that we will here who is pre-approved and for what dollars. In early December we hope to be doing field verification of the applications and development of plans/contracts by the end of December.

EQIP – I have processed several payment forms for projects in EQIP. Several of these need to be signed yet before I can send to Area Office. Some more to do yet also. A couple of earthwork bills have come in, but with the wet conditions we are fearful that not much more earthwork will be able to be done. This will require modifications and in the case of 2 state cost share involved ones, approval of additional extensions just in case.

CRP – I have worked in a couple of CRP proposals also. We did get 2 re-enrollment contracts for filter strips signed this past month, and I have put together options for a couple other offers. There are a couple others to work on, but not much new has come in recently.

1026's – Farmers don't even have enough time to come in and propose tile projects, as there have only been a handful of new ones come in. Several certifications to work on though, and I suspect that after this wet fall there will be a flush of proposals.

Administrative Items –

NRI – National Resource Inventory – There may be an option for a contribution agreement for the SWCD to do this for us this fall. Whether dollars are available for the agreement depends on the state NRCS budget which hasn't been finalized yet. There will be training provided for whoever ends up gathering this information and entering it in the computer. Gary Watson told us that it was 70% chance there would not be a contribution agreement. It involves gathering crop history data on pre-assigned points within the county, and along with this crop history other data such as tillage and residue or other practices that affect the point are recorded. It really helps if you know the county well.

Upcoming Items - I have considerable annual leave that I have to schedule between now and the end of the year.

DC Report
December 3, 2009
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update – Lots of ongoing and upcoming workload as follows:

CSP – We have received word of our applications being pre-approved for funding, but the funding amounts are not included yet. We are to get our field verification done ASAP. My deadline has been given to me as tomorrow. We will try. List has been changed twice already with more added each time. Currently all but one have been pre-approved. Deadline to have plans completed is December 30, with a hope for an extension.

EQIP – Several construction sites have been completed, but we have been trying to sort through bills, and get ready for payment. Costs have been running higher than estimates in all most all cases. Working conditions were not the best due to moisture, although the sites were workable. It just took longer than anticipated. We may be able to work an amendment on a couple through EQIP, and there may be applications for amendments through State Cost Share on a couple, but these are not ready at this time. We heard yesterday that the state office wants our Local Work Group meetings held by end of January, 2010 for the upcoming EQIP. A February 28 cutoff for scoring has been established, with all funds to be obligated by March 1. Wow. Any payments that will be made in December have to be into the Area Office by December 14 or they wait until we are re-activated in January sometime.

CRP – There have been a couple applications for continuous worked on and a couple are pending. It sounds like FSA will actually be conducting a general signup sometime during 2010.

1026's – There have been several new ones come in in the past weeks, with discussions held with the applicants, but the paper work has not been completed yet.

NRI – We have also been charged with completing data collection for Natural Resource Inventory points. Madison has 34 sets of 3 points to evaluate. Crop history has been collected for the points (Thanks Deb), but computer entry of the information has just started. Due by the 23rd to the Area Office.

Administrative Items – I have been on leave for a week in November, and am scheduled for 2 separate weeks of leave in December. I am in a use or lose situation and will be taking the leave. Will be working on all the above as am able to.

FOIA – Freedom of Information bulletin. As you remember we had all the SWCD employees, and supervisors sign an Attachment C related to FOIA. We are just receiving word that a actual memorandum between NRCS and SWCD's is coming out. We will be presenting that to the board for approval at a future meeting. Probably the next one. I could not get it ready yet, as it came in rough form yesterday.

Upcoming Items - I am attending a State Plant Material meeting December 15 & 16 in St Cloud, MN.