

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

February 4, 2010

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, February 4, 2010 in the District Office, located in the Farm Service Center, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Bob Ludvigson, Ed Radermacher, and Jeff Johnson. LeRoy Schuelke and John Rebehn were absent. Staff present: Les Kvidera, Terry Wittnebel and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Guests present: Gary Watson, (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – AO). Radermacher called the meeting to order at 10:11 am.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 14, 2010 board meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented, subject to audit. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

As presented with no additions or corrections.

Old Business:

- 2009 Annual Plan Progress Report: Wittnebel gave an informal update. Copies were in the Supervisors' folders.
- Madison Infrastructure Replacement Assessment: Wittnebel informed the board that the District is not required to pay property tax, but that the assessment for the Madison Infrastructure Replacement would need to be paid. The different payment options were briefly discussed, and will be decided at a later date.
- FY 06 Cost Share Closeout Signature: Johnson made a motion to approve and authorize the district treasurer to sign the Final Report for District Cost Share FY2006, and to forward it to the board conservationist. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

- Affiliate Program: Wittnebel asked the board if they would like her to continue with the Affiliate Program. The general consensus of the board was to continue the program, which gives private individuals and local businesses the opportunity of being partners with the SWCD to educate citizens about natural resources.
- Environmental Fair: Johnson made a motion to approve a \$500 donation from the District for the 2010 Environmental Fair. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- South West Prairie Technical Service Area FY10 Quarterly Share: Johnson made a motion to pay the annual share of \$1,000, and to consider the future annual SWPTSA payments with the general monthly bills. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Computer Replacement: Wittnebel informed the Board of the recent failure of Kvidera's computer. She stated that a replacement had been found, but due to age and previous use, it is unknown how long the computer will last. Wittnebel presented a replacement option. Ludvigson made a motion to approve replacement of office computers, as the situation warrants. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Copier/Printer: Wittnebel will request bids for a replacement copier/printer for the March meeting.
- 2009 Audit: Wittnebel noted that the District is due for an audit. The Board directed her to request bids, and to present them at the next meeting.

- BWSR SWCD Guidebook: Wittnebel included in the Supervisors' folders, copies of the District's submission for the BWSR SWCD Guidebook, which is generally presented to the State Legislators.
- Water Plan Administration Oversight: Wittnebel requested that since the Resource Commission is not active in 2010, that the Board approve the Lac qui Parle County Water Plan budget.
 - Budget/Work Plan: Johnson made a motion that the SWCD Board provide direction for the County Water Plan as needed for 2010, and to approve the budget as presented. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Wittnebel noted that the budget determines the work plan.
 - 2009 Annual Report: Copies of the Water Plan 09 Annual Report narrative were included in the Supervisors' folders.
- Cost Share:
 - New Applications: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following new Cost Share Application. 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> <u>Watershed</u>
▪ CS 13 (08-09)	Lyle Breberg	380	\$1,006.00	24059
 - Presented for Payment: Johnson made a motion to approve payments for the following Cost Share Projects. Ludvigson 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 4 (06-07)	Ron Larson	638	\$ 2,150.00	24040
▪ CS 2 (06-07)	Duane Sandage	638	\$11,070.00	24009
 - FY07 Cost Share Close out: Johnson made a motion to approve and authorize the district treasurer to sign the Final Report for District Cost Share FY2007, and to forward it to the board conservationist. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Water Plan Well Sealing: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following well-sealing application. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Robert Kuhlmann \$500.00
- Personnel: MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol, February 17-18 reminder

Reports:

- District Manager Report:
 - A letter has been submitted to the LqP County Commissioners requesting the first half of the 2010 allocation.
 - Several year-end reports have been completed, including eLINK entries for state cost share and the County Water Plan
 - The office was closed part of the day on January 18, due to hazardous weather
 - The EQIP Listening Session on January 21, was well attended
 - Wittnebel met with the Plan Committee. Johnson stated that minor updates had been made to the 2010 Annual Plan. Ludvigson made a motion to approve the 2010 Annual Plan as presented. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 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:
 - Wittnebel stated that she had included the Education /Outreach Report in other Agenda Items.
- District Conservationist Report:
 - To view Hendrickson's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*
- Guest Report: Gary Watson, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist (AO):
 - Several applications for the position of NRCS Technician have been received. The State hopes to have someone in place by the end of March, beginning of April.
 - Briefed the Board on the NRCS budget outlook.

- Stated that there may be funding for WAE again this summer
- Meeting/Training Report:
 - TEAM Meeting, February 2, 2010
 - TMDL Meetings – The Clean Water Partnership will take care of organizing the TMDL Meetings, if any Supervisors are interested in participating.

Correspondence:

- Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning January 14, 2010:
 - eNotes – January 19, 2010
 - SWMASWCDE (Area 5) – February 9, 2010
 - MASWCD Bits of tidbits Jan/Feb
 - eNotes – January 26, 2010
 - News from the 2010 NACD Annual Meeting – February 1, 2010
 - News from the 2010 NACD Annual Meeting – February 2, 2010
- Available for review:
 - SW Prairie 2009 Year End Report
 - MASWCD Legislative Report
 - 09 NRBG eLink report
- In Supervisors' Folders:
 - 2009 Activities & Achievements (Annual Report)

Upcoming:

- Area V Meeting, Marshall – February 9, 2010
- RC&D Annual Meeting – February 10, 2010
- Great Western MN Get Together – February 13-14, 2010
- Clean Water Listening Sessions, Marshall – February 16, 2010
- MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol – February 17-18, 2010
- LqP SWCD Monthly Meeting – March 4, 2010

Adjourn:

Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Ed Radermacher

March 4, 2010

Approved

Date

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

Water Plan Report

February 4, 2010

Terry Wittnebel

- Completed 2009 Annual Report
- I feel I need to go back & report progress, like I do for the District. It's good way to track accomplishments, & something that was overlooked during the past year. Most of the information has already been assembled for either the SWCD or Water Plan annual reports, or in elink by EO & Watershed. Hopefully I'll have time soon, while still fairly fresh in my mind.
- There have been several inquiries on well sealing and agbmp loan for tillage equipment.
- The AgBMP Loan Grant application is due tomorrow. I've given the application a once-over, penciling some things in, but hope to work on it this afternoon.

Technical Report

February 2010

Leslie Kvidera

LCCMR Granite Outcrop Easements

Work is still progressing on the easement applications. Both application had names listed on the deed that were not included on the easement application so I am still gathering all the information needed for final approval. It would be nice to get these easements completed before tree planting begins this spring.

Native Buffer and RIM Vegetative Management Programs

Last month I sent out letters to all CREP and RIM easement holders with native grass plantings about the Native Buffer and Vegetative management programs to improve native plantings. I had three calls expressing interest in the programs. I am working on two of the calls to see if they may be eligible and one request for funding will be sent in to BWSR this week for possible approval.

Trees

Farmstead windbreak inquiries continue coming in with two new windbreak projects to look at this week. There are currently 19 farmstead windbreaks projects lined up for this spring with over 50,000 feet of fabric mulch and 6,000 trees. Last year the emerald ash borer was found in Minnesota so landowners have been choosing alternative trees to the green ash not wanting to take a chance on losing their trees in the future.

DC Report
February 4, 2010
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

CSP – We completed the plans and got the contracts obligated for 5 applicants in LQP County. We have not received an official announcement of the signup cutoff for 2010, but we could take applications continuously.

EQIP – The announced scoring period cutoff for 2010 applications is February 26, 2010. We had a teleconference training last Thursday. The payment rate (docket) has not changed much from last year, but there are a couple of new wrinkles. There is a pilot program to assist with the installation of High Tunnels for seasonal extension of vegetable growth. We are also including potential for structures for water control involved with drainage water management, and a potential payment for the managing of water in a tile drain system. Looks like money available is similar to last year, but each county has several fund pools that applications may be separated into. Couple of fund pools are managed strictly by the state office. Goal is to have all money obligated to agreements by April 1. We also completed our quarterly audit this past month.

Other programs – We are also involved with a GRP (Grassland Reserve Program) signup. Deadline for applications is March 10. WHIP – (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) has timeline same as the EQIP basically. WRP – Wetland Reserve Program is also in progress.

CRP – We have been able to develop a handful of contracts for potential signing under the continuous option. May be a few more before spring yet that get signed.

Administrative Items –

75th Anniversary – We are planning to celebrate locally in conjunction with the SWCD's 60th anniversary sometime in April. On a statewide basis NRCS is planning to put together a DVD on Minnesota SCD/NRCS history. They will emphasize a theme of "conservation through strong partnerships". They are looking for employees and cooperators that would be good interviews for the project and ideas on topics. We plan to suggest Terraceville as a topic. Do you have any ideas or opinions?

Progress reporting – We are in the second quarter of our fiscal year now, and recently received some written notice of what our progress goals for the year will be. We are spending some time trying to get progress officially reported

Upcoming Items - EQIP, WHIP, GRP, WRP signups through February
DC Mtg – Feb. 11, Marshal AO