

# 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

March 4, 2010

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, March 4, 2010 in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Bob Ludvigson, Jeff Johnson, and Ed Radermacher. LeRoy Schuelke and John Rebehn were absent. Staff present: Les Kvidera, Curtis Nordaune, Terry Wittnebel and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Guests present: Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D. Radermacher called the meeting to order at 10:13 am.

### **Minutes:**

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 4, 2010 board meeting. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Financial Report:**

Hoffman went over the monthly reports. Included in the Financial Report, she noted that a transfer from savings to checking, to cover month-end checks, had been inadvertently omitted in February. She stated that she talked to the bank, and that the omission had been covered, with no financial ramifications to the District. Hoffman suggested that the bank be authorized to make an automatic transfer between District accounts should the need arise again in the future. The Supervisors agreed that it would be a good idea. 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:**

- Affiliate Program: Wittnebel had not had time to proceed with the Affiliate Program as directed at the last meeting. She asked the Board if they would like her to continue with the program. The general consensus of the Board was to continue the program.
- Copier/Printer: Bid letters were sent to vendors, requesting bids for new, or gently used machines, and service contracts. Vendors have contacted the SWCD Staff and will submit bids by March 15, for the meeting on April 1, 2010.
- 2009 Audit: Bids to conduct an audit of 2009 Financials were received from Kinner & Company LTD for \$1,820 and James Maiser, CPA for \$ 2,250. Johnson made a motion to approve the bid from Kinner & Company. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- RC&D National Meeting: Ludvigson made a motion to approve Nordaune to attend the North Central RC&D Regional Meeting in April, located in Dellroy, Ohio, and to reimburse him \$100 for expenses. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **New Business:**

- 2009 Financial Report: Copies of the report were sent to the Supervisors so they could review them prior to the meeting. Hoffman gave an overview of the report and answered questions. Johnson made a motion to approve the 2009 Financial Report as presented. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The report along with the 2009 Activities & Achievements Annual Report and 2010 Annual Plan of Work will be added to the website.
- 2010 MN Nutrient Management Initiative: Hendrickson informed the Board of the Initiative.
- Review Equal Employment Opportunity Policy: Reviewed and discussed. Wittnebel also brought to the attention of the board, the Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA, State of Minnesota, and the Soil and Water Conservation District, which includes the nondiscrimination provisions.
- Review District Cost Share Policy: Reviewed and discussed.

- Lawn Mowing and Tree/Fabric Assistant: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following: Award lawn mowing contract to the Olson Family, upon receipt of signed Tree Building Lawn Maintenance Agreement; place ad in local newspapers for summer help for tree planting and summer assistance. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Beltrami SWCD: Wittnebel read an e-mail concerning the dissolution of the Marshall/Beltrami SWCD and changes to the Beltrami SWCD organization, due to the elimination of grants and county funding.
- Water Plan:
  - Promotional Items: Wittnebel shared her thoughts on promotional items for upcoming events. The board encouraged her to proceed and to use her own discretion.
  - Well Sealings: None at this time.
- Cost Share:
  - New Applications: Johnson made a motion to approve the following new Cost Share Application. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>CS Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2009	Steve Kemen	380	(Not to exceed 75%) \$1,125.00
- Personnel:
  - RIM/WRP Training, Morris 3/23: Johnson made a motion to approve Kvidera's attendance at the training. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Reports:**

- District Manager Report:
  - The State Office of Climatology has requested assistance with the flooding forecast. Wittnebel asked Don Tweet from FSA, and Hendrickson to relay their observations to Hoffman, who will forward the information to the State Office of Climatology.
  - Dave Sill from BWSR recently completed close out audits of CS 06 & 07 which was a good learning experience. No major issues were found.
- Guest Report:
  - Randy Nelson, from RC&D gave a presentation, using handouts displaying some of the projects that the RC&D has been a part of. He also gave an overview of some of the services that the RC&D provides. Nelson will be attending the RC&D National Meeting in April with Nordaune.
- 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:
  - Hendrickson noted that the Mutual Agreement between the USDA, the State of Minnesota, and the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District had been reviewed by Wittnebel earlier in the meeting. He stated that he had stapled a copy of the agreement to his monthly report, for reference.
  - To view Hendrickson's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*
- Meeting/Training Report:
  - Area V meeting, Marshall, rescheduled to March 18
  - RC&D Annual Meeting, February 10
  - Great Western MN Get Together, February 13-14
  - Clean Water listening Sessions, Marshall, February 16
  - MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol, February 17-18
    - Ludvigson noted that he and Hoffman met with Senator Kubly and Representative Falk. Although both gentlemen listened to the financial concerns of the SWCD Representatives, they stated that due to the current financial status of the State, regrettably there would be cuts in funding for all government entities, which will affect the Districts.

### **Correspondence:**

- Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning February 4, 2010:
  - Board of Directors Meeting - February 17
  - MASWCD Legislative Update by July Erickson - February 8

- Statewide Listening Sessions – How Minnesotans View Their Water Resources reminder from Dave Sill – February 11
- eNotes – February 17
- eNotes – February 23
- eNotes – March 2
- BWSR Training Priorities – Survey Response Requested
- MASWCD Legislative Update and Action Alert – March 1
- Supplemental Budget Reductions
- Available for review:
  - DNR Prairie Treasure DVD
- In Supervisors' Folders:
  - 2010 Annual Plan

**Upcoming:**

- Area V Meeting, Marshall – March 18
- LqP SWCD monthly meeting - April 1
- Joint Anniversary Open House – April 22

**Adjourn:**

Ludvigson made a motion to adjourn. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

*LeRoy Schuelke*

*April 1, 2010*

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Approved

Date

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

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# Water Plan Report

March 4, 2010

- There have been several inquiries on well sealing. The County has passed on our 2010 Water Plan money, but I haven't had time to send letters to people on the pending list.
- AgBMP loan for tillage equipment was processed. It used up available funds until 2010 applications are approved (will be presented to Commissioner today)

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Technical Report

March 4, 2010

Leslie Kvidera

## Trees

Tree plantings for this spring is at currently at twenty with one new State Cost Share planting that came in this week. Tree sales continue to grow each week with over 8300 trees ordered and fabric mulch over 57,300 feet. Five of the projects scheduled are State Cost Share and fifteen are funded through EQIP.

## LCCMR Granite Outcrop Easements

I am still making progress with the easements while finding new challenges at every stage. The latest challenge involves getting the required signatures on agreement form. Kristie at the state office has been very helpful and has not said she is sick of me calling yet.

## Native Buffer, Vegetative Management

The Vegetative Management program has money available to improve problem areas in existing RIM and CREP easements. This may include practices to improve native cover but must include planting with a diverse local seed source. The Native Buffer program also uses a local native seed source but can be used in none program areas such as pastures or areas that did not fit into other programs.

I received several inquiries about the information letters sent out last month on native buffer and vegetative management programs. Three requests have been sent in for vegetative management at this time but still unable to find a fit for the native buffer program.

## WCA

No issues with WCA at this time only two upcoming projects. The radio station in Montevideo is expanding and will be adding a new building next to their existing office. The area included a wetland boundary that had to be delineated so the new building would not impact the wetland.

The other project is a new DNR fishing area and access by west twin bridge near Appleton. That area determined to be small enough project as not to impact any wetlands.

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activities during  
February 2010  
*Terry Wittnebel*  
Education/Promotion Report

**Great W MN GetTogether Booth** on Clean Water was popular. Adults had as much fun with the minnow races as the kids. Mary had bottled water from a previous event, & Water Plan provided goldfish crackers (labeled, like I had for parades last summer) as prizes. Brad helped me set up & work the 1<sup>st</sup> shift, then Les, Burt, Debby & Mary (& her husband) worked the rest of the event. Included with the booth rental were ten 30-second radio spots. I wrote up something on water quality & our financial assistance to be aired after the event.

A joint **newsletter** filled up surprisingly fast, & was in the mail the last week of February.

I prepared a single page **handout** (copies in folders) for Debby & Bob to take to the Day at the Capitol. Because Sen. Kubly & Rep. Falk received the multi-page brochure about our District in December, I thought they needed something a little different.

I was contacted about the **Chippewa SWCD 5<sup>th</sup> grade Field Day** to be held in May, asking if we wanted to extend an invitation to Dawson-Boyd students. I said yes . . . LqPValley will be attending, and it will be nice if our only other school can participate also.

I've spend some time on ideas for our **Anniversary Celebration**. We will have our Open House on the afternoon of Earth Day (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), April 22. Our charter was issued April 19, 1950. We can give away cookbooks remaining from our 50<sup>th</sup>, & I am considering using Water Plan \$ to purchase some promo items for the Celebration (umbrellas?) – depending on the item, keep a few back for County Fair? It's also National Volunteer Week, & we can recognize our active volunteers. Each week leading up to the Open House, there will be a news release (EE Week, Earth Day, Volunteer Week, Arbor Day, etc)

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DC Report  
March 4, 2010  
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

EQIP/WHIP – We ended up with 34 EQIP applications and 1 WHIP application by the scoring cutoff of February 26. I am in the process of ranking these into the several funding pools that are available. We are to have them all ranked, plans written so dollar value can be determined and uploaded into Protracts by March 23. At this time we do not know how much funding will be put into the separate pools, and how much money we will be getting.

Other Programs – We are still in a signup period for the Grassland Reserve Program, and the Organic Initiative within EQIP. The WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) signup will apparently be launched in the near future. Next signup for CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) looks to be coming in May. National office anticipates a much busier signup than last falls. Word must be out on what first signup people are getting.

CRP – Last weekend in conjunction with the Pheasant Forever Fest USDA announced some items about CRP. The SAFE program is being allotted some more acres and Minnesota will be able to enroll 10,800 more acres. We had used up our allotment last April and no more was given to us at that time. Sounds like these acres may go fast also. FSA will also conduct a general signup sometime this year yet. There has not been one for a few years. Details are sketchy with some rumors saying this will target certain areas of the state. More later.

1026's – Have not done a lot with these in the past month, but some new ones are coming in as people come into the FSA office for their program appointments.

Administrative Items –

SCT position – We may have word on the Madison position being filled in a few days, as the position has been offered to an applicant.

EEO/Civil Rights Memorandum – We review this with the board at least once a year, and this is the lucky month. Each of you has a copy of the memorandum so we can go over it together. Thank you.

Anniversary – We are going to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCS/NRCS locally in conjunction with the LQP SWCD anniversary with the scheduled open house on April 22. I really appreciate this opportunity and the assistance of the SWCD to work together on this.

Upcoming Items - Work