

# Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District



122 8th Ave. S. #1  
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  
April 1, 2010

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, April 1, 2010 in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Bob Ludvigson, Jeff Johnson, and LeRoy Schuelke. Ed Radermacher was absent. Staff present: Curtis Nordaune and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present (later in the meeting): Burt Hendrickson and Gary Hoffman. There were no guests present. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

## **Minutes:**

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

## **Financial Report:**

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

## **Review Agenda:**

As presented with no additions or corrections.

## **Old Business:**

- Affiliate Program: Hoffman reported that Affiliate Membership Forms were sent to past and potential members. She noted that several forms have been returned along with membership fees.
- Copier/Printer: Ludvigson made a motion to accept the bid by Ed Davis Business Machines, for the purchase of a Sharp MX-M200D, with maintenance contract. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2010 Annual Plan and Budget: Hoffman shared an e-mail received from David Sill, Board Conservationist. Sill commended the District staff for their professional completion and submission of the information. He also shared some thoughts for additional wording to identify other programs and funding used to help accomplish various goals of the District. Another important notation concerned the budget and District reserves.
- FY06 & FY07 State Cost Share Closeout Documentation: Hoffman reported that a certification form and attached closeout documentation for both fiscal years were received, and the information was correct as reported. Included in the memo from David Sill, Board Conservationist was a reminder to include documentation in the landowner cost share file that at least 80% of the watershed controlled by the landowner (the field) has adequate treatment protecting the practice being installed.

## **New Business:**

- MN Conservation Volunteer Subscription Donation: No action was taken, resulting in non-renewal of the monthly publication.
- 2010 SWCD Elections: The LqP SWCD Supervisor Positions currently held by Jeff Johnson and LeRoy Schuelke are up at the end of this year. The filing period opens on May 18 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2010.
- Supervisor Opening: Due to the passing away of Supervisor John Rebehn, the LqP SWCD board will need to fill the vacancy by appointment. The appointed supervisor then holds office until the first Monday in January following the next general election. A successor shall be elected at the general election following the appointment and hold office for the remainder of the term, which would be through 2012. The Board Members were encouraged to come up with a list of potential supervisors, with plans to appoint someone at the next regular meeting.

- Cost Share
  - State Cost Share: Schuelke made a motion to approve the following new Cost Share Application. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:
    - New Applications:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Not to exceed 75%)	<u>Priority</u> <u>Watershed</u>
CS 15(08-09)	Jeff Olson	380 Farmstead Windbreak	\$ 1,018	22023
  - Native Buffer: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following new Native Buffer Application. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:
    - New Applications:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Not to exceed 75%)	<u>Priority</u> <u>Watershed</u>
Pending	Steve Tucholke	643 Critical Habitat	\$ 295	22008
- Water Plan:
  - Well Sealing: Schuelke made a motion to approve the following well-sealing applications. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:
    - Carol Asche \$ 257.00
    - John Perry Peterson \$ 182.00
    - Delores Erickson \$ 257.00
    - Kenneth Tollakson \$ 257.00
- Personnel: Ludvigson made a motion to hire Stephen Enger for the Summer Assistant Position. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Meeting Time Change: Ludvigson made a motion to change the regular monthly meeting time to 8:00 am. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Regular monthly meetings will remain the first Thursday of the month, with a start time of 8:00 am, beginning with the May 6, 2010 meeting.

**Reports:**

- District Manager 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 (Includes Water Plan Activities):
  - 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.*
  - Hendrickson introduced Hoffman, stating that he was the new Soil Conservation Technician for NRCS.
- Meeting/Training Report:
  - Area V meeting, Marshall, rescheduled to March 18
    - Ludvigson gave a brief report.

**Correspondence:**

- Emails forwarded to supervisors beginning March 4, 2010:
  - Area II Annual Board of Directors Meeting, February 4, 2010
  - NACD NEWS RELEASE: NACD Outlines Importance of Technology in Delivering Conservation
  - SESSION DAILY: News from the House March 16, 2010
  - MASWCD: Bonding Bill Letter from Governor
  - MASWCD Legislative Report by J.Erickson 3/11/10
  - eNotes - March 16, 2010
  - MASWCD Legislative Report by J.Erickson 3/18/10
  - eNotes - March 23, 2010

- MASWCD Action Alert - March 25, 2010
- In Supervisors' Folders:
  - 2010 Annual Plan Corrections
  - Affiliate form
  - Area 5 association by-law changes

**Upcoming:**

- LqP County Multimedia Center Open house, April 6, 1:00-4:00
- Yellow Medicine Anniversary Open House, Clarkfield, April 8, 2:00-4:00
- Big Stone SWCD Anniversary Open House, Ortonville, April 6, 1:30 – 3:30
- Joint Anniversary Open House, April 22, 1:30-4:00 (program at 2:00)
- LqP SWCD monthly meeting, May 6 at 8:00 AM (*Note Change of Time*)

**Adjourn:**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

*LeRoy Schuelke*

*May 6, 2010*

---

Approved

Date

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

**April 4, 2010**

## **District Manager's Report**

Mowing at the tree building will be done by the same person as last year (the signed agreement has been returned).

There were 4 applicants for the summer assistant position. One wasn't eligible (not old enough) for the WAE, so withdrew his application.

2 were interviewed.

You, as local government officials, are invited with staff & the public to an open house to see LqP County's new Multimedia Center at 422 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (west wing of the Madison elementary school) between 1 & 4 on Tuesday, April 6. It will be available for use by agencies free of charge, but a small fee for private users.

---

## **Technical Report**

April 1, 2010

Leslie Kvidera

### **Vegetative Management, Native Buffer**

Vegetative management applications are at 5 with 1 approved at this time for \$12,489.00 the other applications are pending approval. I have a contract to use native buffer money for a burn on a native prairie to improve native grasses and forbs on 26.3 acres. The native buffer cost share is a fifteen year practice to protect the native grasses and is money well spent.

### **Trees**

There is plenty of interest continuing with tree plantings as evident by the number of EQIP contracts and another State Cost Share contract needing approval. The nurseries should be delivering trees the week of the April 12<sup>th</sup>; this would be an improvement over last year when they were digging out from late season snow storms in North Dakota.

We had a couple of calls that the door at the tree building was open. After doing some checking I found that the frame had settled enough that it would not close completely and fixed the problem.

### **LCCMR Granite Outcrop Grant**

Finally making some progress on the easements. I have all the notarized signatures and sent back to BWSR for approval. The other land owner is back from being gone for the winter and I can now work on getting the needed signatures for his easement.

### **EQIP plans**

I have been able to help Burt by writing fifteen EQIP plans as he has had a short deadline to work with. Plans included plan maps, soils maps and assigning dollar values to the contracts.

### **Water**

I have helped Mary Homan with water sampling twice so far as she has her hands full with Big Stone Lake, nearing record levels, knocking on her door. The Lac qui Parle River at highway 31 is continuing to be trouble with several areas washing away from the higher than normal water levels. We will not know the extent of the damage until water levels recede and Chris Domier, DNR Ortonville, is worried it may take quite a bit of work.

---

activities during

March 2010

*Terry Wittnebel*

## Education/Promotion Report

Letters were sent to pastors in the county explaining this year's theme for **Stewardship Week** (4/25-5/2), and encouraging them to observe the event and check the NACD website for materials. (We cannot purchase materials for churches as we used to do because of the church/state separation, use of tax dollars.)

The Prairie Country **RC&D grant** I wrote for **Riverfest activities** was awarded for \$934. Harold Solem asked Mary to apply to MN River Basin for grant funds for the same project. Before mine was submitted, they spent an afternoon in my office so I could help with that grant – we wanted the 2 applications to meld. (That one wasn't awarded) Although the Riverfest activities had to be thought through for the grants, which was done with input from Harold and Terry Overlander, a planning meeting had been set up March 24 which served to inform the Riverfest committee & others what had happened so far.

I developed the announcement for our **Anniversary Celebration**. It was distributed at the Area 5 meeting, & Deb mailed to past supervisors, staff, outstanding conservationists, county commissioners, agency personnel, & a few miscellaneous. I prepared news releases on NRCS, LqP SWCD history, Environmental Education Week (4/11-17) *Be Water & Energy Wise*, & Earth Day, each inviting the public to our Open House.

**Affiliate** information was sent to the same list of potential participants as last year (about 80). Packets included '09 Annual Reports (to '09 affiliates), the single page program handout taken to the Legislative Day, and an invitation to the Anniversary Open House. We've had several responses ☺

I spent some time with Mary brainstorming a **women's workshop** – we want to include rain barrels, but the rest isn't firmed up with the exception of the date which is tentatively May 1!

LqPV Community Ed director, Bev Struxness, asked me if I would participate in a workshop for **ECFE 4 year olds** in May.

---

DC Report  
April 1, 2010  
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

EQIP/WHIP – This signup has claimed a lot of my time the past couple weeks. We ended up with 36 applications that were scored and ranked for well over \$500,000.00. At this time we have had 23 pre-approved for funding. One person is withdrawing, but I have gotten 19 contracts developed and signed. The area office deadline for getting the applications obligated was yesterday. One has a computer glitch that is being worked on at a higher level, and I don't know when it will get cleared up so we can get it signed. Two applicants had told me they wanted to pursue their application, but they have not responded to my phone messages that they are ready to sign. Don't know yet what happened or will we still be able to process. Very busy with all the paperwork though.

WRP – Wetland Reserve Program – This signup is being kicked off today. I have a teleconference from 9-12 on the rules and signup process. This will limit how much time I can spend with you at the board meeting.

1026's – This process has been pretty much at a standstill while working on EQIP. Several new ones have come in, over the past 2 weeks, and this will be a priority for me now. Spring suddenly seems to have arrived too fast. Not quite ready for all the field work it will involve.

Administrative Items – Gary Hoffman has reported to work as the new Soil Conservation Technician as of Monday. I pretty much put him to work on getting EQIP files ready and sent to area office for obligation. I am hoping to get some of the administrative stuff completed now also. We will be putting in some requests for assistance to get Steve Schemel here to help with some projects and training on 638's and tiling. This may happen quickly as some tiling projects for approved projects will likely be going in this spring. I am looking forward to having another staff person here on a full time basis.

Upcoming Items - DC teleconference, Monday April 5

Our anniversary open house on April 22