

# 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 July 1, 2010

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, July 1, 2010 in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, Ed Radermacher and LeRoy Schuelke. SWCD Staff present: Curtis Nordaune, Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Others in attendance: Paul Schwendemann. Radermacher called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

### **Minutes:**

Schuelke made a motion to amend the May 6, 2010 Minutes to show that the State Cost Share Amendment for Marlin Jerpseth would utilize 2010 Cost-Share Funds, and to approve the Minutes from the June 3, 2010 board meeting. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Financial Report:**

Ludvigson made a motion to approve the Financial Reports, subject to audit. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Introduction:**

Paul Schwendemann was introduced to the board and others in attendance.

### **Review Agenda:**

Schuelke made a motion to amend the Agenda as recommended, Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Oath of Office:**

Paul Schwendemann took the Oath of Office to fill the open position on the District Board of John Rebehn. This appointment is until the election this fall, at which time there will be one, two-year position to fill this seat. Schwendemann will remain in this position until the first meeting in January 2011, at which time the newly elected person will take the Oath of Office. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that Schwendemann would replace Rebehn in all Offices and on all Committees. The revised positions are as follows:

- Offices:
  - Chairman: Ed Radermacher
  - Vice-Chairman: Jeff Johnson
  - Secretary: LeRoy Schuelke
  - Treasurer: Bob Ludvigson
  - PR&I: Paul Schwendemann
- Committees:
  - Budget: Ludvigson & Schwendemann
  - Planning: Johnson & Schwendemann
  - Personnel: Radermacher & Schuelke
  - Legislative: Ludvigson & Schuelke

- Resource Commission: No Representation for 2010
- SW Prairie Technical Service Area: Johnson & Schwendemann

**Old Business:**

- Progress Report: Copies of the report were distributed to be reviewed individually by the Supervisors. They are to bring any questions or concerns to the next meeting.
- Outstanding Conservationist: Ludvigson made a motion to nominate Charles Thomson and Dennis Thomson as Outstanding Conservationists for 2010. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- District Policy – Tree Replacement Cost Share: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the recommended District Policy changes for Tree replacement; Cost-share; and Drill Use. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Policy Changes will be as follows:

**III. DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

1. STATE COST-SHARE POLICY

Introduction: The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District administers the Minnesota State Cost-Share Program with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) through MS 103C.501 Cost-sharing contracts for erosion control and water management. BWSR has established rules for the cost-share program. The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District will abide by these rules and hereby establishes these policies to aid the Board of Supervisors and staff to administer the state cost share program within state guidelines.

A. Practices

Approved practices that may be cost-shared are defined in the State of Minnesota Cost-Share Program manual. If other recognized technical practices are needed, the District will request approval by submitting a written request following steps defined by the State of Minnesota Cost-Share Program manual.

B. Priority

Because of limited cost-share funding, the District has set priorities. The District will prioritize applications based upon the following characteristics of the application:

- 1) Project is within a priority area
- 2) Project is within ½ mile of surface water and drainage is toward that surface water.
- 3) Project is within ½ mile of a surface tile intake and drainage is toward that intake.
- 4) Project is within a sub-watershed identified with high non-point source pollution potential in the Minnesota River Assessment Project (MRAP) report to Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) in June 1991. **or the Lac qui Parle River Watershed TMDL Study 2010 / Plan 2011.**
- 5) Project ranks high under local priority criteria determined by
  - a) Tons of soil lost from sheet and rill erosion as determined by the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation **II (RUSLE II)**
  - b) Tons of soil lost from gully erosion
  - c) Minnesota Feedlot Annualized Runoff Model (MinnFARM) calculations will be used to prioritize feedlot pollution
  - d) Priority area designation by local comprehensive water management plan

To determine rank, when funding is limited, the following formula will be used to prioritize applications. The formula can also be used to determine cost-share levels for the proposed project (applies to 638s and similar types of practices):

- 1) The distance to direct water including lakes, rivers, creeks, outlet ditches, and existing tile intakes from the lower end of existing visible sediment caused by the concentrated flow erosion.
 

\$150.00 per ton of soil loss from 0 – 300 ft.	
<del>\$140.00 per ton of soil loss from 301 – 1000 ft.</del>	<i>2 lines replaced with:</i>
<b>\$200 per ton of soil loss from 0 – 1000 ft.</b>	
<del>\$125 per ton of soil loss from 1001 – 1800 ft.</del>	<i>change #s to:</i>
<b>\$150 per ton of soil loss from 1001 - 2000 ft.</b>	
<del>\$100 per ton of soil loss over 1800 ft.</del>	<i>change #s to:</i>
<b>\$125 per ton of soil loss over 2000 ft</b>	
- 2) Using a 25 year average life expectancy; the cost per ton per year would be
 

<del>0 – 300 ft. ————— \$6.00 per ton per year</del>	
<del>301 – 1000 ft. ————— \$5.60 per ton per year</del>	<i>2 lines replaced with:</i>
<b>0 – 1000 ft. ————— \$8.00 per ton per year</b>	
1001 – <del>1800</del> ft. ————— \$5.00 per ton per year	<i>change #s to:</i>
1001 – <b>2000</b> ft. ————— \$6.00 per ton per year	
<del>1801 + ft. ————— \$4.00 per ton per year</del>	<i>change #s to:</i>
<b>2001 + ft. ————— \$5.00 per ton per year</b>	<b>7/1/10</b>

Cost-share variable rates can be used because the landowner is receiving drainage benefits from the subsurface outlet and can decide if he wants to spend more than his 25% eligible cost.

~~The District will use priority contracts to compliment federal cost share contracts on bigger projects. These contracts will have first priority on funds available. 6/6/85~~ ~~Strike~~ federal cost share has changed; no longer applicable

2. TREE PROGRAM POLICY

Introduction: The District administers a tree program to provide tree/shrub stock to landowners for conservation purposes. The District may plant trees for a set rate and sell or sell and install a fabric weed barrier to reduce weed competition.

- A. Tree Prices  
Charges for trees, planting, fabric and related merchandise will be set annually in August for the following year. A notice will be added to the tree advertising that special species and sizes of stock may be ordered through the District, but may vary in price. (9/7/2000)
- B. Tree Replacement Policy  
The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water District guarantees that the trees planted by the District Technician are alive and will grow. Trees that fail to take hold will be replaced ~~at the District's cost~~ the following year. We cannot guarantee that trees will survive drought, rodent or insect damage, winter kill, mechanical or chemical destruction, or improper planting. Amended 4/4/02  
...will be replaced ~~at half price~~ the following year.  
~~Trees planted in sod will not be guaranteed.~~ 7/1/10
- C. Liability for Prevented Plantings  
If a tree planting cannot be done because the customer does not have the planting site prepared, the customer is liable for the cost of trees that were ordered for him and will be charged for them. 4/4/02
- D. Left Over Tree Sales  
End-of-season trees can be sold to non-profit groups (like 4-H for a Community Pride project) at cost and with no replacement guarantee. 4/5/90
- E. Minimum Charge for Planting  
A minimum of ~~\$25~~ will be charged on all plantings done by the SWCD. (11/05) \$100  
A minimum of ~~\$50.00~~ will be charged for application of fabric mulch.  
\$200 7/1/10

3. GRASS DRILL PROGRAM

A grass no-till drill was purchased with funds from various sources. It is to be made available for use by any individual in the District boundaries at a fee established by the Board.

- A. Liability  
The District shall not be responsible for the outcome of the planted acres. i.e. disease, chemical damage, yield variances, etc.
- B. Billing  
The District shall bill the landowner landuser for contract acres planted for program plantings. For non-conservation program plantings, the acre meter numbers will be used.  
  
The farmer landuser agrees to pay the District a ~~\$20.00 delivery~~ charge plus \$10 per acres with a \$25 minimum. The charges will be paid within 30 days from the date of the invoice. The delivery charge will be waived if the farmer picks up the drill. ~~\$50~~ delivery and \$50 retrieval 7/1/10  
  
If the drill is returned dirty, the SWCD will charge the farmer \$30/hr. for the Technician to clean it. (Feb. 2007)

- **FY09 Audit:** Keith Kinner of Kinner & Company Ltd, Certified Public Accountants, gave a brief overview of the recently completed audit. He commended the District on their accounting and reporting practices. Johnson made a motion to approve the FY09 Audit as presented. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Farm Bill Tech Grant Application:** Wittnebel informed the Supervisors, that the Farm Bill Assistance Committee has finalized the FY 2011 recommendations for staffing under the Farm Bill Assistance Project, and we were awarded the amount we applied for.

**New Business:**

- LSOHC/CWC MN River Tour: Kvidera will participate in the River Tour on Wednesday, July 21, 2010.
- MN DNR Ground Water Level Monitoring Agreements for FY2011: Schuelke made a motion to approve continued participation with the MN DNR Ground Water Level Monitoring Program for FY 2011. Schwendemann seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2011 Plat Book: The need for purchasing 2011 Platt Books was briefly discussed, and was left to the discretion of the District Manager.
- Set Budget Committee Meeting: Pie charts demonstrating State Revenues and Expenditures and how they affect the Districts, were reviewed and discussed. The District Budget Committee and Staff will schedule a budget meeting, and prepare a 2011 Budget to present to the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners later in July.
- General Services/Cost Share Grant Agreement: Schuelke made a motion to approve and authorize the Appropriate Signature for the 2010 General Services/Cost Share Grant Agreement, upon arrival. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Cost Share: MN Rules Chapter 8400 Announcement: Cost Share and RIM: Wittnebel read the announcement to those in attendance. Some of the main points in the announcement included:
  - Intent to make the grant processing and reporting requirements consistent with other BWSR grants and minimize the number of unique requirements.
  - Intent to maintain accountability, but lessen the administrative costs.
  - Intent to increase the flexibility in how the program is administered.
- Cost Share:
  - State Cost-Share: Ludvigson made a motion to approve the following State Cost-Share payments. Schwendemann seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Priority Watershed</u>
CS 10 (08-09)	Olson, Kevin	380	\$ 641.00	24031
CS 11 (08-09)	Rheingans, Jeff	380	\$ 695.00	22015
CS 14 (08-09)	Kemen, Steve	380	\$ 1,125.00	24039
- Water Plan:
  - Hwy 31 Report: Bank sloughing has occurred at this site.
  - CWP FY 10 Cash Match: Schwendemann made a motion to approve the \$ 6,000 Cash Match to the Clean Water Partnership, as budgeted in the 2010 Comprehensive Local Water Management Budget. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - AgBMP Funds for Tillage Equipment: Discussed the need to prioritize.
  - Well Sealing: Schuelke made a motion to approve payment for the following well sealing cost-share contracts. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>Contract #:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
WS 10-08	Nelson, Corey	\$500.00
WS 10-09	Nelson, Corey	\$500.00
WS 10-10	Pederson, Pearl	\$500.00
WS 10-11	City of Bellingham	\$500.00
WS 10-12	Ohm, Dick	\$500.00
WS 10-13	Moen, Rolland	\$412.50
WS 10-14	Moen, Rolland	\$412.50
- Personnel:
  - Office 2007 Training: Schwendemann made a motion to approve Hoffman and Wittnebel to attend Office 2007 Training. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Reports:**

- District Manager Report:
  - All information was covered within the meeting. There was no special report.
- Technical Report:
  - All tree plantings were completed by June 1, with the exception of one, which was a non-program planting. There were 27 total plantings in 2010.
  - There are only six tree plantings where fabric is still needed. There were a total of 26 fabric laying projects in 2010. Summer Assistant – Stephen Enger, has been a nice addition this summer.

- Well monitoring for 2011 has been reduced from 12 wells to nine.
- It is time to begin CREP Status Reviews, of which there are 61 to be completed.
- State Cost-share inspections will be conducted in the fall, with the help of Nordaune.
- Granite Outcropping Payments are still in progress.
- The District planter and drill both seem to be working well.
- Outreach /Education 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.*
  - Hendrickson also reviewed data privacy and how it relates to the NRCS and SWCDs.

**Correspondence:**

- Emails Forwarded to Supervisors Beginning June 3, 2010:
  - CSP Final Rule news release - June 03, 2010
  - eNotes – June 8, 2010
  - eNotes – June 15, 2010
  - eNotes – June 29, 2010
  - Draft Area V minutes – June 17, 2010
- In Supervisors' Folders:
  - Area II Monthly Board of Directors Meeting, May 6, 2010
  - NACD Legislative Conference Agenda
  - State's General Fund Budget pie charts

**Upcoming**

- Water Management Summit for Local Government, St. Cloud, July 12, 2010
- NACD Legislative Conference, Washington, DC, July 18-21, 2010
- LqP SWCD monthly meeting, August 5, 2010

**Adjourn:**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

*LeRoy Schuelke*

*08/05/2010*

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Approved

Date

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

activities during  
June 2010

*Terry Wittrebel*

## Education/Promotion Report

After last month's board meeting Debbie & I went to the **6th grade** at LqP Valley to do a water quality activity. Again, I've run in to kids in the grocery store or wherever, & when they say "oh, I remember you – when you came to my class that was really fun!"

Dawson-Boyd **high school science class canoe trip** was June 21-22, overnite spent at the County Park. Mary & I visited with them at breakfast about who we are & what we do for water quality. Several teachers asked questions, & I was even asked for tree (windbreak) information.

**Riverfest** went pretty well. It's a little more time consuming to work with other entities and volunteers, but partnerships are generally good. I need to finish up the report to include budget information to send to Prairie Country for the grant.

I did the **radio program** 3 times this month – National Get Outdoors Day (get out & have fun, appreciate what's around us & as a result we will take better care of our resources); look for field erosion & use our website/email to contact us any time of day – we have cost share \$ available & also AgBMP loan program; & a joint program with Mary promoting our activities at Riverfest. Someone from South Dakota told me they'd heard me on the radio. So it IS reaching people.

I met with several other District staff to work on the **Farmfest** booth. It will include SWCD history (kind of who we are & what we do awareness, important for fall elections) & buffers as featured BMP.

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DC Report  
July 1, 2010  
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

CSP – Our signup ended on June 25<sup>th</sup> with Madison having 8 applications in the system. We will now be working on getting appointment made to go through the CMT with them to get the scoring. Enhancements need to be decided on also. This has to be complete by July 16, and some staff may be asked to go to other offices to help. Some had a lot of applications.

EQIP – We have been temporarily shut down at the end of the quarter for some book keeping at the area and higher levels so have not been able to process any payments. We can start again today. We have several tree plantings to process now that fabric is getting completed. Gary has been working with Steve Schemel and some on his own getting surveys completed and designs ready for actual starts when contractors and sites are ready.

1026's and wetland issues – I have been able to use Stephen to get out a bunch of 1026 letter responses in the past week. I would try to get the letter written for the ones that need special comments, and he would make all the required copies etc to get in the mail. I have completed some certification work and gotten some out. I have 2 parties

asking to meet on a reconsideration. (The first option on an appeal) I am waiting for one of the people to call me back to work out times to get 4 people together at one time.

CRP – We spent some field time on this yesterday because we have several requests for possible CCRP enrollments, and we have been trying to get field part done while we can see some stuff. The ones I looked at all have pretty good options available. There is to be a general signup announced pretty soon by FSA. Looking at early August with the last update Don gave us. It sounds like rental rates for CRP are going to be updated and will be going up. Not sure what date that will be effective.

People's Garden – Our local Farm Service Center has a People's Garden project for this summer. USDA Secretary Vilsack kicked this project off last summer, and has urged all Service Centers to try it. It can be a lot of things other than a vegetable garden, which some places have started. We decided on the educational option that was suggested, and are using the established native grass/flower planting at the tree building to build awareness for natives. We are doing a weekly update and posting it in the office on what is showing up. We plan to do periodic radio updates during the summer also. Things are starting to pop out there the past two weeks, with a lot of different species starting to bloom.

Administrative Items –

Gary Watson told us last Friday that there will be an ABC project for us to work on starting July 26. This is a workload analysis project. We did one a few years back, and apparently they want to update it. They are estimating it will take the field offices about 60 hours to complete. Yikes. Gary would also like an estimate of the value of the work that the SWCD does for us as a monthly or yearly number. Terry and I will be trying to put an estimate together by July 12.

Gary told us that there is about a 90% chance that NRCS will not be billing SWCD's for computers this year. Not for certain yet, but he told us it was looking that way.

FSA can start driving are vehicles again when they are available. This was shut down for a period of time, but it sounds like a new MOU is to be coming out soon.

Upcoming Items – I will be attending Hydric soils training in Thief River Falls on July 19-22.