

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 August 5, 2010

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, August 5, 2010 in the Farm Service Center conference room, Madison, Minnesota. Board Supervisors present: Jeff Johnson, LeRoy Schuelke, Paul Schwendemann, Ed Radermacher and Robert Ludvigson. SWCD Staff present: Terry Wittnebel, Les Kvidera and Deborah Hoffman. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Radermacher called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the July 1, 2010 board meeting. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

Hoffman noted points of interest in the Financial Report, including the 2010 Farm Bill Grant payments; funding received from Lac qui Parle County; reimbursement for a pre-paid health insurance premium; and a general overview of the reports. Schuelke made a motion to approve the Financial Reports, subject to audit. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Review Agenda:

The Agenda was approved as presented, with the addition of Charges for Services listed under Old Business.

Old Business:

- Outstanding Conservationist: Schuelke made a motion to recognize our 2010 Outstanding Conservationists, Charles Thomson and Dennis Thomson, by extending an invitation for them to attend the annual Convention in December, as has been the practice in the past. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Board recommended that the local recognition be generally the same as it was last year, with details left to the discretion of the office staff.
- Budget Committee: Ludvigson relayed the highlights of the recent visit with the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners, where the Committee presented the District's 2011 Budget and request for funding. Schwendemann, Wittnebel, and Hoffman added to the dialog with additional comments. No action was taken by the County Commissioners on the request by the District, although they noted that an increase in funding was doubtful. They encouraged the District to review charges for services as a way to generate more revenue. The board discussed other possible options to increase revenue and decrease expenditures. Wittnebel pointed out to the board, that the Western Guard and Dawson Sentinel had excellent summaries of the meeting that included not only the meeting with the Commissioners, but information from the brochure that was distributed at the meeting. Additional brochures are available in the District office.
- Charges for Services: Wittnebel stated that at the recent meeting with the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed, the need for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to charge partners for technical services on grant-funded projects was announced. Wittnebel noted that District Managers and Supervisors from Lac qui Parle SWCD, Lincoln SWCD, Yellow Medicine SWCD were in attendance at the meeting.

New Business:

- CWP Grant Request for Support: Wittnebel informed the Board that the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership was in the process of submitting a grant request, and asked that the District provide in-kind support for the grant. Wittnebel was waiting for more information on specifics in the grant to be able to calculate how much in kind to commit. At the time of the board meeting, she had not received that information, and no action had been taken.
- Review District Capacity Award Form: Wittnebel reviewed the form with the Supervisors. Johnson made a motion to approve and sign the form as needed for submission. Schwendemann seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2011 District Tree Prices: The possibility of increasing tree prices was discussed. Kvidera noted that he has not received prices yet from all of the vendors. The Board will revisit this at a later date.
- Native Buffer Cost Share:
 - Cost Share Payment: Johnson made a motion to approve the following Native Buffer Cost-Share payment. 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>
NB 2008-01	Tucholke, Steve	Enhance Native Prairie	\$ 295.00	22008
 - Final Financial Report: Schwendemann made a motion to approve and sign the Final Financial Report State Cost-Share Program for Native Buffer Cost-Share, and to authorize return funds to BWSR of \$ 24,631.25, as required. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- State Cost Share: Johnson 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 9 (08-09)	Croatt, Dallas	380	\$ 1,630.00	24033
CS 13 (08-09)	Breberg, Lyle	380	\$ 724.00	24059
CS 15 (08-09)	Olson, Jeff	380	\$ 1,018.00	22023
- Water Plan:
 - Well Sealing: Schuelke made a motion to approve payment for the following well sealing cost-share contract. Ludvigson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
WS 2010-15	Johnson, Zach	\$ 500.00
 - Well Sealing: Johnson made a motion to approve the following new well sealing applications, following priorities previously set by the Resource Commission. Schwendemann seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Pending	Kleven, Jon	\$ 450.00
Pending	Mitlyng, Jon	\$ 500.00
Pending	Brown, Greg	\$ 500.00
Pending	Lund, Jason	\$ 487.50
Pending	Schmidt, Elizabeth	\$ 500.00
- Personnel:
 - Set Personnel Committee Meeting: A meeting will be scheduled at a later date, with Radermacher and Schuelke.
 - BWSR Academy: Wittnebel recommended that Hoffman, Kvidera, and she attend the Academy October 26-28, 2010 at Breezy Point. Johnson made a motion to approve attendance and make the necessary arrangements. Schuelke seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

- District Manager Report:
 - Currently working with the Environmental Office on a grant application for an Ag Waste Water Quality Grant.
 - The BWSR Cost Share and General Services Funding Agreement arrived and was signed and returned.
 - A memo from MCIT was received, indicating that the District will receive a premium refund.
 - Informed the Board of a meeting where County Wellness Program was discussed.

- Technical Report:
 - Tree Plantings have all been completed. There were 28 plantings this year, and of those 14 were EQIP; six were State Cost Share; and eight were non-program projects. There is one planting where fabric still needs to be laid, but due to the weather and scheduling issues, the fabric has not been put down. Kvidera noted that the project is not connected to any funding programs, and it is not absolutely necessary to have the fabric.
 - Kvidera talked about the canoe trip touring the Minnesota River on July 21. He was unable to attend the event, but he had copies of an article from the Minneapolis StarTribune entitled “Against the Current: Cleaning the Minnesota River Watershed.” which he distributed.
 - Kvidera and Hoffman represented Area V at Farmfest in Redwood Falls.
 - Kvidera and Hoffman retrieved and activated their LinkPass cards.
- Education/Outreach Report:
 - The SWCD and NRCS Staff have been both been on KLQP Radio over the past few weeks.
 - Riverfest Grant Report is almost complete, and ready for submission.
 - Wittnebel attended the LqP Community Education meeting earlier in the week.
 - As previously stated the District Brochure was updated and submitted to the County Commissioners.
 - Ideas are coming together for the LqP County Fair booth September 9-12
- District Conservationist Report:
 - To view Hendrickson’s report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*

Correspondence:

- Emails Forwarded to Supervisors Beginning July 1, 2010:
 - FYI Regarding the Farmfest Congressional Candidate Forum & the Governor Candidate Forum
 - eNotes – July 7, 2010
 - eNotes – July 13, 2010
 - Farmfest forums
 - America’s Great Outdoors Initiative listening session - August 4, 2010
 - Farmfest media release & forum panel list
 - eNotes – July 27, 2010
 - CALL TO ACTION – Congressional Recess Outreach
 - eNotes – August 3, 2010
- In Supervisors’ Folders:
 - 2010 MASWCD Candidate Prospectus for President & Vice President
 - MN map of BMPs from BWSR
 - Conservation Delivery in MN

Upcoming

- Area V meeting, Redwood Falls – September 1, 2010 (more information when available)
- LqP SWCD monthly meeting – September 2, 2010
- Lac qui Parle County Fair – September 9-12, 2010
- BWSR Academy – October 26 – 28, 2010
- NACD 2011 Annual Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee – January 30 – February 2, 2011

Adjourn:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.

LeRoy Schuelke

09.02.2010

Approved

Date

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

DC Report
August 5, 2010
Burton Hendrickson

FSA Update –

CSP – Have been working on and trying to resolve some errors that were made on my applications. Some have been pre-approved for funding and most of field verifications are done so we can develop contracts for signing.

CRP – FSA is conducting a general CRP signup from Aug 2 – 27. This is the first one in about 5 years. CRP soil rental rates have been adjusted upward about 15% across the board in Lac qui Parle County. NRCS will be writing the conservation plans for any offers that are accepted, but it looks like we won't be doing that till after October 1. FSA will use an interim plan to get offers into contract status because of timing and workload. The continuous signup is still going, and with new rental rates some of the wetland options should look pretty attractive for those acres that are often difficult to get a crop in or out.

1026's – Stephen Enger has been able to help out with the simple ones of these quite a bit. I also was able to get several letters developed on the less simple ones, and Stephen processed all the copies etc. He helps a lot with the ability to keep current.

EQIP – Continue to process payments on completed practices as fast as possible when bills are presented. We were doing some pre-audit preparation before the end of July also, with the hopes that as few as possible will need to be pulled for the audit. Gary has been working on some engineering practices that should be getting construction started as wheat is coming off.

Administrative Items – The ABC (workload) process has been put off until early October. Sounds like training will be mid September and the required evaluations and data entry for the project in October.

Upcoming Items - County Fair