

**ANNUAL PLAN**  
of the  
**LAC QUI PARLE**  
**SOIL AND WATER**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



**122 - 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**  
**Suite 1**  
**Madison, Minnesota 56256**

**PERIOD COVERED**  
**January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010**

# I. Introduction

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District's vision is ***Lac qui Parle's natural resources wisely managed to provide a healthy environment for life***. The vision encompasses not only the natural environment but also the economic environment for the people of Lac qui Parle County.

***The mission of the 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.***

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to identify resource problems within our soil and water conservation district. In addition to identifying these resource problems, it outlines and specifies goals to be accomplished in solving these resource problems. The Annual Plan breaks down the goals identified in the Lac qui Parle County Water Management Plan (seen in smaller gray font for easier reference) and specifies additional goals identified by the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors for the current year. Educational methods, conservation practice application and projected expenses and income needs for the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District are outlined. This Annual Plan needs a degree of flexibility to allow the District to use what resources become available to meet the needs of our local resource users as those needs arise.

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and staff will review this plan quarterly.

The Soil and Water Conservation District will work to increase the staff's capabilities in engineering, computer and related skills necessary to adequately and to efficiently provide assistance to Lac qui Parle landusers.

*The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors have adopted the Lac qui Parle County Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan as the District's long-range plan. The Goals and Objectives as defined in the Lac qui Parle County Water Management Plan are:*

**Education Goal: Collect, Analyze and Provide Important Water Planning Information**

- A. Continue to support the various monitoring and information gathering efforts in order to better understand and assess water planning issues.
- B. Raise public awareness on a number of key water-planning issues.

**Water Management Goal: Protect and Improve Water Quality and Quantity through Water Management**

- A. Identify and properly address flooding and drainage issues and opportunities
- B. Identify priority wetlands for protection, enhancement and restoration activities.

**Ground Water Goal: Protect and Improve the Quality of Groundwater in the County**

- A. Help all landowners act to protect the County's groundwater quality.
- B. Assist with wellhead protection.
- C. Make good land use decisions regarding groundwater protection.

**Priority Pollutant Goal: To Restore, Protect and Maintain the Water Quality, Biodiversity and Natural Beauty of Lac qui Parle County's Water Resources**

- A. In cooperation with the MPCA, participate in the development of the TMDLs and subsequent implementation efforts that will help get the waters off the TMDL 303d list of impaired waters (see appendix 1, the 2006 list of Impaired Waters in the County.)
- B. Reduce the impact of activities on surface water quality.

**Erosion Goal: To Protect the County's Long-Term Soil Resources.**

- A. Address sediment concerns by ensuring that turbidity and total suspended solids levels are low enough to fully support aquatic life and aesthetic/recreational use.

**Recreational Values Goals: To Ensure That Lac qui Parle County Continues to Provide a Safe and Clean Environment for Water-Based Activities**

- A. Educate, encourage and advertise recreation water values for hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching and other water-based activities.

*The additional Goals and Objectives identified by the District Board of Supervisors for the 2010 Annual Plan are:*

**Tree Planting Goal: To Promote Longevity and Quality of Conservation Tree Plantings**

- A: Raise public awareness of the benefits of species diversity and native species in tree plantings
- B: Raise public awareness of the effectiveness of quality tree plantings

## **II. Goals, Objectives, Strategy and Actions**

The following objectives, strategies and action items have been taken directly from the Lac qui Parle County Local Water Management Plan, followed by objectives and actions identified by the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Only those action items from the Water Plan that have the SWCD and/or NRCS listed as the lead agency are listed here. (Refer to the Lac qui Parle County Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan for the full scope of action items planned for the County.) The SWCD will partner with other local entities to do other action items. The Goals, Objectives, Strategy and Actions in the Water Management Plan listed here were developed for 2008 – 2013.

Priority Issue: Water Resource Education

**EDUCATION GOAL:**

**COLLECT, ANALYZE AND PROVIDE IMPORTANT WATER PLANNING INFORMATION.**

Objective A: Continue to support the various monitoring and information gathering efforts in order to better understand and assess water planning issues.

*Actions:*

- **Proactively work with various state agencies, watersheds and citizens to identify the condition of the County's water resources, find gaps in the County's knowledge and understanding of its water resources, find ways to fill those gaps and learn how to interpret and use the information in the decision-making process.**

Measured by: Water management decisions

Who: **All partners**

When: On-going

- **Continue and expand the volunteer Rain Gauge Monitor program and develop links from local websites to the data in the Office of Climatology.**

Measured by: Data collected and disseminated

Who: **SWCD, CWP/WD**

When: On-going

- **Monitor water levels in 11 wells in areas in the County near irrigation systems for the DNR. Add a link from the SWCD website to the data.**

Measured by: Water levels reported and website link

Who: **SWCD, DNR**

When: On-going

- **Seek funding to hire technicians to work in local offices to promote existing programs on a one-to-one basis with the public.**

Measured by: Staffing

Who: **SWCD, CWP/WD**

When: On-going

Objective B: Raise public awareness on a number of key water-planning issues.

*Actions:*

- **Partner to provide environmental education to students using events such as the Southwest Minnesota Environmental Fair, tours, presentations, field days and contests.**

Measured by: Events

Who: **SWCD, NRCS, WP, EO, CWP/WD**

When: Annually

Priority Issue: Water Management

**WATER MANAGEMENT GOAL:**

**PROTECT AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY THROUGH WATER MANAGEMENT.**

Objective A: Identify and properly address flooding and drainage issues and opportunities.

*Actions:*

- **Identify and promote best management practices for water entering ditches and other water bodies such as upland treatment practices, tile management, intakes, side inlets and other practices that will reduce sedimentation and pollution. Make that information available to contractors and producers in brochures, electronic means, radio, demonstrations and possible tours.**

Measured by: BMP publications, events

Who: **NRCS/SWCD**, WD/CWP

When: On-going

Objective B: Identify priority wetlands for protection, enhancement and restoration activities.

*Actions:*

- **Pursue funding for landowners who want to voluntarily restore or enhance wetlands. Work with 3-4 landowners each year.**

Measured by: wetland restoration acres funded

Who: **SWCD, NRCS**, WD, DNR FWS, EO & P&Z

When: On-going

Priority Issue: Groundwater Protection

**GROUND WATER GOAL:**

**PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER IN THE COUNTY**

Objective A: Help all landowners act to protect the County's groundwater quality.

Objective B: Assist with wellhead protection

Objective C: Make good land use decisions regarding groundwater protection.

Priority Issue: Reducing Priority Pollutants

**PRIORITY POLLUTANT GOAL:**

**TO RESTORE, PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE WATER QUALITY, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY'S WATER RESOURCES.**

Objective A: In cooperation with the MPCA, participate in the development of the TMDLs and subsequent implementation efforts that will help get the waters off the TMDL 303d list of impaired waters.

Objective B: Reduce the impact of activities on surface water quality

*Actions:*

- **Work with existing 1-2 producers each year to bring their feedlots into compliance.**

Measured by: Number of feedlots in compliance

Who: **NRCS, SWCD, CWP/WD**, EO, CB      When: On-going

- **Assist producers to manage manure application by working with them and with custom applicators to access the Ag BMP Loan program to upgrade their equipment.**

Measured by: Number of loan applications

Who: **SWCD**, EO      When: On-going

- **Review current and ongoing water quality monitoring and promote BMPs appropriate for specific conditions where surface water may be a concern for pollution by agricultural chemical use.**

Measured by: Number of BMPs installed; presence/absence of ag chemicals detected by monitoring

Who: **NRCS, SWCD, UMES, CWP/WD, MDA** When: On-going

Priority Issue: Erosion

**EROSION GOAL:**

**TO PROTECT THE COUNTY'S LONG-TERM SOIL RESOURCES.**

Objective A: Address sediment concerns by ensuring that turbidity and total suspended solids levels are low enough to fully support aquatic life and aesthetic/recreational use.

*Actions:*

- **Set up tours in County to show land users current applied practices. Promote & share with all agencies.**

Measured by: Tours set up and numbers of participants

Who: **SWCD/NRCS, CWP/WD, CC, DNR, LO** When: On-going

- **Target absentee landowners to promote erosion control practices and enhance incentives by one newsletter/year to producers and owners and by a direct one-to-one contact with 10 individuals/year.**

Measured by: Number of contacts and number of contracts

Who: **SWCD/NRCS**, WP, FSA, CWP/WD                      When: On-going

- **Install 100 acres of buffers each year**

Measured by: Acre numbers from agency reports

Who: **SWCD/NRCS**, CWP/WD, FSA                      When: On-going

- **Work with land users to install engineered practices to control erosion in concentrated flow areas.**

**10 sediment control basins each year**

**1 acre waterway each year**

Measured by: Agency reports

Who: **SWCD/NRCS**, CWP/WD                      When: On-going

- **Conduct a tillage transect survey every other year**

Measured by: Results from survey

Who: **SWCD**, CWP/WD                      When: odd number years

- **Promote the EQIP tillage incentive and fund five applications each year.**

Measured by: number of funded applications

Who: **NRCS**, SWCD, CWP/WD                      When: On-going

- **Work with operators to increase conservation tillage by 5% each year**

Measured by: Transect tillage survey and EQIP reports

Who: **NRCS**, SWCD, CWP/WD                      When: On-going

- **Work with land owners to install 1,300 feet of field windbreaks or grass strips each year to reduce wind erosion.**

Measured by: Agency reports

Who: **SWCD**, NRCS                      When: On-going

- **Protect 150 acres of highly erodible cropland each year by getting them seeded to grasses.**

Measured by: Agency reports

Who: **NRCS**, SWCD, CWP/WD                      When: On-going

- **Work with operators to plan grazing systems on 200 acres of pastureland each year for 1,000 acres net.**

Measured by: Agency reports

Who: **NRCS**, SWCD, CWP/WD                      When: On-going

**RECREATIONAL VALUES GOAL:**

**TO ENSURE THAT LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES.**

Objective A: Educate, encourage and advertise recreation water values for hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching and other water-based activities.

The additional Goals and Objectives identified by the District Board of Supervisors for the 2010 Annual Plan are:

**TREE PLANTING GOAL:**

**TO PROMOTE LONGEVITY AND QUALITY OF CONSERVATION TREE PLANTINGS**

Objective A: Raise public awareness of the benefits of species diversity and native species in tree plantings

*Actions:*

- **Present information on benefits of species diversity to landowners planning farmstead shelterbelts, wildlife habitat, and any other tree/shrub plantings.**

Measured by: Number of plans

When: On-going

- **Present information on benefits of native species to landowners planning farmstead shelterbelts, wildlife habitat, and any other tree/shrub plantings.**

Measured by: Number of plantings

When: On-going

- **Distribute native species tree or shrub to all kindergarten students in Lac qui Parle County schools including native species information to share with parents.**

Measured by: Distribution activity

When: May

- **Make information on species diversity and/or native species available to the public through electronic means, radio, newspapers, or demonstrations.**

Measured by: Publications or events

When: On-going

Objective B: Raise public awareness of the effectiveness of quality tree plantings

*Actions:*

- **Make information on energy savings due to effective tree plantings available to the public through electronic means, radio, newspapers, or demonstrations.**

Measured by: Publications or events

When: On-going

### III. Budget Requirements

#### FUNDS NEEDED TO INSTALL PRACTICES TO CONTROL HIGH PRIORITY EROSION PROBLEMS

(January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010)

Total Anticipated Allocation		<u>\$ 19,669</u>
Administrative and Technical Allowance		3,934
Amount for Cost-Share Work		15,735
To be spent as follows:		
Engineered Practices	10,735	
Tree Plantings	5,000	

The major additional funding for engineered best management practices is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). New applications have not been scored or funded. The SWCD will use some of its cost-share dollars to supplement EQIP cost-share to equal no more than 75% of eligible costs.

The Conservation Reserve Program, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, and EQIP can provide funding for additional best management practice applications like grassed waterways, buffers, tree establishment, and nutrient management plans. RIM/WRP provides funds for wetland restoration. Other state and federal programs including the MN Department of Ag Best Management Practices Loan Program, the LCCMR Granite Rock Outcrop Easement Program, and the RIM Reserve Clean Water Fund /Riparian Buffers program are more limited in funds, but are also available to assist landowners to establish best management practices to protect their natural resources.

The technical representative for the state cost-share program in Lac qui Parle has been delegated to the District Engineering Technician, Curtis Nordaune, with support from the Natural Resource Conservation Service Area Support Office and the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area Joint Powers engineering staff. District Technician, Les Kvidera, is designated as technical representative on vegetative plantings.

## IV. Cost-Share Program Requirements

The District will continue to focus on high priority erosion and sedimentation problems in 2010 and will supplement the EQIP program on engineered practices. The following information is from the County Water Management Plan.

### A. High Priority Erosion Problems (Chapter 2, Page 12)

*“High priority erosion problems” means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring equal to, or in excess of, 2 x T tons per acre per year or is occurring on any area that exhibits active gully erosion or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan.*

“T” value, or soil loss tolerance, assigned to each soil map unit, is the average annual erosion rate (tons/acre/year) that will permit a high level of crop productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely. While T varies from soil type to soil type, the average T value for Lac qui Parle soils is 5 tons per acre. (A regular sized pickup truck can hold about 1 – 2 tons, and an acre is about the size of a football field.)

### B. High Priority Water Quality Problems (Chapter 2, Page 12)

*“High priority water quality problems” means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designated protected waters or to any high priority waters as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan or discharge to a sinkhole or ground water. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.*

The Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed Clean Water Partnership through Phase I monitoring identified three priority areas based upon water quality.

- ❖ The entire watersheds for fecal coliform
- ❖ The Ten Mile Creek watershed for high nitrates
- ❖ The main stem of Lac qui Parle River for suspended solids

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s 2006 Impaired Waters List (see map) includes

- ❖ Emily Creek (Fish IBI)
- ❖ Yellow Bank River, North Fork (Fecal Coliform)
- ❖ Yellow Bank River, South Fork (Fecal Coliform)
- ❖ Lac qui Parle River (low Dissolved Oxygen Fecal Coliform, Turbidity)
- ❖ Lac qui Parle River Fecal Coliform, Turbidity)
- ❖ Lac qui Parle River West Branch (low Disolved Oxygen, Fecal Coliform)
- ❖ Lac qui Parle River West Branch (Fecal Coliform)
- ❖ Tenmile Creek (Fish IBI, Fecal Coliform)
- ❖ Lazarus Creek (Fecal Coliform, Turbidity)
- ❖ Florida Creek (Fish IBI, Fecal Coliform, Turbidity)

### C. Special Projects

#### ***Conservation Partners Legacy Grant***

LqP SWCD partnered with Yellow Medicine and Lincoln SWCDs to submit a FY 2010 BWSR Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant application for \$144,250. If awarded, funds would be used within the Lac qui Parle River watershed to address low dissolved oxygen, turbidity/total suspended solids, and excess nutrients by providing signing incentives for certain CRP filter strips/riparian buffers and farmable wetlands, cost share for alternative tile intakes, and cost share for engineered structural practices.

## V. Staffing Needs

These staff years include three full-time SWCD staff members, one full-time NRCS and one part-time NRCS.

<b>GOAL/OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>STAFF YEARS</b>	
	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Technical</b>
Education	.75	.1
Protect/Improve Water Quality and Quantity	.25	.75
Protect/Improve the Quality of Groundwater	.1	.15
Priority Pollutants	.25	.75
Erosion	.25	.75
Recreational Values	.1	
Tree Planting	.1	.3
<b>TOTAL STAFF YEARS</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

## 2010 Calendar of Events

### January

Board Meeting: January 7, 2010  
Board Reorganization  
Name Depository  
Review PERA's Defined Contribution Plan (for Supervisors)  
Appoint Data Practices Responsible Authority and Compliance Official (by name)  
Approve 2010 Annual Plan  
2009 Activities & Achievements Annual Report  
Quarterly Newsletter  
EQIP Listening Session/Local Work Group: January 21  
NRBG Report 2009/Application 2010 due January 29  
Ag BMP Loan Program Application & Report deadline February 5

### February

*African American History Month*  
Board Meeting: February 4, 2010  
Great Western Minnesota Get-Together, February 13-14  
Area V Meeting, February 18  
MASWCD Day at the Capitol, February 17-18  
Finalize tree nursery orders by March 1

### March

*Women's History Month*  
*National Ag Month*  
*Ground Water Awareness Week*  
*World Water Day (UN's Food and Agriculture Organization)*  
Board Meeting: March 4, 2010  
Review Equal Employment Opportunity Policy  
Lawn Mowing and Tree/Fabric Assistant  
Annual Plan, Website Compliance, Financial Report Due to BWSR by March 15  
Check First Aid kits for replenishing & expired supplies  
ECFE Family Night (Parent Expo), LqP Valley, March 25  
Begin joint anniversary promotion (NRCS/SWCD/Earth Day/Boy Scouts)

### April

*National Environmental Education Week – Theme: Be Water Wise & Energy Wise - April 11 – 17, 2010*  
*Earth Day 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - April 22, 2010*  
*Arbor Day - April 30, 2010*  
*Soil and Water Stewardship Week – Theme: Conservation Habits=Healthy Habitats - April 25 – May 2, 2010*  
*National Volunteer Week – Theme: Celebrating People in Action - April 18 - 24, 2010*  
Board Meeting: April 1, 2010  
Review Annual Plan Progress  
Consider Outstanding Conservationist  
Special Projects  
Review EEO Responsibility Statement  
Joint Anniversary (NRCS/SWCD) Open House, April 22  
Baby Trees promotion  
Begin observation well monitoring  
Power up the tree building – utilities and cooler inspection  
Send hand plant pick-up notices

File MCIT insurance change form to add tree stock  
Area Envirothon  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Install signage at Dawson rain garden demonstration site  
Begin live weekly radio program

## May

*Minnesota Arbor Month*  
*Asian Pacific American History Month*  
Board Meeting: May 6, 2010  
    Choose Fair Booth Theme  
    Pick Outstanding Conservationist  
State Envirothon  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day  
Kindergarten Native Species Tree distribution  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tree distribution  
Tree plantings completed by June 1

## June

*National Pollinator Month*  
*National Safety Month*  
Board Meeting: June 3, 2010  
    Review District Policy  
    Review Property Schedule for Insurance  
    Review District Programs  
    Plan Outstanding Conservationist Recognition Event  
File MCIT insurance change form to delete tree stock  
SWMACDE Area V Meeting, June 9  
SWMASWCD Area V Meeting, June 17  
End of state fiscal year, June 30  
Turn off tree building utilities  
RIM/CREP spot checks  
Update SWCD brochure

## July

*Minnesota NRCS Cultural Appreciation Month*  
Board Meeting: July 1, 2010  
    Review Annual Plan Progress  
    Final Tree Report  
    Budget Committee Meeting  
    Approve & authorize signature upon arrival of General Services/Cost Share Grant Agreement  
    & Farm Bill Assistant Grant Agreement  
Schedule meeting with County Commissioners  
Water Plan budget/plan of work FY2011  
Quarterly Newsletter

August

*Women's Equality Month*

Board Meeting: August 5, 2010

Fair Booth Update

Set Tree Prices for Next Year

Review District Capacity Form

FarmFest

September

*Hispanic Heritage Month*

Board Meeting: September 2, 2010

Personnel Committee Meeting

Lac qui Parle County Fair, September 9-12

Environmental Fair, September 21-22

Complete copying news articles for NRCS AO (before 10/1)

State Cost Share project spot checks

October

*National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

*National Energy Awareness Month*

Board Meeting: October 7, 2010

Review Annual Plan Progress

Review Retention Schedule and dispose of data

Quarterly Newsletter

November

*Native American Heritage Month*

Board Meeting: November 4, 2010

Annual Plan Committee Meeting

Make State Convention Plans

SWMACDE Area V Meeting, November 10, 2010

MASWCD Area V Meeting, November 18, 2010

December

Board Meeting: December 2, 2010

Review District Programs

Set Per Diem for Next Year

Renew Affiliate Program

MASWCD Annual Convention, December 5-8, 2010

Reminders to Rain Gauge Monitors re. any missing data sheets