



Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District

122 8th Ave South, Madison, MN 56256

Phone: (320) 598-7321 Ext 3

Website: www.lacquiparleswcd.org

Minutes

December 12, 2024

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the Annex, County Multi-Media Room. Board Supervisors present in person: Rosemary Weber, Danny Larson, Amy Bacigalupo and Daryl Schutte. Absent: Mike Croatt. SWCD Staff present: Rhyan Schicker, Maria Croatt, Quintin Peterson and Noah Swart. Absent: Jake Monnens. NRCS Staff- Kara Ransom, present. Pheasants Forever staff- Kayla Chau, present. No BWSR staff present.

Chairman Weber welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Agenda:

Schutte made a motion to approve the Agenda with additions made under new business items b and c. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes:

Bacigalupo made motion to approve the Minutes from the November 14th, 2024, board meeting. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Open Gallery: (2 minutes per person/10 minutes total) - *None*

Conflict of Interest Declaration: - *None*

Treasurer's Report:

The checks were reviewed and discussed. Bacigalupo made a motion to approve for payment November checks #8091-8095, with 8096 being voided, from the United Prairie account and checks #13511-13529, from the Old National account. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Schutte made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

State Cost Share Programs Contracts & Payments:

- State Cost-Share Program: none
- Water Plan: none

Correspondence: no new correspondence.

Reports:

- LqPYB 1W1P Report: no new business, next policy committee meeting January 8th at 9 am. Second round of WBIF has been received by Watershed District. All projects have been updated into MS4Front tracking including non-grant funded projects such as septic improvements and well sealings.
- Supervisor Report: none
- Agency Reports:
 - NRCS: Ransom- finishing up end of year payments and renewals and preparing for 2025.
 - Pheasants Forever: Chau reported on Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) grant awards for LqP county. 5 in total with program being administrated through NRP ecological contracting group. 2nd batch of funding possible in the future. Easement enhancement opportunities available through BWSR @ \$600/acre which

A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. Supervisors are asked to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today's business. Any member who declares a conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item.

will run through individual landowner applications with batching periods at the end of each month. Another fire demo being planned for spring.

- BWSR: none
- Technical Report
 - Peterson reported on Area V area technical training team he is part of they will host a 'site preparation' training for Area staff in March. He attended a cost share contract training for new reporting requirements with RCPP funding. Dawn Madison area trainer spent a day in the office teaching staff on RUSLE2 soil loss calculations. He is guiding technical staff on acquiring Job Approval Authority (JAA) for different practices. Tractor was return to JD after seedings were completed for fall season. Multiple structural projects are in the works and being designed by TSA staff.
 - Swart reported on his positive experience with his first season completing seedings throughout the county. He gave a brief presentation on his 2025 Annual plan, as AIS prevention Coordinator, including attending the Canby Ice Classic fishing tournament January 25th , purchasing a watercraft for monitoring and distributing geocache cards by Earth day in April. He also gave an update on his work getting ArcPro downloaded and learning it so he can teach fellow coworkers.
- Admin Report
 - Schicker reported on continued work with grace Lutheran church for pollinator pathways grant, as well as working with Heather Nursery to design plantings for boulevards in Dawson. Soil health mentorship group met in November and had a speaker present on Haney test results from a mentor's field. Mentorship program is going very well.

Old Business: *none*

New Business:

- a. Air Quality Monitoring Project-Schicker reported on statewide air sensor project office will participate in. Sensor will be located at shop and will measure particulate matter and send information to online system where PM data will be shown at sensor locations throughout the country and inform the public when air quality is not suitable for being outdoors. Project will have an educational component.
Ag weather stations were also discussed as the state has funding to increase the number of stations in greater MN where data is lacking. Data will be used to help increase efficiency of precision ag software, among other uses.
- b. 2025 JD Tractor Lease- Peterson worked with JD to secure 2 tractors for 2025 use, with one being used only for spring, returned after tree plantings are completed. Use of 2 tractors provides efficiency to complete seeding and tree planting projects although it does make meeting hour requirement more difficult due to less drive time between sites. Schutte made a motion to move forward with 2 tractor leases, Bacigalupo seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
Peterson opened discussion on sale of old fabric machine and great plains coulter cart. Discussion was had about various auction sites/dealers and potential value of items. Staff will research addressed questions and will bring back more details to January meeting.
- c. SWCD Office Network Conversion to County Services-Croatt and Schicker discussed the preferred transition to move from USDA network to the County's network. Discussion was had on pros/cons. Supervisors would like to know why services were previously switched from County to USDA years back, Schicker will investigate old meeting minutes and report back. Decision tabled until January meeting.

Personnel: *None*



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Calendar of Events:

December 12	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve (Office Closed at Noon)
December 25	Christmas (Office Closed)
January 8	LqP-YB Policy Committee Meeting
January 9	Board Retreat

Adjourn: With no further business, Weber declared the meeting adjourned at 12:01.

Daryl Schutte

January 9, 2025

Approved

Date

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