



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
August 8, 2024

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the Annex, County Multi-Media Room. Board Supervisors present in person: Mike Croatt, Rosemary Weber, Daryl Schutte, Danny Larson, and Amy Bacigalupo. SWCD Staff present: Rhyan Schicker, Quintin Peterson, Maria Croatt, Jake Monnens, and Noah Swart. NRCS Staff present: Kara Ransom. Pheasants Forever Staff present: Kayla Chau and Sam Burrows. Chairman Weber welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Agenda:

Schutte made a motion to approve the Agenda as printed. Larson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes:

Bacigalupo made motion to approve the Minutes from the July 11, 2024, board meeting. Larson 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. Larson made a motion to approve for payment July checks #8071-8075 from the United Prairie account and checks #13466-13475 from the Old National account. Bacigalupo 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:

- *None*

Reports:

- LqPYB 1W1P Report
 - Schicker reported on August 16th meeting, demo of MS4Front, Number of projects lined up starting next spring, larger projects to be brought for approval to Policy, lot of inquires that Peterson is fielding.
- Supervisor Report:
 - Schutte reported on attending Soil is Alive on 75 Day, commented on various topics and that "we are learning".
 - Croatt reported on attending Yellow Med 1W1P Policy meeting, WCA will follow NRCS determination, Eric Stahl with the Watershed LGU will enforce WCA decisions presented by NRCS, CRP applications are being taken but not guaranteed for funding

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.

which may push back availability of RCPP funds in Yellow Med 1W1P region, Two WASCBs and two Cover Crop Contracts.

- Agency Reports:
 - NRCS: Ranson reported CSP funded six with 75 aps for next year, Running into Farm Bill payment limits, EQIP ends 9/6/24 with 24 aps received so far, No hire for Wetland Specialist and continue to be behind, Ortonville hired Soil Conservationist that Ranson is helping to train.
 - Pheasants Forever: Chau reported funding for interns extended and Burrows will stay through September, Finished 115 status reviews, continue to work on CRP plans, Attended additional training, Partnering with contractor on demo for fall burning.
 - BWSR: Soil Health Delivery Grant of \$100,000 signed 8/7/24, can use for any soil health practices, plan to focus on outside of 1W1P priority areas, Pollinator Pathways Grant for City of Dawson was among 29 grantees that applied.
- Technical Report
 - Peterson reported working on 1W1P, TSA and with Landowners, Attended meeting along with Soil Health mentors & Schicker, Miller already started working through mentorship program.
 - Monnens reported on RIM Easement inspections, next up working on Fair and Fall seeding & tree sales
 - Swart reported on attending training, tractor driving and drill lessons, Facilitated AIS Starry Trek event which is being held this coming Saturday (8/10/24).
- Admin Report
 - Schicker reported on Conservationist of the Year awarded to Dale & Adam Miller, Discussed Soil Management Summit and that SWCDs offer scholarships-could target farmers in the area to attend.
 - MaCroatt reported on Open House tomorrow (8/9/24) showing the Rainfall Simulator, Environmental Fair planning continues, County Fair sponsoring the Veggie Races, Audit of 2023 continues to be worked on by Auditor.

Old Business:

- Tree Building Damage – Discussion on whether to repair or not, tabled to next meeting.
- Vehicle Hail Damage - discussion on whether to repair, only received quote on one pickup, table to next meeting with both pickups reports in hand.

New Business:

- Removal of SWCD approval on CRP documentation – Schicker reported that it is not required for the SWCD to sign, it was in the past when the SWCD was involved with the plans. Croatt made a motion to not require the SWCD to sign off on CRP plans. Larson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel:

- Addition of Vision Insurance – MaCroatt reported on availability of Vision Insurance through MN PEIP, the current Health Insurance plan administrator, at a cost of \$6.41 per employee who chooses to elect, proposed as a optional insurance. Motion was made by Croatt to approve paying for the insurance contingent on local Optometrists accepting insurance, no second. Further discussion on this contingency and coverage out of network. Croatt made a new motion to approve including the Vision Insurance as an additional benefit paid by the SWCD. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.



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Calendar of Events:

August 8	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
August 20	Fencing Demo
September 2	Labor Day (Office Closed)
September 12	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
September 19	Area 5 SWMACD Meeting
October 10	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
October 14	Columbus Day (Office Closed)
November	YM 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
November 11	Veteran's Day (Office Closed)
November 14	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
November 28&29	Thanksgiving & Friday (Office Closed)
December 12	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve (Office Closed at Noon)
December 25	Christmas (Office Closed)

Adjourn: With no further business, Weber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Michael Croatt

September 12, 2024

Approved

Date

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