



Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District

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Our mission is to provide conservation opportunities for landowners of Lac qui Parle County through creative stewardship, protection programs and utilization of the resources to foster soil improvement and water quality in the community.

Minutes February 9, 2023

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Annex, County Multi-Media Room. Board Supervisors present: Mike Croatt, Danny Larson, Daryl Schutte, and Rosemary Weber. Absent: Amy Bacigalupo. SWCD Staff present: Rhyan Schicker, Quintin Peterson, Maria Croatt, and Jake Monnens. NRCS Staff present: Kara Fairchild. Chairman Weber welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Croatt made note to correct that he was not present at the January 12, 2023 meeting, followed by Larson making a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 12, 2023 board meeting. Croatt 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. Croatt made a motion to approve for payment January checks #7980 through #7983 from the United Prairie account and checks #13240 through #13255 from the Old National account. Larson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

State Cost Share Programs Contracts & Payments:

- State Cost-Share Program: *None*
- Well Sealing: *None*

Correspondence:

- Review the MASWCD Aid & Advocacy Kit
- Croatt shared an article/handout on Soil Health Area Training, Schicker noted it would be put in the newspapers.

Reports:

- Supervisor Report: *None*
 - Croatt attended the SWMACD Area 5 meeting, Officer, Committee, and Budget were approved, 2 Trimbles approved for purchase, future purchase of trailer to haul Side by Side, TSA will have no charge for 1W1P projects this year; Report funds used/to use shortage of contract, hope to have 1 to 1 small group training to get certifications; YM 1W1P:31 projects ready-22 were for 2021 funds, 9 to 2022 funds, expect completion in 2026 due to available contractors, water way and retention projects, discussed wanting to expand to other non-structural projects; Soil Health Tour happening February 23rd.

- Partner Agency Reports:
 - NRCS: Kara Fairchild reported EQIP rank deadline has come, 2-3 projects funded probably in LqP; CSP funds for state, 50+aps, look at 4-5 high priority; CRP rental rates not yet available, 1026 applications are behind; Local work group public meeting of resource concerns to be held possibly in March, will set EQIP next year.
 - BWSR: Jason Beckler, Board Conservationist for the District, unavailable to be present today.
- Technical Report
 - Peterson reported: EFT software training for Jake Monnens, Tree ordering up-\$24,000 at meeting time, lots of bigger trees; Peterson will be out up to 3 weeks in March for paternity leave; Seeding-capped out, discuss any new inquiries before we can commit to completing.
 - Tractor: Peterson reported Midwest Machinery's quote was for a 6155M, New, \$40/hour, minimum 200 hours, 9 month max, can do a second tractor \$40/hour additional; Ziegler's quote was for 465B, Used, \$1300/month, no hours/time min/max. Croatt made a motion to accept the Midwest Machinery's quote as presented. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Peterson report for future years Titan of Graceville has a program for \$10/hour capped at 250 hours for a New Holland, this was not available for 2023, would look at for 2024, use for seeding as we would still need a second tractor due to hour cap.
- Admin Report
 - MaCroatt reported: Water testing kits now available in our office, testing through AGVise out of Benson, MN, will start advertising locally. Soil Health Cost Share policy review-print out provided.
 - Schicker presented AIS Funding requests. Schutte made a motion to send \$2500 to Minnesota Traditions and \$500 to Linders Angling Buzz. Larson seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
- LqP 1W1P Report
 - Larson made a motion to have the Resolution adoption approved & signed by Weber and Schicker. Croatt seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried. Signed as noted.

Old Business:

- 2023 Fees: Discussion; Croatt made a motion to increase the Fabric laying price to \$0.95/ft installed and \$0.50/ft uninstalled. Schutte seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried. Larson made a motion to include flagging for the first time only if we are doing the seeding/planting, and an additional \$50 per trip for extra flagging. Croatt seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried. Big tree prices remaining the same. Seeding at \$30/acre remaining the same.
- 2023 Budget: Discussion, Larson made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget as presented. Schutte seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
- Set capitalization and depreciation: Croatt made a motion to set the capitalization and depreciation for asset purchases at \$3500. Schutte seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
- Policy Adoption:
 - Data Practices: Croatt made a motion to accept the Data Practices as presented. Larson seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
 - Employee Handbook: Croatt made a motion to accept the Employee handbook as presented. Larson seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
 - Operations Handbook: Schutte made a motion to accept the BWSR operations handbook as presented. Larson seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
 - Cost Share Policy: Larson made a motion to accept the cost share policy dated 11-4-21 as presented. Schutte seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.
- Drone Purchase & Licensing: Schutte made a motion for Peterson and Monnens to begin process to become licensed to fly a drone. Croatt seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried. Purchased tabled to later date after obtaining licensing.

New Business:

- Vehicle Trade (Car): Discussion on obtaining availability from Cleveland, Lee Motor and Ericksons. Table to March meeting with options.

- Fabric Mulch Machine Purchase: Peterson reported the current machine is inefficient, no longer adjustable, even if site prep is perfect (rare) it is still not great, current one is going to need a large amount of maintenance; information presented on new from Trees Are Us, available April 30th. Possibly auction current one. Croatt made a motion to purchase fabric mulch machine as presented. Larson seconded the motion. All in Favor, motion carried.

Personnel:

- Additional staff person with PF & NRC update: Schicker reported that it is not yet advertised, and she requested Tanner with PF to move forward, inquired with him as to how we can help.

Calendar of Events:

March 9	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
April 10	YM 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
April 13	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
May 11	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
May 29	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
June 8	Regular SWCD Board Meeting and Retreat
June 19	Juneteenth (Office Closed)
July 4	Independence Day (Office Closed)
July 13	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
August 14	YM 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
August 10	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
September 4	Labor Day (Office Closed)
September 14	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
October 9	Columbus Day (Office Closed)
October 12	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
November 9	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
November 11	Veteran's Day (Office Closed)
November 13	YM 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
November 23&24	Thanksgiving & Friday (Office Closed)
December 14	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
December 25	Christmas (Office Closed)

Adjourn: Including a break for lunch and with no further business, Weber declared the meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Michael Croatt

March 9, 2023

Approved

Date

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