



# Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District

122 8<sup>th</sup> Ave South, Madison, MN 56256

Phone: (320) 598-7321 Ext 3

Website: [www.lacquiparleswcd.org](http://www.lacquiparleswcd.org)

Minutes  
July 11, 2024

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Annex, County Multi-Media Room. Board Supervisors present in person: Mike Croatt, Rosemary Weber, Daryl Schutte, and Danny Larson. Absent: Amy Bacigalupo. SWCD Staff present: Rhyan Schicker, Quintin Peterson, Maria Croatt, and Jake Monnens. Absent: Noah Swart. No NRCS Staff present. Pheasants Forever Staff present: Kayla Chau and Sam Burrows. Chairman Weber welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

## Agenda:

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

## Minutes:

Croatt made motion to approve the Minutes from the May 9, 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. Larson made a motion to approve for payment May & June checks #8047-8070 from the United Prairie account and checks #13437-13443 & 13445-13465 from the Old National account. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

## State Cost Share Programs Contracts & Payments:

- State Cost-Share Program:
    - *None*
  - Water Plan:
    - Schutte made a motion to approve well sealing application
      - WS 2024-04 in Manfred Township, ready for payment
      - WS 2024-05 in Garfield Township, ready for payment
      - WS 2024-06 in Agassiz Township
      - WS 2024-07 in Augusta Township
- as presented. Croatt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

## Correspondence:

- Send around card received from past employee.

## Reports:

- LqPYB 1W1P Report
  - Shicker reported the Policy meeting was held off awaiting MS4Front demo. Peterson has been meeting with landowners, next meeting in August to move contracts through and hope to have the demo then, next projecting funding is estimated at \$1.5 million. Peterson reported that he is working on planning projects, awaiting approvals on both structural and non-structural projects.

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.

- Supervisor Report:
  - Croatt reported he attended the SWMACD Area 5 meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> where they approved \$500 to Soil Health Day, noted that 40 SWCDs were approved for Soil Health Grants, further discussed Farmer Mentors, online meetings after no quorum at February meeting, \$4.6 million in Soil Health Delivery funds, \$25 million from federal with BWSR match, Conservation Implementation, lots of funds for soil health, minimal CSP contracts for all of Area 5, Review of staffing to be done in future analyzed by TSA, ended with tour of Petroglyphs which was good.
- Agency Reports:
  - NRCS: *None*
  - Pheasants Forever: Chau reported inter (Burrows) here through August 29<sup>th</sup>, attended fire academy training, did eight wetland checks, 40 out of 120 CRP status reviews remain, Continuous CRP batch ended, over 100 renewals/new contracts to complete.
  - BWSR: Luke Olson, BC attended the canoe trip, staff reported he is involved, helpful. BWSR Area wetland specialist was hired, former SWCD Devin Ryan.
- Technical Report
  - Monnens reported 650 acres have been seeded, all tree plantings are completed, 3 fabric projects remain, small rental tractor lease was up and returned, fabric machine did not fit on big tractor, will rent last year's tractor to finish, Turn key program, working on 3 drain water projects, total of 15 projects over five counties on a three year project timeline.
  - Peterson reported planning for fall, contractors are limited, finding land owners is not the issue, Area 5 has established contractors list, meet with farmer mentors, signed Ed Hegland so far, do have a couple others in mind or considering, Lots of interest in cover crops-met with two yesterday looking over & did walk throughs, attended TSA Managers meeting looking at workload analysis review draft in September, final in October.
- Admin Report
  - Schicker reported that she applied for a Pollinator Project grant for City of Dawson, Grace Lutheran Church of Dawson, also attended Area 5 meeting, positive response to Workload Analysis, JAA clarification of structural approval and having to depend on TSA to review and how to be best prepared, bringing in Joke and Noah to verify. Staff will be attending Hwy 75 Soil is Alive Tour Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> in Porter, MN, Noah Swart hired on as AIS Technician and he is learning, motivated, set up to host Star Trek on August 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - MaCroatt reported on Audit pending, waiting on CPA to request our records, no further report.

#### **Old Business:**

- SWCD Office/Lease Options – Currently on hold awaiting response from rental company.
- Hwy 75 Tour– our contribution was returned due to additional funding that was made available.

#### **New Business:**

- Tree Building Damage – Filed insurance claim, adjuster was out to review, reviewed report, opening for bids due by August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Vehicle Hail Damage – Filed insurance claim, awaiting quote from Tofte Auto Body.

#### **Personnel:**

- AIS Technician hired, Noah Swart, staff reported he is enthusiastic, also attended Millborn Seeds field day.
- Part time summer assistant hired, Riley Kellen, looking to see if Conservation is something she wants a career in.
- Payroll direct deposit is available, please return enclosed form if interested.



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## Calendar of Events:

May 27	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
June 13	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
June 14	SWMACDE Area 5 Meeting
June 19	Juneteenth (Office Closed)
July 4	Independence Day (Office Closed)
July 11	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
August	YM 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
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 9:45 a.m.

*Dan Larson*

*August 8, 2024*

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Approved

Date

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

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