



Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District

122 8th Ave South, Suite 1, Madison, MN 56256
(320) 598-7321 Ext. 3

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 January 14, 2021

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, January 14, 2021, via ZOOM video conference. Board Supervisors present: Mike Croatt, Rosemary Weber, and Amy Bacigalupo. Absent: Daryl Schutte. SWCD Staff present: Chessa Frahm, Sheri Laechelt, Rhyan Schicker and Quintin Peterson. PF Staff absent: Sara Reagan. NRCS Staff absent: Burt Hendrickson. Chairman Croatt welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Weber made a motion to approve the Minutes from the December, 2020 board meeting. Bacigalupo 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. Weber made a motion to approve for payment December checks #7910 through #7915 from the United Prairie account and checks #12924 through #12942 from the Old National account. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

State Cost Share Programs Contracts & Payments:

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

Correspondence: *None*

Reports:

- Partner Agencies:
 - NRCS: Hendrickson's written report was reviewed. To view Hendrickson's report, *see attachment at end of minutes.*
 - Pheasants Forever: Weber made a motion to approve the Lac qui Parle Pheasants Forever Sponsor Membership in the amount of \$100. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - BWSR: Jason Beckler, Board Conservationist joined the meeting and gave an update on the 1W1P status, eLINK reporting, JAA and the technical team training, and that BWSR will be working remotely through the end of June.
- Technical Report:
 - Schicker reported on:

- WCA – The last two months have been very busy with Wetland Banking credits and also a WCA violation being reviewed in the county.
 - Buffer compliance checks have been happening and we have a couple landowners in the county that will be receiving the enforcement letter.
 - AIS – Continuing work with the 4-H program and hoping to get out on the ice and look at the curly leaf pond weed on Big Stone Lake, writing newspaper articles, doing Ag in the Classroom virtually.
 - Peterson reported on:
 - Trees – Planning and ordering are underway. Fully booked with plantings but will continue to order for individuals. Fabric has been ordered with free shipping.
 - Seeding – 400 acres are signed up for spring and we are full and not taking any more.
 - State Cost-Share – Working with farmers to add cover crops, and working on a grass waterway design. Continuing with soil sampling to see results and compare data, also doing a soil health test.
- Admin Report:
 - Groundwork continues on the Lac qui Parle 1W1P, the MOA will be signed at the next Commissioner’s meeting.
 - TSA met via zoom and policies were set along with a 2.5% cost of living increase.
 - Working on the Annual Report and Website updates.
 - Staff performance reviews were completed, and policies reviewed.
 - Received a contact from Ridgewater College to do a presentation on Water Quality Management.
 - Still searching for an individual to fill the open supervisor position. The board will be able to appoint the position when someone agrees to serve.

Old Business: *None*

New Business:

- Election of Officers: Weber made a motion to approve the 2021 officers. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Offices for 2021:
 - Chairman: Mike Croatt
 - Vice-Chairman: Rose Weber
 - Secretary: Daryl Schutte
 - Treasurer: Amy Bacigalupo
 - PR&I:
- Committee Appointments: Bacigalupo made a motion to approve the 2021 Committee Appointments. Weber seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Budget/Finance: Weber & Croatt
 - Personnel: Croatt & Schutte (Alt. Bacigalupo)
 - Legislative: Bacigalupo & Schutte
 - YM 1W1P: Croatt & Weber
 - Lqp-YB 1W1P: Bacigalupo & Croatt
 - TSA: Croatt & Bacigalupo
- Meeting Date and Time: Weber made a motion to keep the dates and time as the second Thursday of the month, at 8:00 am for the months of April to October and 10:00 am for the months of November to March. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Designate official bank and newspaper: Bacigalupo made a motion to approve Klein Bank, United Prairie Bank, State Bank of Bellingham as the designated depositories and the Western Guard & Dawson Sentinel as the official newspapers. Weber seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2021 Fees: Weber made a motion to approve the tree price list and the seeding rate which will stay the same. A flagging fee of \$46 (FSA rate) will be charged if a planting plan is changed and needs re-flagging. Also will assist FSA if needed. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2021 Budget: Weber made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget as presented. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- Set capitalization and depreciation: Bacigalupo made a motion to keep the schedule at \$3,500. Weber seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Policy Adoption: Bacigalupo made a motion to approve the Data Practices policy, the Employee Handbook, and Operations Handbook. Weber seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- MASWCD Dues: \$2,964.53 was approved in Treasurer’s Report under Accounts Payable.
- SWPTSA Contribution: \$3,545.46 was approved in Treasurer’s Report under Accounts Payable.
- Truck Repairs & Purchase: After reviewing bids, Weber made a motion to approve Erickson Chevrolet to replace the upper and lower ball joints on the Chevrolet pick-up. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Bacigalupo made a motion to approve Frahm to begin the search process for a used pick-up to replace the 2006 Ford. The Ford will be listed on the State surplus auction site. Weber seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Drill Storage: Weber made a motion to pay Quintin Peterson \$125 to store the drill for the winter months, this is the same rate for storage in the 4-H buildings on the fairgrounds. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel:

- 2021 Pay Scale and Step Increases: Bacigalupo made a motion to approve the 2021 pay scale and the step increases which includes a 1% cost of living increase. Weber seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Intern: Thinking of hiring an intern mainly for tree planting season. The job description will be reviewed and updated prior to posting.

Calendar of Events:

February 11	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 10 am
February 15	President’s Day (Office Closed)
March 11	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 10 am
April 2	Good Friday (Office closed at Noon)
April 8	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 10 am
May 13	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
May 31	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
June 10	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
July 5	Independence Day Observed (Office Closed)
July 8	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
August 12	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
September 6	Labor Day (Office Closed)
September 9	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
October 11	Columbus Day (Office Closed)
October 14	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
November 11	Veteran’s Day (Office Closed)/ Regular Board meeting – Will Reschedule
November 25	Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
December 9	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 10 am
December 24	Christmas Eve (Office Closed)

Adjourn: With no further business, Croatt declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Rosemary Weber

March 11, 2021

Approved

Date

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

DC Report
Burton Hendrickson

Farm Program Update –

EQIP – We have several deferred non-funded applications from last year that we will have to get together and process. Will we get any applications funded? Seems to be some hope since there will be a fund pool for each Team so there will be dollars for our 5 county area, and hopefully some of the local applications will score high enough against the others in the Team.

CSP – No announcement of a deadline to apply for 2021 CSP has been made yet. Have really not heard much of anything on the 2021 program to date, but do have some sort of ranking training tomorrow. We have sure been trying to get all the payments made for 2020, but some of the contracts have issues which will require modifications or worse prior to making any payment.

CRP – The continuous CRP is ongoing, and the general signup for this year started on January 4. It will run till February 12. Some people have expressed interest in re-enrolling and Sara has started the folder process on several. LQP rental rates have increased slightly, and some incentives for continuous have been re-instated, but with crop prices rising there may not be a lot of interest. Working on certifying fall seedings, and getting required status reviews out for the expiring contracts.

Administrative Items – We have been in phase 0 as far as Covid for our office. That may not change for a while. Am supposed to get a Soil Conservationist starting in Madison in the near future. Person has been named, but start date is under some debate at this time.

Wishing you all a good 2021. Can't hardly be worse than 2020 can it?