



# 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 June 10, 2021

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, June 10, 2021, via ZOOM video conference. Board Supervisors present: Mike Croatt, Rosemary Weber, Amy Bacigalupo, and Danny Larson. Absent: Daryl Schutte. SWCD Staff present: Chessa Frahm, Sheri Laechelt, Rhyan Schicker and Quintin Peterson. NRCS Staff present: Burt Hendrickson. Chairman Croatt welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

### Agenda:

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

### Minutes:

Larson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May, 2021 board meeting. Weber 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 May checks #7922 through #7925 from the United Prairie account. May checks, #12997 through #13002 from the Old National account. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bacigalupo made a motion to approve the June 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*
- Water Plan: *None*

### Correspondence:

- MASWCD Resolutions – Will be reviewed at the Area 5 meeting.

### Reports:

- Supervisor Report: Bacigalupo reported on the LqP 1W1P upcoming June meetings.
- Partner Agencies:
  - NRCS: Hendrickson presented his report. To view Hendrickson's report, *see attachment at end of minutes*
- Technical Report:
  - Peterson reported:
    - Tree plantings and fabric laying is completed for the season.
    - Seeding is going well with dry conditions allowing us to get in wetter areas.
    - Planning a Kernza Field Day in partnership with the Land Institute and U of M on July 8<sup>th</sup> at the A Frame farm East of Madison. We will demonstrate the Rainfall Simulator

and will do some soil testing. There will also be a soil pit to demonstrate the root growth of the Kernza that we seeded in 2018. Registration will be capped at 200 participants.

- Schicker reported:
  - Working on a CREP seeding with a different mix with a large variety of seed.
  - Peterson & Schicker participated in the Watershed District canoe trip that was held at Marsh Lake.
  - An AIS field trip scheduled at Del Clark Lake was cancelled due to a conflict with the youth schedules, which was probably a good thing due to the extensive heat. Another event is scheduled for July at Big Stone Lake.
  - CRP/CREP are on hold yet with possibly two individuals interested in a contract.
- Admin Report:
  - Consultant interviews will be held for the LqP 1W1P. There were 2 applicants.
  - YM 1W1P is at the half-way point and are doing a quality assurance check with BWSR.
  - Been out again helping with fabric on a tree planting.
  - Rode in the tractor with Peterson on a CRP seeding to see how things are done.
  - The NACD annual meeting is scheduled for July in Chicago.

**Old Business:**

- Tree Building Shingles – Technicians haven’t had time to get bids but will pursue when seeding is completed. Larson has been in contact with a couple individuals that might be interested, he will follow up with them as well.

**New Business:** *None*

**Personnel:** Staff Retreat – Larson made a motion to close the office for a partial day on June 18<sup>th</sup> for a staff retreat to show appreciation of the continued hard work done by staff. Staff plan to go Marsh Lake to do a community service trash clean-up, have a picnic, and an early release.

**Calendar of Events:**

June 23	Lac qui Parle Policy Committee 1:00 pm
July 5	Independence Day Observed (Office Closed)
July 8	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
August 12	Regular SWCD Board Meeting 8 am
August 25	Lac qui Parle Policy Committee 1:00 pm
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
October 27	Lac qui Parle Policy Committee 1:00 pm
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 8:37 a.m.

*Dan Larson*

*7-8-2021*

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/CSP – Madison is very busy getting some of these plans completed now. We ended up so far with 9 EQIP pre-approved for funding and we are trying to get the contracts and plans developed and signed. Couple are fully obligated so far. We also (wonder of wonders) have gotten 3 CSP applications pre-approved for funding. Rumor has it we may get another one if there are not a lot of errors in the others that take more money. Need to get these to the next level of approval by June 18, so need to get a lot done on them this next week. Have not done any work and there has been no information on what for possible renewals yet.

CRP/CCRP – No word yet on actual new rules or incentives and how they will apply. Still have quite a few applications for renewal to get ready, plus whatever might be effected by rule changes to the general signups that were offered.

Administrative Items –

Staffing news? – There is no concrete news on new staff being hired. There were no eligible applications for the positions in Madison or Ortonville with the last advertisement. There is some talk of trying to do what is called “direct hire” for positions. If you know someone who could qualify as a technician or soil conservationist there may be a chance to get them on board with this somewhat of a shortcut hire version.

New NRCS Chief – Our new chief has been approved. His name is Terry Cosby. He is an actual long time employee of NRCS, so it is an internal appointment. This does not happen much. We received a nice little email from him and I will just attach his comments for you to get idea about him:

Hello NRCS family,

I am humbled and honored to be sending you this message today as your new Chief of NRCS. Forty-two years ago when I began my conservation journey as a Pathways student, I never dreamed that one day I'd be sworn in as the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief of NRCS.

Growing up on my family's small cotton farm in rural Enid, Mississippi, the entire family shared responsibilities taking care of the land. With that said, I'd be remiss in not acknowledging my parents, George and Gertrude Cosby, who taught me a heart for service, about hard work, how to fairly treat people and that protecting our natural resources is a shared responsibility. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Fast forward 50 years, and now I find myself in a similar situation as Chief. Called to work with our passionate employees and agency leadership on shared responsibilities that help agriculture families, customers and communities across America realize their conservation and production dreams. Over the decades I have worked in numerous field and leadership capacities in various states. My path has allowed me to meet and work with so many of you across the nation. I firmly believe our agency has the best and brightest conservationists who daily serve our customers.

As we take this next step in our agency's conservation journey. Be assured, I am here for you and I'm listening. I haven't forgotten what it is like to work at the local, state and national level and the rewards and challenges that presents on a daily basis. It is those perspectives that I bring to the decision making table now.

As I close, I want to thank each of you for your passion for our agency and continued commitment to our mission, vision and priorities.

Thank you,

*Terry*

*Terry J. Cosby, Chief*

Upcoming Items – Busy summer, pray for rain.