



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 April 13, 2023

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the Madison Mercantile. Board Supervisors present in person: Mike Croatt, Danny Larson, and Daryl Schutte, Rosemary Weber and Amy Bacigalupo. SWCD Staff present: Quintin Peterson, Maria Croatt, and Jake Monnens; absent: Rhyan Schicker. No NRCS Staff present. BWSR staff present: Jason Beckler. Chairman Weber welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Croatt made motion to approve the Minutes from the March 9, 2023 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 March check #7988 from the United Prairie account and checks #13261, 13263 through #13283 from the Old National account. Croatt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Croatt made a motion to approve the April 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*
- Well Sealing: *None*

Correspondence: Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed Outdoor Youth Summer Recreation & Education Series flyer presented. The water shed received the No Child Left Inside Grant through MN DNR. Events to be held Summer of 2023, see flyer.

Reports:

- Supervisor Report:

Croatt reported on Area 5 SWSWCD, Environmental Fair to be held September 25-27, TSA has 2 drone pilots and will present how to use drones, the Side by Side arrived, LqP 1W1P has \$63,000 for implementation, Legislation put through \$12-14 million for \$50 million for CRP, \$20 Million for Water Storage, \$50/ac Single species or \$60/ac more species cover crop, Strip or No-Till \$10/ac incentive; Governor to try to push for \$24-27 million.

Croatt reported on YM1W1P, now will begin with the pledge, 31 projects ready of which 9 are in Yellow Medicine, 12 in Lac qui Parle and 10 in Lincoln/Lyon counties, dollars for Wheat & Rye planting, non crop RIM eligible and pollinator plots, Policy expanded to soil health and not just structural, extended 10 to 20 acres, and it was discussed to hire another staff or work with agronomy company or work out partnership with Lac qui Parle.

- Partner Agency Reports:
 - NRCS: none
 - BWSR: Beckler reported that they are awaiting session, gave a Thank you to the staff, great to work with, policy good, met with Schicker & Peterson last week and had good dialog, BWSR willing to help, correct mistakes, as long as staff is willing to learn it will be positive, refusal to help is when grants will be withheld, further commented on tracking HEIP, accountability and outlook good, best time to be employed in conservation is the next 10 years.

- Technical Report
 - Peterson reported that he and Monnens attended a tree course in the cities
 - Second Tractor no longer feel it is an option from Ziegler, doubled the price, discussion was had on possible rental from area farmers. Motion was made by Bacigalupo to rent a tractor from Mike Croatt for \$30/hour after verifying with insurance and signing rental agreement with Croatt and Peterson. Schutte seconded the motion. Croatt abstained from vote. Remaining in favor, motion carried.
 - Drill is out of storage, cool season seeding due by May 15th, 41 seedings/410 acres total on books
 - Trees start delivery April 20th, 22 plantings on books, 5 are CRP, biggest dollar of trees to date
 - Tree Building Shop cleaned up & ready, driveway graded, cooler working & ready
 - TSA meeting 3/29/23 attended, planning contractors meeting for 1W1P
 - New FX Signs & Graphix will be letters all three vehicles this week
 - Rick Clark Event was held with 50+ in attendance, aim to work on plots to show examples was the most given feedback
 - Summary of events for Conservation Champions Grant attached, closes out funds
 - Monnens reported his Drone test has been rescheduled due to weather, currently waiting on new time, seed orders to be picked up soon, waiting for response on Mulch machine availability, tree order pickup for Arbor Day

- Admin Report
 - MaCroatt reported on the events for Earth Day & Arbor day: list attached
 - Schicker report attached in her absence

- LqP 1W1P Report
 - As noted in Schicker report.

Old Business:

- Larson mentioned as discussed in previous meeting, all public funds must be collateralized in amounts over the FDIC insured \$250,000. MaCroatt noted First Horizon has collateralized with Old National Bank and will verify status with United Prairie.

New Business:

- Advertising with FHP Plat book: Croatt made a motion to purchase half page advertising. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Adopt-a-Highway: MaCroatt reported that the district requested and was assigned the 2 mile stretch of Hwy 75 beginning at the stoplight of Hwy 212 & 75 and immediately south for ditch cleanup to begin this summer. This will be a two year contract.
- Bulk Fuel Option: Discussion was held. Schutte made a motion to purchase a 100 gallon bulk fuel tank & pump for the open box pickup from Lac qui Parle Co-op not to exceed \$1200.00, but no contract for fuel this year. Croatt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel:

- Additional staff person with PF & NRC update: Job advertisement is live and applications can be submitted through April 14th.

Calendar of Events:

May 11	Regular SWCD Board Meeting @ Multi Media Room/Annex
May 29	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
June 8	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
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: With no further business, Weber declared the meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m..

Mike Croatt

May 11, 2023

Approved

Date

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