



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 March 11, 2021

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, March 11, 2021, via ZOOM video conference. Board Supervisors present: Mike Croatt, Rosemary Weber, Amy Bacigalupo, Daryl Schutte, and Danny Larson-new appointee. 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 10:02 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 January, 2021 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. Bacigalupo made a motion to approve for payment January checks #7916 through #7917 and February check #7918 from the United Prairie account. January checks, #12943 through #12957 and February checks, #12958 through #12966 from the Old National account. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Schutte made a motion to approve the February & March Treasurer's Reports 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:

- MASWCD 2021 Legislative Priorities
- MASWCD Newsletter
- Madison 150th Anniversary Flyer Ad

Reports:

- Partner Agencies:
 - NRCS: Hendrickson's written report was reviewed. To view Hendrickson's report, see *attachment at end of minutes*. New NRCS staff member, John Harbinson joined the meeting and was introduced.
 - Pheasants Forever: *None*

- BWSR: Jason Beckler, Board Conservationist joined the meeting and gave an update on Legislative activity and bills being introduced and the uncertainty of upcoming capacity funding for districts. BWSR continues to work remotely through the end of June.
- Technical Report:
 - Peterson reported:
 - Continuing to work on tree plans, orders, and seeding season prep.
 - State Cost-Share – Work on a grass waterway design is near completion and will be brought forward for approval.
 - Have been in contact with Ziegler about continuing with the tractor least program, they have agreed to continue at the same rate as the previous Lund agreement. They are looking into a quick-tach 3-point option as well.
 - Schicker reported:
 - Continuing to work on seed orders for spring seeding season.
 - Doing several online webinars to move forward with Conservation Planning and JAA.
 - AIS – Have been approached again about sponsoring the Lindner Angling Buzz at a cost of \$500.
- Admin Report:
 - Groundwork continues on the Lac qui Parle 1W1P. Bacigalupo will be chairing the Policy Committee.
 - The YM1W1P has been reviewing the five year accomplishments.
 - Participating in the Local Work Group training. Board member training will be available March 31. More information will be sent via email.
 - The Annual Report is complete and is posted on the website under Reports.
 - NACD has a survey posted pertaining to Conservation Planning, this is available through March 15th if anyone is interested in completing the survey.
 - BWSR will move forward in asking for Capacity Funding out of the Clean Water Funds.
- Supervisor Report:
 - Croatt participated in the 1W1P meeting held February 8 and also the Area 5 Meeting on February 18th via Zoom.

Old Business: *None*

New Business:

- Appoint Area 2 Supervisor: Weber made a motion to appoint Dan Larson from Bellingham to fill the open Area 2 Supervisor position. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Oath of Office: Larson completed the Oath of Office and was welcomed to the board with great appreciation.
- Truck Purchase: After discussion, Larson made a motion to purchase the 2017 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up through Cleveland Chevrolet in Canby for a maximum of \$35,000 with tax and license. It was also recommended to check into an extended warranty. Schutte seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel:

- Intern: We've decided not to hire an intern this year due to the continued COVID concerns and restricted office policies.
- Telework status update: COVID issues still have us not letting any people into the office, and there has been recommendation that we should only have 25% staff in at any one time.

Calendar of Events:

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 11:05 a.m.

Danny Larson

04/08/21

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 –

CSP/EQIP programs – We are accepting CSP applications for the 2021 signup and for renewals of those to expire this coming December thru March 26 and March 31 respectively. We have not heard how we will be workload screening these yet, but the estimates we have heard from state office indicate they think about 5-10% of applications might be able to be funded. EQIP deadlines for ranking have all been delayed because of computer issues with the ranking program. They have supposedly been corrected and we back to ranking this week, but were supposed to have done by last Friday. Deadlines have all been pushed back for this program again this year.

CRP – FSA has basically open ended the general CRP signup. Washington indicated they were reviewing all CRP options and did not stop the general signup as planned. It kind of sounds like they may change some rules, and everyone who has offered will get a second chance, and people can continue to sign up at this point.

1026's – The wetland team has made quite a bit of progress on their backlog with some more staff now working. We also are looking to have some sort of contract bid out to have someone scan our entire 1026 Wetland and HEL files so that everything will be scanned and eventually we won't even be storing hard copy of all this stuff. They are looking at sometime this summer for our files here in LQP to be shipped somewhere and scanned.

Administrative Items –

New NRCS Staff – John Harbinson has started in Madison as a Soil Conservationist. Since I was gone for 2 weeks right after he got here, I have only been working with him this past week. COVID issues still have us not letting any people into the office, and there has been some push saying we should only have 25% staff in at any one time.

Upcoming Items – We have been told that all training to be held this year will be done remotely if it is held at all.