

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District

Meeting Minutes #651

May 1, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was held in the Commissioners' room, Courthouse, Madison, MN with a virtual ZOOM login option. The meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Andrew Weber at 9:00 a.m. **Managers Present:** Chairman Andrew Weber, Secretary David Craigmile, Treasurer Jon Olson, and Publicity Michael Knutson. **Managers absent:** Vice-Chairman John Cornell. **Staff present:** Administrator Hastad, Park Manager Ethan Kack, Environmental/Feedlot Specialist Abby VanKempen, Environmental /HHW Specialist Jennifer Schuelke, Ditch Specialist Cindy Brehmer, Ditch Inspector Jared Roiland, & Coordinator Eric Stall. **Staff Absent:** none. **Others present:** Dasan Sasse, Lance DeSpain, with Invenergy & Luke Olson with BWSR.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Weber asked for additions to the agenda. There was a Craig Kanstrup tiling permit added to the agenda. Manager Dave Craigmile motioned to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Manager Jon Olson. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 4-0.

Administrator Hastad reported there were two 1W1P contracts for approval. Micah Eidem in the NW1/4 section 28, Hendricks Township for Strip Till and Dwight Buller in the NE1/4 section 30, Hendricks Township for Strip Till. Discussion followed. Hastad reported these were both recommended for approval by the policy committee during their April meeting.

Manager Jon Olson motioned to approve a contract for Micah Eidem in the NW1/4 section 28, Hendricks Township for \$37,983.00 for a 329 Strip Till practice and a contract for Dwight Buller in the NE1/4 section 30, Hendricks Township for \$60,498.00 for a 329 Strip Till practice, seconded by Manager David Craigmile. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 4-0.

Staff Reports:

Park Report: Ethan Kack

- May 1st is the first official opening day for the 2024 camping season. The on-line registrations are working out well with good feedback from the campers.
- The lake is up about 8-12 inches after the recent rains.
- Checked on the insurance for the roofs and worked with the insurance company to get that claim wrapped up.
- Ethan reported that one fuel tank sprung a leak. The tank holds 300 gallons. He shared a picture of the tanks and reported on their condition. Discussion followed. Ethan said he received quotes for new 300 gallon tanks from three places - one for \$3,000; one for \$2460; and one for \$2350 with these prices quoted as installed.

Manager Olson motioned to authorize Ethan to buy two new 300-gallon tanks, 1 for diesel, 1 for gas from Independent Oil Company as low quote and put them on a gravel bed, seconded by Manager David Craigmile. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 4-0.

- Manager Weber suggested that later this summer they should put a roof over the fuel tanks to preserve their life span.
- Ethan reported the person hired to paint the cutout sign for the park is working on a design and hopefully will get that done yet this spring.
- The seasonal employee's started April 22, 2024 and things were going well.

Drainage Inspector Report: Jared Roiland

- The group 4 redetermination of benefits hearings were held on April 2, 2024. The viewers were instructed to re-examine a couple of areas on three different ditches and the hearings were continued to the May 7, 2024 County Board meeting to have the orders drawn up and brought for approval.
- Went down to KLQP-FM radio and recorded our spring buffer ad to remind producers of the buffer law and not to plant in the buffer. We also give them some ideas on how to use the buffer as a tool in their operation.
- I replaced the seal on the front differential on the ROXOR. Looks like this took care of the leak.
- The AC compressor for the pickup is in at Lee Motors, so I will take it over there to get it installed.
- Eric & I viewed a requested cleanout to the outlet portion of CD 8 in Hantho, 20. We will need to go through the TEP process because there are wetlands within the drainage area.
- Working with a couple landowners on a tiling project in Cerro Gordo, 32 and Riverside, 5 that will outlet into Watershed Ditch #1.

At 9:30 the Board met with Dasan Sasse and Lance DeSpain from Invenergy regarding a wind tower project they are doing in Yellow Medicine County. The Watershed owns land (Canby Creek Structures) that would line up in their project area. Discussion followed. They are in the development stage and signing up acres. Some of the property would not be ideal for a turbine, but would qualify for a good neighbor agreement or a collection easement. Hastad reported that the Lazarus Creek land already has a lease agreement and she will send the agreement to them. The Board cautioned that we just have to be careful that the dams do not get disturbed as they are classified as high hazard dams. Invenergy will send us some more information via e-mail, but the Board was interested to see what we could work out.

Staff Reports continued:

Ditch Specialist: Cindy Brehmer

- On April 24th, I attended the ditch committee meeting. We discussed the joint bill with YM and looked over the 2023 bill that they sent. We are going to try and set up a meeting with the finance people from YM to discuss how to handle the admin/ditch inspector fees and then make a recommendation to the joint board.
- I attended the final hearing for the CD #42 improvement.
- I uploaded some reports to the auditor portal for the Watershed office.
- I will be attending a ditch rewrite meeting with MCIS to go over the process with the County ditch rewrite.
- I continue to work with Tiffany on the County audit prep and month end balancing.
- Worked on some ditch splits for the County.

Eric Stahl: Coordinator

- Waiting on MS4front for 1W1P. HEI is just finishing some final touches.
- Went on a site visit with Quintin Peterson LQP SWCD, & Chris Domeir, DNR Fishiers to the Florida Creek restoration project. We have worked with the landowners to obtain the approved easement agreements. Currently the North part of the project is not going to happen due to some landowner concerns. We are going to continue moving forward with the South part of the project which means the majority of the project will be on DNR and USFWS land.
- Helped fill out drainage work orders and WS permits with landowners in the office.

WCA: Eric Stahl

- Attended TEP Academy and Hydric Soils classes this month. I was able to get my hands dirty in Hydric soils. I also learned a little more on the enforcement side of WCA in the Tep Academy.
- Reviewed 16 permits for WCA compliance.
- Helping Jared put together a joint application for a clean out on County Ditch #8.

Environmental/HHW Specialist: Jennifer Schuelke

- Attended the SWAA Winter Training on March 5th & 6th and the RAM/SWANA annual conference on the April 2nd & 3^d. Both conferences were informative.
- I spoke about the recycling programs at the Kiwanis meeting on March 19th, 2024.
- Attended the annual HHW meeting on March 20th.
- Working on info for the C&D Landfill tip fees and issues in response to an email from Commissioner Patzer.
- Started a non-rechargeable battery collection on March 15, 2024 and the first collection box is almost full.
- The paper shredding event held on April 20th was a huge success. We collected 8,240 lbs (4.12 tons). There were 80 vehicles that came through the line.
- Working with the County on lowering the prices on some types of tires and to eliminate the cost to recycle all bulbs.
- The Special Item Collection will start on Saturday, May 11th, 2024 and run the 2nd Saturday's of the month through October.
- The HHW collection is set for Wednesday, May 15, 2024.
- CLIMB Theatre will be presenting the environmentally based plays on May 10th at for grades K-2 at Stevens Elementary in Dawson in the a.m. and the MMN elementary in the p.m.
- Working on the questions for the Solid Waste 10-year plan which has been a lot of work. The SW region SWA group has been meeting monthly to work on the questions together.

Environmental Feedlot/Planning & Zoning/SSTS Specialist: Abby VanKempen

- Visited a landowners hog site and submitted a permit application to the state to expand his manure lagoon. Open air manure storage areas were banned from 2002-2022.
- Went on a septic inspection last week outside of Bellingham.
- Had three Conditional Use Permit renewals for Mark's Sand and Gravel to continue their gravel/rock/mining operation in Agassiz Township. This will go before the County board for final approval next week.
- AMC came out with a Cannabis Zoning Manual – meeting with District D about it later this month to discuss.
- We were notified of early steps of a wind energy system coming to the southwest part of the county. This would be a 250 MW system permitted by the Public Utilities Commission.
- Working with the SWCD for the Green Earth Clean Earth 5K – originally scheduled for last Sunday, but postponed until this Sunday (May 5th) due to the weather.
- Worked with SWCD to apply for a well grant. We recently found out we were denied.

OTHERS: Luke Olson with BWSR met with the Board to introduce himself. He is our new regional BWSR contact. He explained that ecological programs are ramping up with some good CRP incentives. There is an enhancement grant we could apply for that focuses more on easements – non-traditional areas of County parks, back 40's of schools, bike trails, boy scout camp etc. The minimum ask is \$50,000 with a 10% match required. Discussed the Water quality storage grant. CRP initiatives are at the beginning of fiscal '25 so probably sometime in July. Luke explained there are tons of opportunities coming up and if the Watershed wanted to apply for any grants he could help get us started.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Manager Jon Olson read the Treasurer's report.

Manager Mike Knutson motioned to accept the Treasurers' report as read, seconded by Manager David Craigmile. Upon vote, motion passed 4-0.

The following warrants were presented for approval:

		Number	Vendor	Details 04/04/2024 to 05/01/2024		
General Klein Account:						
6602	LQP-YB UPB General Acct		admin hours for Trudy & Eric	1WIP	\$3,571.53	
6603	Yellow Medicine SWCD		1 st quarter technical & admin	1WIP	\$2,837.64	
6604	LQP SWCD		1 st quarter technical & admin	1WIP	\$14,708.53	
					TOTAL	\$21,117.70
Park Expense Account:						
1787	Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative		park electricity		\$689.50	
1788	LQP Environmental Office		park cell phone		\$41.24	
1789	Running's Supply		park supplies		\$360.50	
1790	Ag Plus Cooperative		fuel		\$703.55	
1791	Canby Builders Supply		concrete mix		\$108.21	
1792	Running's Supply Inc		bleach, odor absorbers, vanish, cleaner		\$82.22	
1793	Jim's Market		paper towels, charmin		\$1,041.12	
1794	Midcontinent Communications		park internet		\$60.00	
1795	Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water		park water		\$88.84	
1796	Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative		park electricity		\$574.89	
1797	Canby True Value		April expenses		\$126.44	
					TOTAL	\$3,876.51
UPB GENERAL ACCT:						
4751	Ag Tech Drainage		final CD #42 improvement payment		\$15,755.61	
4752	LQP-YB Liability Acct		PERA		\$2,038.19	
4753	LQP-YB Liability Acct		Federal withholding		\$2,959.08	
24061-24066	semi-monthly payroll		April 1-15 payroll		\$9,905.69	
24067	Andrew Weber		per diem, mileage		\$281.20	
24068	John Cornell		per diem, mileage		\$161.67	
24069	David Craigmile		per diem, mileage		\$252.88	
24070	Michael Knutson		per diem, mileage		\$226.75	
24071	Jon Olson		per diem, mileage		\$124.81	
4754	Ag Tech Drainage LLC		camera footage for CD #42 improvement		\$9,200.00	
4755	Eric Asche		23 nuisance beaver bounty		\$575.00	
4756	Minnesota UI Fund		quarter 1 unemployment		\$2,454.00	
4757	Madison Auto Parts		roxor leak parts		\$99.00	
4758	Lac qui Parle Coop Oil Company		gas		\$56.99	
4759	Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law		monthly retainer		\$200.00	
4760	Donn Streich		damage payment CD #42 improvement		\$3,561.60	
4761	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency		SSTS loan repayments		\$82,550.34	
4762	Quill Corporation		paper, staple remover, highlighters		\$147.34	

4763	City of Madison	shop utilities	\$124.97
4764	Eric Stahl	mileage reimbursement, chest waders	\$257.71
4765	LQP-YB Liability Acct	Federal withholding	\$3,585.60
4766	LQP-YB Liability Acct	State withholding	\$1,010.00
4767	LQP County Auditor Treasurer	health insurance	\$12,510.67
4768	LQP County Auditor Treasurer	dental, eye, life	\$1,527.99
24072-24077	semi-monthly payroll	April 16-31	\$9,905.68
24078-24081	park payroll	April park payroll	\$2,850.12
4769	LQP-YB Liability	monthly & semi-monthly Pera	\$2,591.60
4770	LQP-YB Liability Acct	April sales & use tax	\$1,019.64
		TOTAL	\$165,934.13
Debit Card			
	Lighthouse	special collection invoices	\$173.12
	Instant Ink	ink	\$14.95
		TOTAL	\$188.07
<u>DITCH ACCT</u>			
	None		\$0.00
		TOTAL	\$0.00

Manager Mike Knutson motioned to approve the warrants as presented, seconded by Manager Jon Olson. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 4-0.

SECRETARY REPORT: Secretary minutes #650 and special meeting minutes #650.1 as mailed.

Manager David Craigmile motioned to approve minutes #650 and special meeting minutes #650.1 as mailed, seconded by Manager Jon Olson. Upon vote, motion passed 4-0.

Administrator Report/Old & New Business: Trudy Hastad

- Damage payment letters requesting a W-9 were sent to the affected landowners after the CD #42 Improvement final hearing. Final payment was sent to Ag Tech Drainage. Had a few questions regarding insurance from the landowners.
- We are still waiting on the quote for the shop doors.
- We are looking at doing the annual canoe trip on Friday, June 14, 2024 if the water is high enough. The Board was ok with that.
- Got an email that Tyler Knutson from YM SWCD has accepted a new position with BWSR.
- Had the final hearings for 27 ditches for redetermination of benefits, which has taken a lot of time this month.
- Office staff all helped with the Paper shredding event on Saturday, April 20th. As Jen reported, it was a huge success and we were kept really busy.
- Attended the monthly department head meeting, drainage committee meeting, Conditional use hearings for Mark's Sand & Gravel, the ROB ditch hearings, & final hearing for CD #42 improvement.

PERMITS:

14092 Renew	Eldon Haas	Mehurin, 35	seepage lines, intakes	05/01/24 JO
14093	Sydney Johnson	Madison, 28	clean out private ditch	05/01/24 JO
14094	Greg Brown	Ten Mile Lake, 10	seepage lines, intake	05/01/24 DC
14095	Jerome Schuelke	Baxter, 33	seepage lines	05/01/24 DC
14096	Loran Haas	Florida, 8	main tile, seepage, intake	05/01/24 MK
14097	Josh Peterson	OshKosh, 20	seepage lines	05/01/24 MK
14098	Roger Bliss	OshKosh, 8	main tile, seepage	05/01/24 MK
14099	Mike Knutson	Hammer, 30	main tile, seepage	05/01/24 AW
14100	Tyson Weber	Hammer, 18	main tile	05/01/24 AW
14101	Mike Knutson	Hammer, 18	main tile, seepage	05/01/24 AW
14102 renew	Craig Kanstrup	Augusta, 26	seepage lines	05/01/24 AW
14103 Renew	Steven Schmidt	Augusta, 16	seepage, intake, lift pump	05/01/24 AW
14104 Renew	Steven Schmidt	Augusta, 16	main tile, outlet	05/01/24 AW
14105	Keith Hoffman	Perry, 7	seepage line, intake	05/01/24 AW
14106	Reid Wildung	Walter, 20	seepage lines, intake	05/01/24 AW

14107
14108 renew

Arvin Mueller
Mary Whitehead

Yellow Bank, 33
Augusta, 35

seepage, main tile, intake 05/01/24 AW
cattle pond 05/01/24 AW

Permits Denied: None

Manager David Craigmile motioned to approve the permits, seconded by Manager Mike Knutson. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.



Andrew Weber, Chairman

Attest:


David Craigmile, Secretary

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District is Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the LQP County Commissioner Room, Courthouse, Madison, MN.