

2016 Annual PROGRESS REPORT

LAC QUI PARLE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**122 - 8th Avenue South
Madison, Minnesota 56256**

**PERIOD COVERED
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016**

I. Introduction

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District was organized April 19, 1950. The District is a political subdivision of the State. LqP SWCD is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors elected by the voters of the County. The Board sets policy, hires employees, and is responsible to see that the operations of the District are run effectively and according to law and rule.

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District's vision is ***Lac qui Parle's natural resources wisely managed to provide a healthy environment for life.*** The vision encompasses not only the natural environment but also the economic environment for the people of Lac qui Parle County.

The mission of the Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of local land users to help them protect Lac qui Parle's natural resources.

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors have adopted the Lac qui Parle County Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan as the District's long-range plan. Goals and Objectives as defined in the Lac qui Parle County Water Management Plan are:

Goal 1: Protect and improve surface water quality by reducing priority pollutants

- A. TMDL Implementation
- B. Reduce or minimize the negative impacts of animal manure and fertilizers on surface water quality
- C. SSTS – work with landowners on proper installation and maintenance
- D. Erosion and sediment control to protect the County's long-term soil resources and surface water quality

Goal 2: Groundwater quality & quantity – protect the County's aquifers

- A. Implement best management practices in Wellhead Protection Areas
- B. Ensure there is an adequate supply of safe drinking water
- C. Implement best management practices to protect the quantity of groundwater

Goal 3: Effectively manage surface water resources

- A. Ensure that surface water resources are managed properly for multiple uses and flood damages are minimized

Goal 4: To effectively administer the Lac qui Parle Water Plan

- A. Engage citizens and stakeholders on key water planning issues and implementation opportunities

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to provide guidance to supervisors and staff to efficiently carry out annual objectives. Goals, objectives and actions for the current year are taken from the Lac qui Parle County Local Water Management Plan 2014 – 2018, with additional activities identified by the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. The additional goals identified for 2016 are:

Goal 5: Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District Administration

Goal 6: Promote Quality and Quantity of Conservation Tree Plantings

Goal 7: Special Project and Grant Administration.....

Effectively Deliver the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, the Riparian Protection & Water Quality Protection Act (Buffer Law), the Soil Loss Legislation, and the District Capacity Grant

The Biennial Budget Request replaces annual plan review and approval by BWSR, as stated in the FY 2014-2015 Biennial Budget Request Policy:

“Local governments that are eligible to receive formula-based grants (counties and soil and water conservation districts) will need to complete, at a minimum, the Program and Operations Grant component of the BBR to ensure eligibility to receive the funds. Failure to submit the Program and Operations Grant component of the BBR requires the county or SWCD to petition their BWSR Board Conservationist to be reinstated, for cause.”

This annual plan of work outlines educational methods, conservation practice application and projected expenses and income needs for the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District, and will be posted to the LqP SWCD website. This Annual Plan needs a degree of flexibility to allow the District to use what resources become available to meet the needs of our local resource users as changing needs arise.

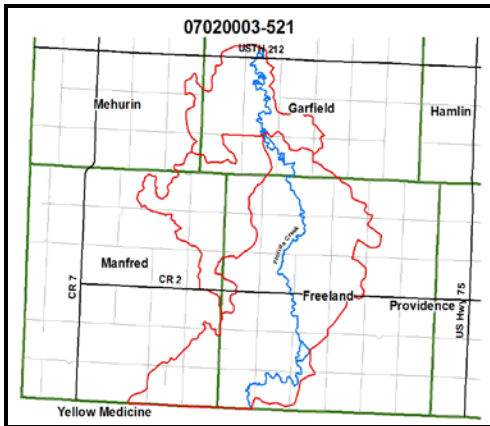
Administration of the LqP Comprehensive Local Water Plan is the responsibility of the SWCD, but the LqP CLWP 2016 Plan of Work, with action items taken from the Comprehensive Water Management Plan, is written as a separate document approved by the 2016 LqP Resource Commission.

The Soil and Water Conservation District will provide services in a non-discriminatory manner.

II. Goals, Objectives, Strategy and Actions

The actions listed below have been taken from the Lac qui Parle County Local Water Management Plan 2014 – 2018 to achieve that plan’s identified objectives and strategies, as well as actions identified by the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors to achieve additional SWCD objectives. The Goals and Strategies for each action are identified by the outline numbers used in the Water Plan with a map showing the targeted watershed. The additional, SWCD identified Goals are numbered as listed in the preceding introduction. (Refer to the Lac qui Parle County Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan for the full scope of action items planned for the County.) The SWCD will partner with other local entities to accomplish other action items.

GOALS 1 - 4: BMP Implementation



- Work with 2 producers to adopt no-till or strip till (1.A.4.a.)
- 5 producers adjust tillage to increase residue by 10-15% (1.A.4.a.)
- Install 2 water and sediment control basins (1.A.4.b.)
- Promote the use of drainage management BMPs such as restore/create wetlands, saturated buffers, biofilters, etc. – 1 producer install 1 practice from BMP list (1.A.4.b.)

Office displays: Yellow plastic “straw” alternative intake
Control structure model

Radio - control drainage/alternative intakes – 10/12

- Work with landowners to preserve/enhance native vegetation. (1.A.4.b.)
CRP.....

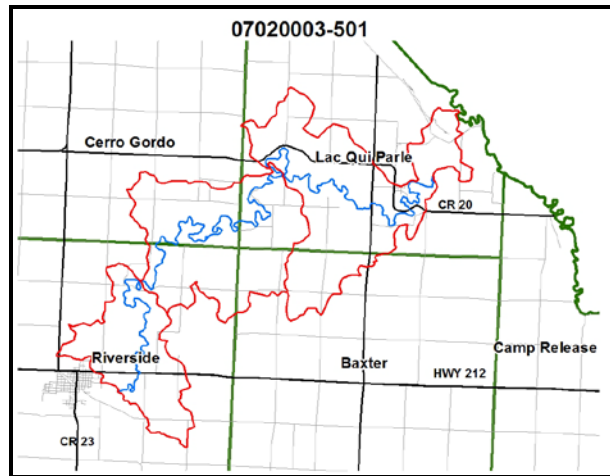


- Work with 2 producers to adopt no-till or strip till (1.A.4.a.)
- 5 producers adjust tillage to increase residue by 10-15% (1.A.4.a.)
- Install 2 water and sediment control basins (1.A.4.b.)
- Promote the use of drainage management BMPs such as restore/create wetlands, saturated buffers, biofilters, etc. – 1 producer install 1 practice from BMP list (1.A.4.b.)

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- Work with landowners to preserve/enhance native vegetation. (1.A.4.b.)
1 site visit with landowner – buffers
1 buffer mapping
CRP.....

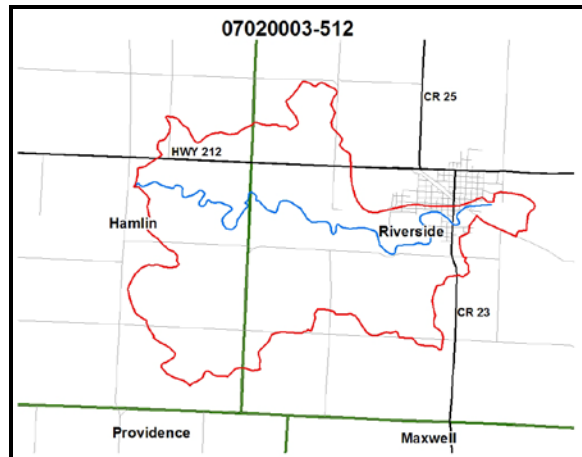


- Work with 2 producers to adopt no-till or strip till (1.D.2.a.) (1.A.2.b.)
- 6 producers adjust tillage to increase residue by 10-15% (1.D.2.a.) (1.A.2.b.)
- Install 3 grade control structures (1.D.2.b.)
- Install 2 water and sediment control basins (1.A.2.c.)
- Work with 1 landowners to preserve/enhance native vegetation along stream corridor. (1.A.2.a.)

On site buffer assistance for 6 landowners
 8.48 acres planted for 3 landowners

Office displays: Yellow plastic "straw" alternative intake
 Control structure model

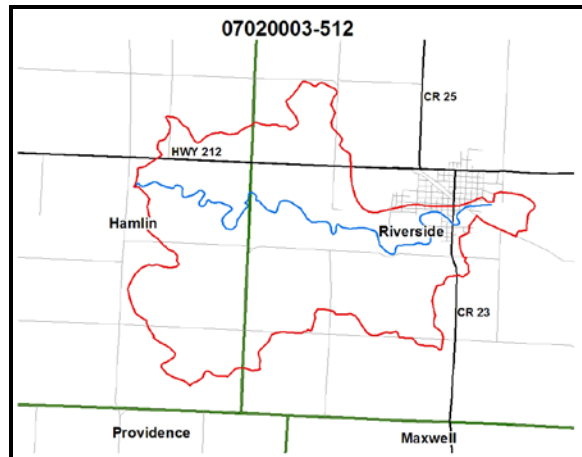
Radio - control drainage/alternative intakes - 10/12
 1 producer assisted in CG 34



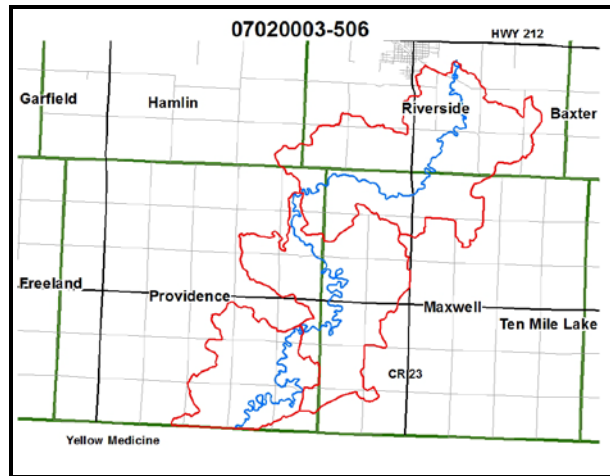
- Install 2 water and sediment control basins (1.A.6.a.)
- Install 1 terrace (1.A.6.a.)
- Promote the use of drainage management BMPs such as restore/create wetlands, saturated buffers, biofilters, etc. – 1 producer install 1 practice from BMP list (1.A.6.a.)

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Control structure model

Radio - control drainage/alternative intakes – 10/12



- 1 producer adjust tillage to increase residue by 10-15% (1.D.4.a.)
- Install 1 grass waterway (1.D.4.b.)
- Install 3 water and sediment control basins (1.D.4.b.)

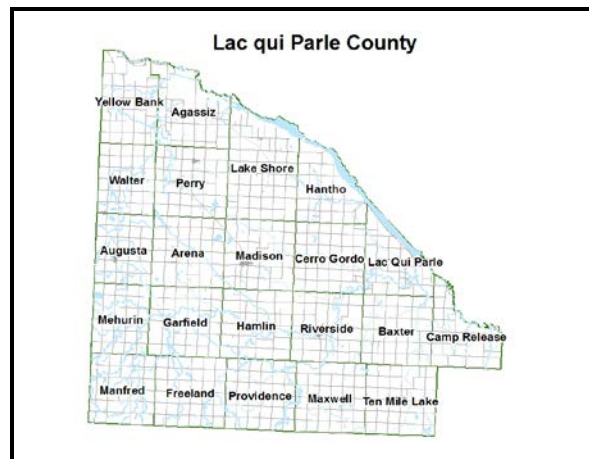


- Work with 2 producers to adopt no-till or strip till (1.A.1.a.)
- 5 producers adjust tillage to increase residue by 10-15% (1.A.1.a.)
- Install 3 water and sediment control basins (1.A.1.b.)
- Promote the use of drainage management BMPs such as restore/create wetlands, saturated buffers, biofilters, etc. – 2 producers install 1 practice from BMP list (1.A.1.b.)

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Radio - control drainage/alternative intakes – 10/12

- Work with landowners to preserve/enhance native vegetation. (1.A.1.c.)
Buffer mapping assistance for 4 landowners
7.3 acres planted for 2 landowners



COUNTYWIDE

- Ensure adequate administrative & technical staff to deliver SWCD, watershed, & other LGU BMP programs, ensuring Water Plan goals & objectives are effectively implemented. (1.D.6.)

County awarded requested '16 funds

8/2 presented '17 budget request to County Commissioners

With Clean Water Fund District Capacity Grant, hired a Resource Technician and Communication Specialist in addition to maintaining existing staff.

BBR prepared/submitted 4/15

Farm Bill grant submitted May

December grant application for Conservation Corps apprentice, summer 2017

- Maintain the County Water Plan Coordinator position. (4.I.1.a.)
NRBG grant & local match fund coordinator position
- Provide training to increase knowledge and skills (4.I.1.d.)
see "Additional Goals 5-7"
- Prepare required plans and reports (4.I.1.e.)
Met requirements and deadlines
- Make resource person available; seek funding for additional staff (1.D.11.a.)

Resource Technician hired March 2016 with Clean Water Fund District Capacity Grant

- Secure funding to provide technical assistance for installation of BMPs.
Fund one technical staff (2.F.1.a.)

Resource Technician hired March 2016 with Clean Water Fund District Capacity Grant

- Work with producers and provide technical & engineering assistance through SWCD & TSA to properly address waste management issues. (1.B.1.e.)

No requests

- Provide technical & financial assistance to landowners through RIM, WRP, RIM/WRP, CRP, USFWS & DNR programs, Wetland Banking and Ag Wetland Banking. (3.H.3. i.)
 - No RIM or WRP enrollment periods offered
 - Assisted CWP with 2 wetland banks
- Assist implementation of MN Prairie Plan. Promote, assist landowners with program options. (3.H.3.a.iii.)
 - No projects in LqP through Working Lands
 - Helped rank projects – other counties scored higher
 - Assisted 1 producer
- Promote BMPs as identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan to provide benefits for both water quality and prairie ecosystems. (1.D.11.i.)
 - 7 requests for burning information
 - 3 requests for vegetative management information
 - 4 haying plans – RIM
 - 10 food plot additions to RIM
- Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners for implementation of wind & water erosion control BMPs (3.H.2.a.)
 - Assisted 3 producers
- Water & sediment control basins – install 5 per year (3.H.2.a.i.)
 - Installed 2 - 638s
- Terraces – install 1 per year (3.H.2.a.ii.)
- Work with 2 producers to apply for EQIP cover crop initiative (1.D.9.c.) (2.F.1.d.ii.) (3.H.2.a.ix.)
 - Assisted 3 producers
- 1 producer adopt no till or strip till through programs i.e. EQIP (1.D.9.d.)
 - Assisted 1 producers
- 1 producer increase residue by 10-15% (1.D.9.e.)
 - Assisted 1 producers
- Residue management – apply to 500 acres per year (3.H.2.a.iii.)
- Target marginal land to promote grassland programs i.e. CRP, RIM, CREP (1.D.9.g.)

- Long term vegetation including filter strips (CRP, CCRP, CREP, RIM) – install 25 acres per year; 100 acres per year in floodplains (3.H.2.a.iv.)

No RIM or CREP programs available in 2016

348.27 acres CRP installed

- Continue the SWCD no-till drill program (1.D.9.f.)

Expanded to include planting service, hired part time driver

Seeded 358 acres including several fall dormant seedings

- Field windbreaks – establish 1 every other year (3.H.2.a.v.)

1 installed

- Farmstead shelterbelts – install 5 per year (3.H.2.a.vi.)

10 installed

- Wildlife plantings – establish 1 per year (3.H.2.a.vii.)

- Living snowfence – install 1 per year (3.H.2.a.viii.)

- Continue fabric mulch program for SWCD conservation tree plantings. (1.D.7.)

7948 feet installed

- Target BMP application using tools such as Digital Elevation Model data and Terrain Analysis, Stream Power Index signatures, EBI, BWSR Ecological Ranking Tool website, MPCA Nitrates in Surface Waters Study, and others as they become available. (1.D.8.)

Modeled 10 watersheds in LqP & 3 in Yellow Medicine

(will continue modeling in 2017)

Seth referenced MPCA Nitrates in Surface Waters Study while assisting producer

- Use LIDAR or innovative technologies as they become available to target BMPs to the most critical landscapes. (4.I.3.d.)

Buffer mapping

Placement of erosion control practices

Modeling watershed with ACPF

- Promote the use of drainage management BMPs such as restore/create wetlands, saturated buffers, biofilters, etc. – 1 producer install 1 practice from BMP list (1.D.10.)

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- Hold more water on the landscape with wetland protection/ restoration, retention structures, grass plantings, etc., using available federal, state, and/or local programs - Target one (1) subwatershed annually. (2.G.2.b.)

Assisted WCA LGU with 2 wetland banking applications

- Long term vegetation including filter strips (CRP, CCRP, CREP, RIM) install 25 acres per year(3.H.2.A.) COMBINED WITH BULLET BELOW & APPEARS ON PREVIOUS PAGE
- Promote use of saturated buffers – install on 2 sites (3.H.1.a.) (3.H.3.b)

Worked with 1 producer; current CRP rules wouldn’t allow installation

- Install long term vegetation (CRP, CCRP, CREP, RIM) in floodplains – 100 acres per year (3.H.4.a.iii.) COMBINED WITH PREVIOUS BULLET & APPEARS ON PREVIOUS PAGE
- Target buffer programs where needed but don’t exist; 3-4 producers adopt (1.D.9.h.)

Buffer law implementation

Site visits to 8 additional landowners not in specified target watersheds

- Increase number of stream miles protected by riparian buffers – 1 mile per year (3.H.4.a.ii.)

Buffer law implementation

30 miles planted

- Promote application of BMPs that reduce potential impact of pesticides and other chemicals as well as nutrients. (1.D.11.g.)

9/21, 10/5, 10/19 Radio

- Administer MN Department of Ag low interest loan program (1.D.5.)

Applications processed: 1 conservation tillage equipment

5 well seal & replacement

- Provide low interest loans to upgrade noncompliant systems. (1.C.2.b.)

No applications, 2 inquiries referred to County program

- Work with MN Geological Survey to create hydrogeologic atlas (2.F.2.a.)
Preliminary activity, technical staff has begun documenting well locations
- Participate in groundwater studies (2.F.3.b.)
- Sponsor campaign to test private well water for nitrates, fecal, or other contaminant of concern. Secure funding to offer financial assistance to landowners for use of certified lab testing. (2.F.3.d.)

Radio 8/10, 9/21 - test well water

County Fair booth 9/8-11 – AIS & water quality information

- Monitor 7 DNR observation well test sites. (2.G.1.a.)

Increased to 10 sites; met DNR monitor requirements

- Participate in the MN Department of Climatology Rainfall Monitoring program. (3.H.2.b.)

Monthly data received from 9 monitors

- Assist MPCA comprehensive monitoring efforts as part of the watershed approach. (4.I.3.a.)

No assistance requested

- Assist in development of priorities and implementation strategies. (4.I.3.b.)

YM 1W1P

2/10

3/3

3/23

4/19

4/26

5/11

7/6

TEAM & LqP WRAPS

2/29

11/15

Upper MN WRAPS

3/22

4/26

5/19

9/27

5/17 present draft Yellow Medicine 1W1P to County Commissioners

6/14 convene Resource Commission local work group

7/26 LqP Buffer Task Force

12/3 agreed to assist Yellow Medicine SWCD through hiring process

- Provide financial and/or technical assistance to partners. (4.I.3.c.)

Participated on WCA TEP

Provided maps and field assistance to WCA LGU

YM 1W1P

1/21

2/24

- Participate in local work group and other partner meetings. (4.I.3.e.)

FAC

3/16

6/15

9/14

12/14

SW Prairie TSA

6/29

Local Government Water

Roundtable

8/29

Area V meeting

2/18

11/17

Resource Commission

3/24

GOALS 1 - 4: Education/Outreach Actions

- 1 article in each SWCD newsletter promoting BMPs (1.A.1.f.) (1.A.2.f.) (1.A.4.f.) (1.A.5.e.) (1.D.1.c.) (1.D.2.c.) (1.D.3.b.) INCLUDE SD DATA (1.A.3.d.)

February newsletter

- 4 radio programs per year promoting BMPs (1.A.1.f.) (1.A.2.f.) (1.A.3.d.) (1.A.4.f.) (1.A.5.e.) (1.D.1.c.) (1.D.2.c.) (1.D.3.b.)

6/22 EQIP/buffer 7/20 buffer 8/24 buffers, trees
8/31 buffers 10/12 controlled drainage

- 1 workshop/field day/demonstration site promoting BMPs (1.A.1.f.) (1.A.4.f.) (1.A.5.e.) (1.D.1.c.) (1.D.2.c.) (1.D.3.b.)

1/12 & 8/30 Buffer information meetings, Bellingham & Dawson

- 1 workshop/field day/demonstration site promoting cover crop in flood plain (1.A.2.f.)

Worked with producer to hold cover crop field day on farm; finally declined because he didn't think his results were successful to show others.

- 1 activity per year to promote BMPs in west branch of LqP River [newsletter, news release, radio, workshop, booth/display, etc.] (1.D.4.d.) in critical areas of the landscape (3.H.2.c.ii.)

- Use one-to-one contacts in target areas to promote program availability & BMP adoption (1.A.1.f.) (1.A.2.f.) (1.A.3.d.) (1.A.4.f.) (1.A.5.e.) (1.D.1.c.) (1.D.2.c.) (1.D.4.d.) [watershed 501, 521, 516, 511, segment LpP River not in TMDL: buffers, program availability & BMP adoption]

Promoted additional activities when producers were in office

Staff spoke at corn/soybean producers meeting 2/11

- Promote soil health BMPs quarterly using print or electronic media (1.D.11.h.)

1/13 CSP 3/16 grass seeding service 6/29 EQIP

- Provide youth activities including classroom, field days, tours, competitions – 10 activities annually (1.d.11.j.)

Registrations sent to schools for 11 county Environmental Fair, no participants; staff assist 9/28
2 committee meetings planning for 2017

Contacted LqPV HS teacher offering to partner on youth activity in April, no followup from teacher
AIS @ LqPV Community Ed youth fishing class 4/11

Canby FFA office visit 5/4

5th Grade Field Day @ LqP State Park, partner with Chippewa SWCD

Dawson-Boyd Science class canoe trip 6/3

Plans begun to partner with LqPV YES on a water activity 12/20

- Assist with civic engagement activities (4.I.3.f.)

Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan public hearing, Minneota, 8-1-16

Township Officials meeting, correct word of mouth buffer information, 3-21-16

MN River Valley Education District teacher workshop WILD Aquatic 1/18, cancelled

Additional SWCD GOALS 5 - 7

- Fund necessary staff to maintain District capacity and provide effective administration (5)

With Clean Water Fund District Capacity Grant, hired a Resource Technician
and Communication Specialist in addition to maintaining existing staff.

BBR prepared/submitted 4/15

Farm Bill grant submitted May

December grant application for Conservation Corps apprentice, summer 2017

- Provide for effective District operation with training for supervisors, regular monthly meetings, supervisor review of policies and memorandums of understanding, and development of annual budget, work plan, annual reports. (5)

12 monthly meetings held in 2016

Signed MOUs reviewed Board meetings – see agendas

2016 Annual Plan reviewed by Plan Committee 2-22-16; approved at March board meeting

Budget Committee prepared 2016 Budget 7-21-16

District Policy changes sent to supervisors prior to approval at March board meeting

District Policy/State Cost Share Policy changes discussed at August board meeting
& approved at September board meeting

Employee policy update sent in October to all supervisors;

changes discussed/approved at December board meeting

- Provide training to increase the staff's capabilities in engineering, computer, program administration, and related skills. (5)

BWSR grants, Sheri 1/6

AIS, Michelle 1/15

DNR buffer webinar, Michelle 1/20

AgWQC, Michelle 2/17

Nitrate management, Seth 3/7

Geologic Atlas, Michelle & Seth 3/8

Drainage Water Quality, Seth/Michelle 3/9

Conservation Planning, Michelle 3/13

Conservation Planning, Seth 4/15

New Staff Orientation, Michelle & Seth 6/6

Buffers, Michelle & Seth 6/14

Cost Share policy change, Seth 7/12

Record Retention, Sheri 9/7

Wetland Delineation, Michelle 9/12-16

Buffer Science, Seth 9/16

Toolkit, Michelle & Seth 9/19-20

Terrain analysis, Seth & Michelle 9/27

AIS, Michelle 10/5-6

Human Resources, Terry 10/12-13

Conservation Planning (ntl NRCS), Seth 10/17-11/4

BWSR Academy, Sheri & Michelle 10/24-26

CNMP, Seth & Michelle 11/10

State Convention, Sheri & Michelle 12/4-6

eLink, Sheri 12/7

- The LqP SWCD will annually conduct staff evaluations and update job descriptions if appropriate. (5)

6 month & annual evaluations for new staff

Staff meetings: 1/19, 4/6, 5/23, 6/22, 8/29

- Secure and administer funding for best management practice application/installation (5)

AgBMP Low Interest Loan Program \$659,339

State Cost Share FY16 \$20,521

EQIP

CSP

- Increase public understanding of "Who We Are and What We Do" (5)

Featured on Compass program, PBS 10, as expert on soil erosion impact on water quality 2/16

Supervisor attended Legislative Day at the Capitol 3/21

Open House held March 17

Supervisor elections news – 10/27

Served on Farmfest plan committee, staff booth

November - Thank-you campaign – cards sent to everyone working with us this past year

Outstanding Conservationist local recognition event and related promotion

Affiliate Program

Adopt a Hiway - 4/14

- Supervisors and staff will review plan progress quarterly. (5)
Progress discussed at staff meetings
Program area accomplishments reviewed at every board meeting
- Raise public awareness of the benefits of species diversity and native species in tree plantings (6)
Discussed with each landowner in the course of ordering trees
Info at tree pick up day 4/28
- Distribute native species tree or shrub to all kindergarten students in Lac qui Parle County schools including native species information to share with parents (6)
75 Jack Pine distributed in May
- Raise public awareness of the effectiveness of quality tree plantings (energy savings, living snow fence, etc.) through the use of electronic means, radio, newspapers, or demonstrations (6)
News release: 1/13, 4/20 Radio: 4/20, 4/27, 8/24
- Maintain District capacity to effectively administer, implement, and report Clean Water Fund and other Special Project and Fund Grants including but not limited to the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, the Riparian Protection & Water Quality Protection Act (Buffer Law), the Soil Loss Legislation, the Ag Water Quality Incentive Program, and the District Capacity Grant (7)

BUFFER LAW

Successful grant application/administration (see BWSR reports)

Resource Technician hired to share administration of buffer law including soil loss

AG WATER QUALITY INCENTIVE

District Technician assists regional staff with promotion; accommodates meetings with landowners in local office; attend training

DISTRICT CAPACITY

Successful grant application/administration (see BWSR reports)

Resource Technician and Communication Specialist hired to increase District services

Lease tractor & hire driver to expand grass drill rental program to a planting service

Computers, UTV, and miscellaneous equipment purchased, critical to program administration

AIS

Successful grant application/administration (see Activity report)

III. Budget Requirements

FUNDS NEEDED TO INSTALL PRACTICES TO CONTROL HIGH PRIORITY EROSION PROBLEMS

(January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016)

Total Anticipated Allocation	<u>\$ 20,521</u>
Administrative and Technical Allowance	4,106
Amount for Cost-Share Work	16,417
To be spent as follows:	
Engineered Practices	16,417

Administrative and Technical Allowance will be determined by individual staff hourly billing rates, but may not exceed 25% of the Erosion Control and Water Management Program funds.

The major additional funding for engineered best management practices is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The SWCD will use some of its cost-share dollars to supplement EQIP cost-share to equal no more than 75% of eligible costs.

The Conservation Reserve Program, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, and EQIP can provide funding for additional best management practice applications such as grassed waterways, buffers, tree establishment, and nutrient management plans. RIM/WRE provides funds for wetland restoration. Other state and federal programs including the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, the Grazing Lands Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the MN Department of Ag Best Management Practices Loan Program, and the Vegetative Management & Enhancement of Conservation Easement Lands program are more limited but also provide funds to assist landowners with best management practices that protect their natural resources.

Technical representation for the state Erosion Control and Water Management Program in Lac qui Parle County has been delegated to Natural Resource Conservation Service Area Support Office and the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area Joint Powers engineering staff. Local SWCD and NRCS technical staff are currently in training. The District Technician and Resource Technician are designated as technical representative on vegetative plantings with NRCS approval.

IV. Cost-Share Program Requirements

The District will continue to focus on high priority erosion and sedimentation problems in 2016 and will supplement the EQIP program on engineered practices. The following information is from the County Water Management Plan.

For administration of the State Cost-Share Program by the Lac qui Parle County Soil and Water Conservation District the following definitions apply:

High Priority Erosion Problems – “High priority erosion problems” means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring equal to, or in excess of, 2 x T tons per acre per year or is occurring on any area that exhibits active gully erosion or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan.

(“T” value, or soil loss tolerance, assigned to each soil map unit, is the average annual erosion rate (tons/acre/year) that will permit a high level of crop productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely. While T varies from soil type to soil type, the average T value for Lac qui Parle soils is 5 tons per acre. (A regular sized pickup truck can hold about 1 – 2 tons, and an acre is about the size of a football field.)

High Priority Water Quality Problems – “High priority water quality problems” means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to any high priority waters as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan, or discharge to a sinkhole or groundwater. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.

Water Erosion - Average tolerable soil loss for the County is three to five tons per acre per year. Water erosion in Lac qui Parle County generally occurs the most between the months of April and June, when fields have been tilled and planted, but a crop canopy has not developed to protect the surface. The USDA developed the Universal Soil Loss Equation (now replaced by RUSLE) to effectively predict the average rate of soil loss by sheet and rill erosion in tons per acre per year. One of the six factors used in the equation, erosion factor K, indicates the susceptibility of a soil to sheet and rill erosion. Values of K range from 0.02 to 0.69. The higher the value, the more susceptible the soil is to sheet and rill erosion. Map 2I identifies the water erosion prone Lac qui Parle County soil associations that have K factors equal to or greater than 0.28.

Wind Erosion - Soils with fine granulated structure are most susceptible to erosion, including sandy loam, loamy sand and sand. November through June is the worst time for wind erosion, when field surfaces are normally dry and strong northwest winds are prevalent.

What areas of the county are considered high priority?

- Riparian areas, for both remediation and protection purposes
- Western portion of the county where there is a significant change in elevation

MPCA's 303d List of Impaired Waters for Lac qui Parle County (2012)

Impaired Water	Impaired ID#	HUC #	Impaired Uses*	Impairment Cause	Status
Florida Creek: MN/SD border to West Branch Lac qui Parle River	07020003-521	07020003	- Aq Life - Aq Rec	Fish Bioassess** Fecal Coliform Turbidity	TMDL Required TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle River, West Branch : Lost Cr to Florida Creek	07020003-516	07020003	- Aq Cons - Aq Rec - Aq Life	Mercury in Fish Fecal Coliform Turbidity	TMDL Approved TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle River, West Branch: Florida Creek to Unnamed Creek	07020003-515	07020003	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle River, West Branch: MN/SD border to Lost Creek	07020001-519	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle River, West Branch: Unnamed creek to unnamed ditch	07020003-512	07020003	- Aq Cons - Aq Rec	Mercury in Fish Fecal Coliform	TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle River: Lazarus Creek (Canby Cr.) to W. Branch LqP River	07020003-506	07020003	- Aq Rec - Aq Life	Fecal Coliform Turbidity	TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle River: West Branch Lac qui Parle River to Tenmile Creek	07020003-501	07020003	- Aq Life - Aq Rec	Dissolved Ox., Turbidity Fecal Coliform	TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Lazarus Creek (Canby Creek): Canby Creek to Lac qui Parle River	07020001-508	07020001	- Aq Life - Aq Rec	Turbidity Fecal Coliform	TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Minnesota River: Lac qui Parle dam to Chippewa River	07020004-688	07020004	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Minnesota River: Lac qui Parle Lake below Emily Creek	07020001-517	07020001	- Aq Life	Ammonia (Un-ionized)	TMDL Required
Minnesota River: Lac qui Parle Lake to Lac qui Parle River	07020001-502	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Minnesota River: Lac qui Parle R to Lac qui Parle Dam	07020001-550	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Minnesota River: Marsh Lake to Lac qui Parle Lake	07020001-516	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Minnesota River: Whetstone R to Yellow Bank River	07020001-503	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Minnesota River: Yellow Bank River to Marsh Lake	07020001-511	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
North Fork Yellow Bank River from MN/SD Border to Yellow Bank River	07020001-510	07020001	- Aq Rec	Fecal Coliform	TMDL Approved
Tenmile Creek: Headwaters to Lac qui Parle River	07020003-511	07020003	- Aq Life - Aq Rec	Fish Bioassess** Fecal Coliform	TMDL Required TMDL Approved
Unnamed creek: Unnamed Creek to Emily Creek	07020001-548	07020001	- Aq Life	Fish Bioassess**	TMDL Required
Yellow Bank River, South Fork: MN/SD border to N. Fork Yellow Bank R.	07020001-526	07020001	- Aq Rec	Fecal Coliform	TMDL Approved
Yellow Bank River: North Fork Yellow Bank River to MN River	07020001-525	07020001	- Aq Rec - Aq Life	Fecal Coliform Turbidity	TMDL Approved TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle Lake (NW Bay)	37-0046-02	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Lac qui Parle Lake (SE Bay)	37-0046-01	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved
Marsh Lake	06-0001-00	07020001	- Aq Cons	Mercury in Fish	TMDL Approved

* Aquatic Recreation (Aq. Rec), Aquatic Life (Aq. Life), and Aquatic Consumption (Aq. Cons) ~ **Fish Bioassessments

Special Implementation Projects for the District are.....

Local Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

LqP SWCD accepted responsibility from the County to administer the local Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. This new program is designed to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS that are threatening Minnesota’s waters. \$19,852 will be used to increase public awareness and participation in prevention, assess the County’s resources and risk of AIS introduction, broaden knowledge of and participation in early detection and rapid response activities.

MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The MDA, BWSR, DNR, MPCA partnered to provide \$6000 administrative funds to the SWCD for promotion activities and helping farmers enroll in the program. Farmers and ag landowners who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. Funds must be spent by May 31, 2016.

Riparian Protection & Water Quality Protection Act (Buffer Law)

The objective of this law is to protect the surface waters of MN with buffers or alternative practices in place of buffers. Administrative and technical funds in the amount of \$30,000 was provided to the SWCD through BWSR to provide landowners with assistance regarding installation and design of buffers, use of maps, and alternative water quality practices. These funds are for FY16 and FY17.

Soil Loss Legislation

Part of the Riparian Protection & Water Quality Protection Act, this legislation strengthens existing law that left it to local governments to pass a soil loss ordinance. As of this writing there are no implementation guidelines and no funds attached to the District’s role, which is to assist landowners reported to have excessive erosion correct their problem.

District Capacity Grant

In response to District need for increased funding, a FY16 grant through BWSR in the amount of \$100,000 will enable the SWCD to improve its ability to administer programs and assist landowners. LqP SWCD will use the funds to hire an additional technician, purchase necessary equipment including computers with GIS software and other office equipment, provide training, replace a non-functioning vehicle, and assist with the purchase of an ATV and trailer to more efficiently and effectively administer District programs.

V. Staffing Needs

These staff years include four full-time SWCD staff members, and two full-time and one part-time NRCS.

GOAL/OBJECTIVE	STAFF YEARS	
	Administrative/Outreach	Technical
Protect/Improve Surface Water Quality	0.50	1.50
Protect/Improve Groundwater Quality/Quantity	0.15	0.25
Manage Surface Water	0.25	.90
Administer LqP Water Plan	0.40	
LqP SWCD Administration	1.10	
Conservation Tree Plantings	0.05	0.25
Special Project Grants	0.20	1.25
TOTAL STAFF YEARS	2.65	4.15