

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District

May 3, 2022

Meeting Minutes #627

Call to Order

The meeting was held in the Lac qui Parle County Courthouse, Commissioners' room, with a virtual ZOOM login option. The meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Darrel Ellefson at 4:30 p.m. **Managers Present:** Chairman Darrel Ellefson, Secretary David Craigmile, Publicity Manager Michael Frank, Vice-Chairman John Cornell, and Treasurer Andrew Weber. **Managers absent:** none. **Staff present:** Administrator Trudy Hastad, Coordinator Mitch Enderson, Park Manager Ron Fjerkenstad, Ditch Inspector Jared Roiland, and Environmental Feedlot Specialist Abby VanKempen. **Staff absent:** none **Others present:** none

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Ellefson asked for additions to the agenda. There being none, Manager David Craigmile motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Manager Andrew Weber. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

Administrator Hastad said the Board was supposed to re-organize at the April meeting and it wasn't done, so recommended reorganization of the Watershed Board of Managers.

Michael Frank made a motion to nominate the managers for same positions as 2021, being Darrel Ellefson as Chairman, John Cornell as Vice-Chairman, David Craigmile as Secretary, Andrew Weber as Treasurer, and Michael Frank as Publicity, seconded by Manager John Cornell. Chairman Ellefson asked for other nominations. There were no other nominations so Chairman Ellefson asked for a vote. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

Staff Reports:

PARK: Ron Fjerkenstad gave his monthly report.

- Water was turned on in the park and there was one waterline to the "Glen" that had a major malfunction, but they got it fixed.
- Seasonal and part time workers started. Ron discussed wages with the Board.

Manager Michael Frank motioned to increase wages by \$.50/hour for Steve Sroka, Dustin Sroka, & Greg Olzenak, and a \$.25/hour raise for Pat Stanley, seconded by Manager David Craigmile. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

- Manager Michael Frank discussed a possible new herbicide for weeds for the swimming area at the lake. Ron said he felt the Aquacide and pond clear were doing a great job, but was open for new ideas. Discussion followed including mechanical means to controlling weeds. No action was taken.
- Manager Craigmile ordered two red maple trees from the SWCD that are 6-7' tall in memory of former Manager Willis Beecher, & David Ludvigson as deer had wrecked the other two trees.

Environmental/Feedlot Specialist: Abby VanKempen gave her monthly report.

- Had my first conditional use permit hearing for Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water.
- Have another CUP hearing and also a variance hearing coming up in the middle of May.
- Attended septic system design class for a week at the end of April and passed my test. I will have two more classes until I'm a certified septic inspector (Soils and Inspection).
- Went on my first routine feedlot inspection with the MPCA feedlot rep to a state permitted site. I will have to conduct 13 of our own on LQP County permitted sites, probably later in the summer.

- We held a paper shredding event on April 23, 2022 with approximately 64 participants. The shredding truck was about 80% full.
- Preparing for the summer recycling program. We will be collecting electronic waste at the demo landfill site every second Saturday of the month from May thru October.
- We are preparing for the Household Hazardous Waste collection event May 26, 2022 from 3-6 pm at the LQP County Highway garage in Madison.

COORDINATOR REPORT: Mitch Enderson reported on monthly activities.

- The Steering committee met on April 27, 2022 for the 1W1P. We reviewed local budgets, local regulatory authorities, and local programs. Measurable goals is the next draft section being written and the structure HEI is proposing was presented and discussed. The governance structure was discussed and a timeline for needing to determine that. The Policy Committee met that afternoon and approved plan sections that had been given feedback from the previous Advisory meetings. The majority of the policy committee ended up being discussion on deciding between a joint powers collaboration or a joint powers entity. An attorney will attend the May meeting to discuss and review the differences between the two in order to decide which route to take.
- Bids for the Kamrath dam repair are due to the Area II office at 11:00 on May 4, 2022. Area II will put together tabulation forms and make a recommendation to the Watershed after the bid opening.
- Abby picked up the corrected top part of the sign for the Del Clark Lake sediment pond project while she was at training in Alexandria and Jared and I hung it up. It appears the projects are working as they are supposed to and the vegetation appears to be coming back in as well.
- We have not had any SSTS applications yet in 2022.
- I continue to scan permits in my spare time and have about two drawers left.
- We are continuing to clean out the vault and have taken a few things to the museum.
- I would like permission to hold the annual canoe trip in June and if approved we would like to possibly hold it on Friday, June 3, 2022. Discussion followed.

Manager Michael Frank motioned to have the Watershed District sponsor the annual canoe trip in June, seconded by Manager Craigmile. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

WCA: Mitch Enderson reported on monthly activities.

- I am signed up to attend WCA training May 25 & 26th, 2022 in Mankato.
- The attorneys came to an agreement to allow TEP inspection and have a contractor uncover the tile in section 4, Yellow Bank violation site. The landowner has since expressed interest in mitigating to drain the wetland but he disagrees with the wetland size and after discussion thought it might be too expensive. We will need to make site checks in the next couple of years that the changes made to get into compliance remain.
- SWCD and I have come up with a proposal/compromise to present to a landowner to be allowed to excavate to an elevation at or above what was surveyed at the other outlet of the wetland which has historically always been the main outlet. It looks like this proposal would allow him to excavate approximately ½ foot of sediment. If he finds that plan unacceptable, he would need to mitigate for anything additional.
- We applied for a no-loss exemption for County Ditch #24.

DRAINAGE REPORT: Jared Roiland reported on monthly drainage activities.

- April 7, 2022 Trudy and I sat in on a follow up meeting with leadership staff from the DNR and County leadership to discuss how things had progressed since our meetings last winter. The main topic of discussion was drainage and how we as the county and watershed can protect our drainage rights while also being conscious of environmental factors. I believe these meetings did help us reach the desired outcome on the CD 24 repair that we have been working on for close to five years now.

- April 13, 2022 Trudy and I helped to facilitate a meeting requested by DeRon Brehmer to discuss the future maintenance distribution of costs along a private ditch system near Rosen.
- April 4th, 2022 Trudy and I met with Houston Engineering and the contractor for the CD 42 improvement project on site. We discussed our expectations for completing the project and estimated timelines. At that time, he hoped to have equipment on site by the end of the following week. We are now a month later and they still have not arrived on site. We are in contact with the Attorney and following his advice.
- April 14, 2022 Trudy and I went along with the commissioners and highway engineer for a tour of on-going projects.
- April 28, 2022 Mitch and I drove to Del Clark Lake and installed the top part of the sign. All three retention strutures were holding water. One had water high enough that was spilling into the riser and into the lake.
- Mitch and I had a meeting with the DNR and the TEP panel to discuss the wetland impacts of our CD 24 repair. The cleanout was determined to not impact the wetlands along the ditch and had much discussion where the spoil will be placed. Originally it was requested to be hauled out to upland ground, but after showing that the maximum amount of spoils to be removed was 18" they agreed that it would be a minimal impact and so we are allowed to place the spoil along the bank.
- Landowners for the 2020 group 1 redetermination of benefits along the open ditch portion received their W-9s for their one rod easement payment. The last month has been full of us submitting claim forms for these landowners and answering their questions.
- Trudy and I have been working with Attorney Kolb to finalize the notices to the CD 54 landowners for the closeout hearing for the improvement project. We would like the Board to set the final hearing date for the CD #54 Improvement final hearing.
- Administrator Hastad discussed setting an amount for damages. Attorney Kolb suggested doing this prior to the hearing. Roiland and Hastad will check our rental rates and land sales in Freeland and Manfred Townships.

Manager Craigmile motioned to set the date of June 7th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the LQP County Annex for the final close-out hearing for the improvement of County Ditch #54, seconded by Manager John Cornell. Upon roll-call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

OTHERS: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was read by Manager Andrew Weber.

Andrew Weber motioned to approve the Treasurers report, seconded by John Cornell. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

The following warrants were presented for approval:

Number Vendor Details 04/06/2022 to 05/03/2022

General Klein Account:

6204	Houston Engineering, Inc.	1W1P consulting work	\$9,759.00
		TOTAL	\$9,759.00

Park Expense Account:

1478	Ag Plus Cooperative	335 gallons unleaded	\$1,785.66
1479	LQP County Environmental	April park cell	\$41.51
1480	Vlaminck Electric	repair burnt wire in shop heater	\$66.42
1481	Rod VanDeVeire Tree Service	tree removal & trimming, stump	\$1,335.93
1482	Running's Supply, Inc.	55 gallon drum liner	\$266.87
1483	Frontier Communications	park phone, fax, internet	\$291.73
1484	D& K RV sales	50 amp RV extension cord	\$286.09
1485	Ag Plus Cooperative	fuel	\$177.06
1486	Canby Print Shop	lake water quality fliers, weekly rosters	\$92.11
1487	Doug's Service & Marine	lawn mower blades, etc	\$75.73
1488	Olson Sanitation LLC	April trash expense	\$79.56
1489	Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water	water usage	\$34.64
1490	Canby True Value	Clorox cleaner, paper towels, toilet paper	\$130.22

1491	Lyon-Lincoln Electric	park electricity	<u>\$625.35</u>
		TOTAL	\$5,288.88
<u>UPB GENERAL ACCT:</u>			
22045-22047	semi-monthly payroll	April 1-15 payroll	\$6,831.43
22049	Darrel Ellefson	per diem, mileage	\$359.07
22050	Darrel Ellefson	per diem, mileage, Ditch work	\$254.78
22051	Michael Frank	per diem, mileage	\$138.84
22052	Andrew Weber	per diem, mileage	\$322.14
22053	John Cornell	per diem, mileage	\$155.80
22054	David Craigmile	per diem, mileage	\$534.25
4249	LQP-YB Liability	Federal withholding	\$2,263.56
4250	LQP-YB Liability Acct	semi-monthly PERA	\$1,337.23
4251	Houston Engineering	Br 3, CD #4 staking	\$6,539.14
4252	Rinke Noonan Attorney's	monthly retainer, #42, B3#4	\$1,604.00
4253	LQP County Auditor/Treasurer	2022 property taxes on shop	\$383.49
4254	City of Madison	shop electricity, garbage, sewer	\$114.82
4255	MPCA	SSTS loan repayments	\$56,418.54
4256	LQP County Auditor/Treasurer	health insurance	\$5,888.46
4257	LQP County Auditor/Treasurer	April postage	\$44.67
22055-22058	semi-monthly payroll	April 16-31 payroll	\$6,831.43
22059-22063	monthly park payroll	May park payroll	\$3,973.83
4258	LQP-YB Liability	Federal Withholding	\$3,071.70
4259	LQP-YB Liability	State withholding	\$759.00
4260	LQP-YB Liability	monthly & semi-monthly PERA	<u>\$1,886.27</u>
		TOTAL	\$99,712.45
<u>DITCH ACCT</u>			
		TOTAL	\$0.00

Andrew Weber motioned to approve the warrants as presented, seconded by Michael Frank. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

Secretary's Report: Trudy Hastad reviewed Secretary report #626 as mailed.

Manager Andrew Weber motioned to approve meeting minutes #626 as mailed, seconded by Manager David Craigmile. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

Administrator Report/Old & New Business: Trudy Hastad gave the Administrator report.

- The quotes were received for the office remodel with one applicant. The Engineer wanted to verify numbers before accepting the quote.
- The new swing set for the park should be in the second week of June and will need some volunteers to set it up.
- Updated the Board on meetings attended which included the County DNR meeting, Medica, Dept Head, Hwy tour, CUP hearing, Brehmer landowner meeting and 1WIP meeting.
- Discussed two safety recalls on the F-150 Ford.
- Reminded Board that the June 7th meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. for the CD #54 final improvement hearing and if they cannot be there to let me know as we need a quorum.
- Reported that Area II would open the bids for the Kamrath dam and make a recommendation to the WS Board.
- I have been busy working on the 2021 audit preparation for the audit staff. Our audit will be held in June but they require the information by May 30th.
- Ordered a plant from the Watershed for the Daniel Christiansen funeral. Dan was a Watershed manager for many years.
- Read letter stating that Kara Fairchild is the new District conservationist in Madison filling Burt Hendrickson's old job.
- Thanked the Board for the beautiful flowers for Administrative professional week. They were gorgeous!

Manager John Cornell asked the status of the back rent owed to the watershed from the pasture lease. Hastad will contact Attorney Haugen to discuss.

PERMITS- The following permit applications were applied for:

13622	Steve Pearson	Agassiz, 22	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 AW
13623	Steve Pearson	Agassiz, 27	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 AW
13624	Michael Gloege	Agassiz, 27	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 AW
13625	Greg Bothun	Providence, 33	clean ditch	05/03/22 DC
13626	Greg Brown	Ten Mile Lake, 15	seepage, intakes	05/03/22 DC
13627	Adam Lund	Providence, 26	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 DC
13628	Nathan Buer	Providence, 3	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 DC
13629	Bart Wittnebel	Perry, 31	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 DE
13630	Randy Wittnebel	Perry, 29	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 DE
13631	Gary Nelson	Hamlin, 36	clean ditch	05/03/22 DE
13632	Josh Moen	Hantho, 35	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 DE
13633	Jim Call	Mehurin, 2	clean ditch	05/03/22 DE
13634	Eldon Haas	Manfred, 32	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 DE
13635	Lee Schmidt	Manfred, 5	seepage lines	05/03/22 DE
13636	Brian Croatt	Arena, 13	clean ditch	05/03/22 DE
13637	Troy Buer	Cerro Gordo, 9	seepage, main tile, intakes	05/03/22 DE
13638	Jim Connor	Garfield, 36	seepage lines	05/03/22 DE
13639	Michael Anhalt	Manfred, 12	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 DE
13640	John Kallhoff	Manfred, 13	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 DE
13641	Brian Beutler	Manfred, 23	seepage lines	05/03/22 DE
13642	Jarrett Pridal	Florida, 23	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 DE
13643	Tony Abrahamson	Florida, 5	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 MF
13644	Tony Abrahamson	Florida, 4	seepage, main tile	05/03/22 MF

Permits Denied: none

Manager David Craigmile motioned to approve the permits, seconded by Manager John Cornell. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Darrel Ellefson, Chairman

Attest:

David Craigmile, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Hastad

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District is Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.