

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District Mission Statement

To serve as a partner in water planning and management with the State agencies, Counties, Cities, & Soil & Water Conservation Districts and assist with the management of water quality and quantity within the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed boundaries.

History of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District was established on April 19, 1971. The purpose of the District was to aid local citizens who had requested help in controlling flooding in the Watershed. Much cross-over flooding had occurred over farm land between sub-watersheds, and had been identified as the highest priority need for the new district to address.

The District as it currently exists consists of approximately 1,712 square miles with 976 in Minnesota and the remaining 736 in South Dakota. Approximately 74% of the land surface is located in Lac qui Parle County, 19% in Yellow Medicine County, and 7% in Lincoln County.

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District starts out at Lake Hendricks in Lincoln County. The Lac qui Parle River flows northeastward through Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle Counties before entering the Minnesota River near Watson into Lac qui Parle Lake. In the first 60 miles of drainage, the elevation drops more than a thousand feet from the Prairie Coteau. Major tributaries of the Lac qui Parle are the Florida, Canby, and Ten Mile Creek Watersheds.

The original Watershed District Plan was established, as required by law, in October 1972. The second update of the 10-year management plan was approved by BWSR in 2009.

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District currently is governed by Minnesota Statutes 103D, which provides a broader scope for a local unit of government to manage quality and quantity of water within the hydrological boundaries.

OFFICE:

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District Office is located at:

Courthouse, 600 6th Street, Suite #7, Madison, MN 56256



Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.
Phone: 320-598-3117

Website: www.lqpybwatershed.org
Fax: 320-598-3125

MEETINGS:

The Board held twelve (12) monthly meetings and three (3) special meetings in 2018. Our regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, located in the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners' Room, Courthouse, 600 6th Street, Madison, MN. Notification for each of these meetings is published in the Western Guard, Canby News, & Hendricks Pioneer Press, along with a radio announcement on KLQP 92.1 FM. Notices are also mailed or e-mailed to the local agencies, Auditor's & Commissioners of each County. The meeting date is also posted on the District web-site.

WEBSITE:

The District website www.lqpybwatershed.org is user friendly and allows the Watershed Board & staff clearer communication with the public. The web-site also enables District staff to post upcoming meeting information, projects, and to download various forms for the public to fill out prior to visiting the office. The Watershed Districts' [FACEBOOK](#) page is used to reach a wider demographic of people in our Watershed District.

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District
[2018 Board of Managers' & Staff](#)



Sitting - Left to right: David Ludvigson, Darrel Ellefson, David Craigmile, Joe Ferguson, & John Cornell
 Standing: Administrator Trudy Hastad, Coordinator Mitchell Enderson, Ditch Manager/Inspector Jared Roiland

A Board of Managers governs the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District. The Lac qui Parle County Commissioners appoint three managers, the Yellow Medicine County Commissioners appoint one manager, and the Lincoln County Commissioners appoint one manager to serve a three year term for the Watershed District.

2018 OFFICES AND TERMS OF THE MANAGERS OF THE DISTRICT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TERM-END</u>
Darrel Ellefson	Chairman	Dawson, MN	Lac qui Parle County	03/31/2021
John Cornell	Vice-Chairman	Canby, MN	Lincoln County	03/31/2021
David Ludvigson	Treasurer	Madison, MN	Lac qui Parle County	03/31/2020
David Craigmile	Secretary	Boyd, MN	Lac qui Parle County	03/31/2019
Joe Ferguson	Publicity	Canby, MN	Yellow Medicine County	12/31/2018

District Staff:

The District maintains a staff of three full-time employees and one park manager to carry out the works of the District. This staff consists of Trudy Hastad, Administrator, Mitchell Enderson,

Coordinator/WCA delineator –in-training, and Ron Fjerkenstad, Park Manager. The Watershed Board and staff were pleased to announce the addition of Jared Roiland as the Ditch Manager/Inspector in March of 2018. Jared will help with ditch work, inspections, redeterminations, permitting, drainage records modernization grant, & buffer enforcement. The Office's for the Administrator, Coordinator, & Ditch Manager are located in the Lac qui Parle County Courthouse, and the park manager office is located in the park house at Stonehill Park/Del Clark Lake rural Canby, MN.

2018 Advisory Board:

Ron Antony	Yellow Medicine County Commissioner
Joseph Drietz	Lincoln County Commissioner
Roy Marihart	Lac qui Parle County Commissioner
Darwyn Bach	Yellow Medicine County SWCD
Dale Sterzinger	Lincoln County SWCD
Chessa Frahm	Lac qui Parle County SWCD
Harvey Swenson	Lac qui Parle County Ag Producer
Nate Ludvigson	Lac qui Parle Contractor
Roger Ellefson	LQP Pheasants Forever/Local Surveyor

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Advisory Board met on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Lac qui Parle County Commissioner' Room, Courthouse, Madison, MN. The meeting opened with nominations for Chairman & Recorder as per M.S. Chapter 103D.331. Roy Marihart was appointed Chairman with Nate Ludvigson as Recorder. The Board was updated on current projects in the Watershed and asked for comments, concerns regarding Watershed activities. The minutes from the meeting are attached.

Legal Services:

The District obtains the service of Steve Torvik with the law firm Nelson, Oyen, Torvik for general legal counsel and sadly he passed away in March. The Board then met with Matt Haugen with the law firm Nelson, Oyen, Torvik and he consented to be the general watershed attorney. John Kolb with the law firm Rinke Noonan Attorneys is on retainer and handles the District's legal ditch counsel.

Operating Budget:

A public hearing was held on September 5, 2017 (meeting #571) at 5:30 p.m. to approve the 2018 levy & budget of \$290,000. This is levied on real property in Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, & Lincoln Counties within District boundaries. This is to be collected in 2018 of which \$250,000 will be levied pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.905, Sub 3 and \$40,000 to be levied pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B.241, Subd 1 to pay for projects identified in the District's approved and adopted plan necessary to implement the purposes of the District. No one attended the public hearing, so there being no opposition, the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed managers approved the 2018 levy of \$290,000 along with the 2018 budget.

LQP-YB Watershed Drainage Systems:

The Watershed Board of Managers are responsible for overseeing the maintenance and repair of the following drainage systems in the Watershed District:

LQP Watershed Ditch #1	LQP Lateral A of Watershed Ditch #1
LQP Watershed Ditch #2	LQP Lateral A of Watershed Ditch #85
LQP Watershed Ditch #81-82	LQP Watershed Ditch #88-1

In 2018 the Watershed Managers were petitioned for an Improvement of Lac qui Parle County Ditch #42. Houston Engineering was appointed as engineers for the project with survey work done in December. The County Ditch #54 Improvement final hearing was held and approved with bidding to be held in February 2019. A petition for outlet on Watershed Ditch #92 was received with hearings held and petition approved. Repairs were requested and completed on WS Ditches #1, 81-82, & 88-1.

Permits for Drainage:

In 2018, the Board approved 387 permit applications. There were 331 permits issued in Lac qui Parle County, 46 in Yellow Medicine County, and 10 in Lincoln County. There were two violations investigated, letters sent, and issues resolved in 2018. Permits were issued for main tile, seepage tile, ditch cleanouts, culvert replacement, terracing, & alternative intake replacements, 638 projects, & pumps. The Board requests a detailed map of the completed project be sent to the office to be filed with the approved permit application when project is completed. We currently receive about 20% of the finished project maps back.

The Board has a permit program in place to help ensure wise development and conservation of the District's water resources in accordance with the District's watershed management plan. Work that requires a permit from the District may not be undertaken until a permit is issued. Obtaining a District permit does not relieve an applicant from the responsibility of obtaining all other required Federal, State, and local permits. All applicants for a District permit must be submitted on the District's application form along with maps, drawings or plans that adequately depict the proposed project and information required by the application form. The District does not currently charge a permit fee. The Board reviews all permit applications at the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board may add reasonable conditions to the approval of a permit to address site-specific or activity-specific concerns. The requirements of any other permission (NPDES permit, wetland determination, public water permit, etc.) required for the proposed activity are incorporated into the District permit. A violation of other required permits is a violation of the District permit.

LGU – Wetland Conservation Act:

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed managers are the LGU for the WCA program in Lac qui Parle County. In 2018, the LGU approved 331 watershed permits and staff reviewed approximately 430 applications for wetland impacts. Staff person, Mitch Enderson, is a certified wetland delineator in training and attended WCA specific training in Mankato, MN on October 9, attended the MN Water Resources Conference in St. Paul on Oct 16-17, and the wetland track at BWSR academy in Brainerd October 29-31.

The County experienced two wetland specialist changes during the year. Both wetland bank sites were visited to check progress and to give the new wetland specialist an opportunity to visit the sites. A monitoring report was submitted prior end of 2018 for one bank site. Second bank site reached out to us for update/monitoring report after LGU received no contact in 2018. USFWS has proposed a reroute of the outlet of one bank site to assist with a separate restoration project. Approximately twenty exemptions without a formal decision were granted and eight landowners were required to provide cropping history to prove 8 of 10 most recent years were seeded prior to July 5th and meeting the drainage exemption. One project review initially determined a landowner would impact a wetland with his proposed project, but the LGU was later informed the wetland was created under a USFWS easement that allowed for the project to return to pre-project conditions. The LGU was informed of or discovered 6 potential violations and visited four different sites, with one site requiring multiple visits. The follow up visit to that site included the LGU directing a tiling contractor onsite of the setback and

other requirements indicated on the approved permit that must be followed. Five separate landowners have inquired about cleanouts through public watercourses that also have WCA wetlands surrounding the watercourses. One no-loss decision was noticed in conjunction with a decision issued by DNR for maintenance through a WMA. The no-loss decision indicated wetland outside of DNR jurisdiction would see no net loss as long as project followed DNR requirements for outlet culvert to be replaced at same elevation and capacity as the current culvert.

Lac qui Parle County Ditch Maintenance:

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed managers & staff have been responsible for the maintenance of the 101 Lac qui Parle County Drainage Systems since 2007. The Lac qui Parle County Commissioners remain as the Drainage authority and contract with the Watershed District for the maintenance. This arrangement has worked out well.

In 2018, the Watershed staff received 92 requests for maintenance on the Lac qui Parle County Drainage systems. These were for ditch cleanouts, sinkholes, tile repairs, culvert replacements, crossing washouts, inlet repairs, & nuisance beaver dam removals. The Drainage authority received four petition for outlets, CD #85, CD #69, CD #9, & CD #13 and all were approved. There was one petition for partial abandonment on

Branch 3 CD #97 which was approved. A records reestablishment of County Ditch #24 was ordered with Houston Engineering as engineers with the Board approving their findings, but having some concerns from DNR so hoping to have this resolved in 2019. The Board received a repair by petition on Branch 3 County Ditch #12. Bolton & Menk was hired as the engineers and this project was bid and completed in 2018. Redetermination of benefits were completed on Judicial Ditch #1A and seeded, County Ditch #33 (a tile system), County Ditch #42 (a tile system), County Ditch #54 (a tile system), County Ditch #12 (partially seeded with the rest to be seeded in 2019), and Lateral A of County Ditch #84 (a tile system). The contractor fixed a portion of County Ditch 70 that was done in 2017 due to some construction problems.

BUFFER ENFORCEMENT:

The Board of Managers agreed to take on the enforcement of the Watershed Ditches in which they are the drainage authority. Eight of these ditches are in Lac qui Parle County and two are in Lincoln County. The Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners contracted with the Watershed to also enforce the Lac qui Parle County Buffer Ordinance for Lac qui Parle County. In 2018, the local SWCD notified us that there were thirty-one landowners not in compliance with the public waters buffer law. Letters were sent to the landowners with over half responding and working on/or already compliant and site visits/contacts needing to be done on the rest when weather permits.

Nuisance Beaver Program:

In 2018, the Watershed District paid cost-share on 92 nuisance beavers and two dam removals. The District funds a nuisance beaver program to help deter overland flooding and stream bank erosion caused by beaver dams in streams and ditches in the Watershed District. In 2018, the Board authorized 75% cost-share up to \$250 per beaver dam removal and \$15.00 per nuisance beaver with a total budget of \$5,000. The District requires paperwork be submitted with landowner signature and a description of where and how many nuisance beaver are trapped. The front feet of each beaver

must be turned into the District prior to payment being made. The trapper must be in compliance with DNR rules & regulations.

Tree Snag Program:

The Watershed District authorized \$5,000 to be used towards tree snag removal. The Board approved \$1800 for tree snagging in section 17, Garfield Township, Lac qui Parle County in 2018. There were large tree's that had fallen in the river causing a dam like effect in the waterway.

STONEHILL PARK & DEL CLARK LAKE:



Fishing is a big draw at this park. Del Clark Lake has an 80-foot-long wheelchair-accessible fishing pier, and it's possible to stay on the pier and land northern pike, walleye, and bass. Ice-fishing is a very popular activity in the winter months. The lake also has a sizable sandy swimming beach next to a picnic shelter. The park currently has 69 campsites. Area A has 33 sites with 28 of them being seasonal and 5 spots open for weekend/week campers. Area B has 6 spots open for weekend/week campers, and "the Glenn" is used for seasonal spots. There are five spots available in the overflow for weekend/week campers as well. The Watershed Board continues to get more requests for seasonal spots than they can fill. The Watershed District hires a manager who is required to live on site in the park house/office, and hires three-four seasonal employees. The camping season begins May 1 and ends October 1 each year.

Del Clark Lake is actually an earthen dam that was built in the fall of 1985 as part of the Canby Creek Project to prevent the City of Canby from yearly flooding that cost thousands of dollars of damage annually. This dam is one of the largest earthen dams built in Minnesota in the 1980's. To get the cost/benefit ratio for the project, the Watershed District was required to include a recreational area which was named Stonehill Park/Del Clark Lake. The lake is 154 acres and has a maximum depth of 30 feet.

The park and lake are a popular destination and in 2018 estimated that approximately 2,100 people visited the park from several states & Canada throughout the year. A new dock was installed at the boat landing in 2018, some upgrades to the electricity in the campground, and some improvements to the buildings. Many events are held at the park with the Annual 4th of July event always a hit with the campers and the local community.

Education and Outreach Activities in 2017:

- The Buffer Enforcement rule was adopted and recorded for the Watershed.
- Hired a new employee with the title Drainage Manager/Inspector/Buffer Enforcement to help with buffer enforcement for the Watershed & Lac qui Parle County. This position will also help with LQP County drainage maintenance.
- Lac qui Parle County and the Watershed received the Drainage Records Modernization Grant and staff have been busy scanning ditch records and doing the GIS centerlines.
- TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) meetings were held to review data, plan events, and continue with the WRAPS program as it will transition into a One Watershed One Plan.
- A weekly radio show was held from mid-April through October. Various environmental topics and concerns are discussed along with government program guidelines.
- Staff presented at the Annual Township meeting on WRAPS, Buffer Law Implementation, and Watershed rules & regulations regarding drainage that affects township roads/culverts.
- Staff spoke at the local Corn & Soybean Growers Annual meeting on the buffer law and WRAPS update.
- Staff spoke at the Lake Hendricks Improvement Association meeting in Hendricks, MN specific to Lake Hendricks, monitoring, & WRAPS.
- The Lac qui Parle Study Club invited us to speak at one of their meetings. Staff discussed features of the Watershed, monitoring information, & the WRAPS project.
- Our Coordinator attended the WCA specific training in Mankato October 9, the MN Waters Resources/MN Wetland Conference in St. Paul October 16-17, and BWSR Academy October 29-31 to keep up with credits for his wetland delineator certification.
- A canoe trip was held on the Lac qui Parle River and started from the gauge station on County Highway 31 to the outlet of the LQP River into the Lake. Approximately 28 people enjoyed the canoe trip followed by a lunch of walking taco's, watermelon, & dilly bars.
- A fair booth was set up at the local County fair on WRAPS, Buffers, & Watershed news.
- Re-worked and submitted a CWF grant for reducing sediment load on Del Clark Lake. We were notified the end of the year that the watershed was a successful grant recipient.
- Staff attended a demonstration in Lamberton, MN to view different management strategies and results put on by University of Minnesota.
- Partnered with Lincoln SWCD, Area II, & landowner to cost-share on the Edna Christianson Trust Dam failure in section 27, Hansonville Township, Lincoln County.
- Partnered with the LQP SWCD and held two buffer compliance landowner meetings in August in Bellingham & Dawson.
- Houston Engineering along with staff presented at the MAWD annual meeting on the altered hydrology project completed on our Watershed with the Local Soybean Growers Assn.
- A photography contest was held with good participation. Photo's had to be from the Watershed District. Calendars were made and distributed to partnering agencies, contest participants, and others.

- Worked with 15 landowners to upgrade their septic systems in 2018.
- Staff spoke at the East Dakota Water Development District monthly meeting on current Watershed Activities focusing on our WRAPS and ways to work with South Dakota on some water related issues as approximately a third of the LQP-YB Watershed District is in South Dakota.
- Staff & manager's attended the MAWD Conferences, - Summer Tour, & Annual meeting.

Upcoming Projects:

- Continue to partner with our respective local units of government within the Watershed for WRAPS and to transition to "One Watershed, One Plan" approach.
- Complete the Drainage Records Modernization Grant and keep this information up-to-date to aid in ditch maintenance.
- Complete the work plan for the Clean Water Fund Grant for sediment & nutrient reduction in Del Clark Lake, build the structures for sediment protection , & work with upstream landowners and local partners for BMP's.
- Apply for an extension of our 10-year plan as we finish WRAPS and transition into a one watershed one plan approach.
- Use PTMapping and SAM modeling to prioritize BMP's that enhance water quality within the Watershed District.
- Continue our partnership with the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District for the Minnesota River Headwaters WRAP Program.
- Continue with education programs such as the weekly radio program, photo contest, canoe trip, Earth Day event, and working with local schools, 4-H groups, & Ladies groups.
- Provide 15% cost-share for building and repair of private retention structures to help with hydrology management.
- Continue working with landowners to upgrade private septic systems thru the SSTS Low Interest Loan thru MPCA. These needed upgrades will enhance water quality within the Watershed District. This is a great program and we continue to get requests for this loan.
- Provide \$20.00 incentive for nuisance beaver in the Watershed and 75% cost-share up to \$250 for beaver dam removal.
- Promote and continue the Volunteer Citizen Monitoring & Rain gauge monitoring program.
- Continue working with landowners on Buffer Enforcement for the Watershed & for Lac qui Parle County.
- Continue working towards completion of Ditch improvement projects on Lac qui Parle County Ditch #54 and County Ditch #42.