



# **Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

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

ESTABLISHED APRIL 19, 1971

Counties: Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, & Lincoln

[www.lqpybwatershed.org](http://www.lqpybwatershed.org)

## 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 Creeks.

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lqpybwatershed.org)  
Fax: 320-598-3125

## MEETINGS:

The Board held twelve (12) monthly meetings and five (5) special meetings in 2017. Our regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, located in the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners' Room, Courthouse, 600 6<sup>th</sup> 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 to the local agencies, Auditor's & Commissioners of each County. The meeting date is posted on the District web-site.

## WEBSITE:

The District website [www.lqpybwatershed.org](http://www.lqpybwatershed.org) was given a new look in 2017. The web-site 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 District also started a [FACEBOOK](#) page in 2017 to reach a wider demographic of people in our Watershed District.

## Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District 2017 Board of Managers



Left to right: David Ludvigson, David Craigmile, Darrel Ellefson, Joe Ferguson, & John Cornell

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.

### 2017 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	03/31/2018
John Cornell	Vice-Chairman	Canby, MN	Lincoln County	03/31/2018
David Ludvigson	Treasurer	Madison, MN	Lac qui Parle County	03/31/2017
David Craigmile	Secretary	Boyd, MN	Lac qui Parle County	03/31/2019
Joe Ferguson	Publicity	Canby, MN	Yellow Medicine County	03/31/2018



## District Staff:

The District maintains a staff of three full-time employees 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 Office's for the Administrator & Coordinator 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.

## 2017 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 Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in the Lac qui Parle County Commissioner's Room, Courthouse, Madison, MN. The meeting opened with nominations for Chairman & Recorder as per M.S. Chapter 103D.331. Joe Drietz 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. John Kolb with the law firm Rinke Noonan Attorneys is on retainer for the District's legal ditch counsel.

## Operating Budget:

A public hearing was held on September 2, 2016 (meeting #559) to approve the 2017 levy & budget of \$290,000. No one attended the public hearing, so there being no opposition, the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed managers approved the 2017 levy of \$290,000 along with the 2017 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
LQP Watershed Ditch #32	LQP Watershed Ditch #92
Lincoln Watershed Ditch #11	Lincoln Watershed Ditch #55

In May of 2016 the Watershed Managers were petitioned for an Improvement of Lac qui Parle County Ditch #54. ISG Engineers were appointed as engineer for the project. A pre-engineer hearing was held and a redetermination of benefits was ordered on this system in 2017 with plans to bid the project in 2018. A cleanout was completed on WS #1, and a repair was completed on WS #2 in 2017.

## Permits for Drainage:

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.

In 2017, the Board approved 391 permit applications. There were 349 permits issued in Lac qui Parle County, 35 in Yellow Medicine County, and 7 in Lincoln County. There were three violations investigated, letters sent, and issues resolved in 2017. 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, so are working with landowners to improve this process in 2018.

## 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 2017, the LGU approved 349 watershed permits and staff reviewed approximately 400 applications for wetland impacts. Cropping history information was requested from nine landowners to verify 8 years out of last 10 years to be kept with their watershed application permits. Staff worked extensively with landowners and completed two wetland bank credit releases, one boundary/type application, flagged a wetland area for bridge replacement, and held two TEP meetings. The LGU Board approved one No-Loss Decision, and one exemption application for 2017.

## 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 2017, the Watershed staff received 85 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 Watershed staff held informational land owner meetings on four systems (CD #57, CD #63, CD #42, & Lat A CD #84) to discuss the need for redetermination of benefits and possible improvements. The LQP County Board as drainage authority ordered redetermination of benefits be done on the four mentioned systems, and held final hearings and approved redetermination of benefits on CD #57, CD #63, Lat A CD #84, JD #4, & joint ditch JD #1A. The Board held hearings and approved one petition for outlet on CD #54, one partial abandonment on CD #54, and one partial abandonment of CD #13. The CD #12 system was petitioned for repair in 2016 and redetermination of benefits. The redetermination of benefits and the repair should be bid and completed in 2018. The Watershed staff complete a monthly ditch report and review with the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners. The Watershed District oversaw the County contract with B & W Control to spray the ditches. The ditches are sprayed on a three-year rotation to remove brush & weeds. Watershed staff worked with the LQP County Auditor, LQP Drainage Authority, & Houston Engineering on a DRM Grant to convert the paper drainage maps into an electronic format, GIS layer, and for future records maintenance. This grant was awarded and partially funded. Work will start on this in 2018.

## 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 Board & staff worked with BWSR and Rinke Noonan Law Firm on the Buffer Enforcement Rule. The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Buffer Enforcement Rule was noticed and on December 5, 2017 a public hearing was held according to MS 103F.48. There was no opposition to the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Buffer Enforcement Rule and the Board adopted the rule and sent to BWSR. The LQP-YB Board of managers and staff have been working with Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners and staff and will be also enforcing the Lac qui Parle County Buffer Ordinance for Lac qui Parle County.

## Nuisance Beaver Program:

In 2017, the Watershed District paid cost-share on 57 nuisance beavers and three 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 2017, the Board authorized 75% cost-share up to \$250 per beaver dam removal and \$12.50 per nuisance beaver with a total budget of \$5,000. The District requires paperwork be submitted with landowner signature and 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 received one request for tree snag removal in 2017.





## STONEHILL PARK & DEL CLARK LAKE:

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. 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. Stonehill Park/Del Clark Lake offers a handicap accessible dock and pier, one of the few in the State of Minnesota. The lake is 154 acres and has a maximum depth of 30 feet. The park and lake are a popular destination and in 2017 estimated that approximately 2,500 people visited the park from several states & Canada throughout the year. Ice-fishing is a very popular activity in the winter months. 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 that they can fill. The Watershed District hires a manager who is required to live on site in the park house/office, and hire three-four seasonal employees. The camping season begins May 1 and ends October 1 each year.

A new roof was put on the bathhouse in 2017, along with crushed bituminous on the road to help with dust control. A new pickup was purchased in 2017. DNR stocked trout into Canby Creek at Stonehill Park in April. The annual July 4<sup>th</sup> parade was held at the campground along with the popular slip-n-slide event for the children. The evening ended with a nice fireworks display.

## Education and Outreach Activities in 2017:

- The tile inventory for Upper Minnesota Watershed District WRAPS was completed.
- Partnered with Yellow Medicine County, City of Canby, DNR Dam Safety, local NRCS to complete the Canby Creek Emergency Action Plan and submitted to DNR Dam Safety.
- Updated the Watershed Website with new design and look.
- TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) meetings were held to discuss the WRAPS program.
- 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.
- A rain barrel workshop was held with the elementary school children with a rain barrel installed at the Hendricks School, Canby School, and a rain barrel installed at Hilltop Residence in Madison. The kids enjoyed painting the rain barrel and helping to install it for their school.
- Staff spoke at the local Kiwanis Club monthly meeting on the buffer law and WRAPS update.
- Attended the BWSR local partner coordination meeting in Marshall.
- Mitch attended the Invasive noxious weed identification workshop, Wetland Delineation Training, Basic Plant Identification Training, and passed his test to become a Certified Wetland Delineator In-training.
- A canoe trip was held on the West Branch of the Lac qui Parle River and started from Veteran's Park in Dawson. They paddled upstream approximately 2 ¼ miles with a dozen people participating. They ended the event by grilling burgers, brats, hotdogs, & ice-cream floats.
- A fair booth was set up at the local County fair on WRAPS, Buffers, & Watershed news.
- Submitted a grant for reducing sediment load on Del Clark Lake.
- Participated in the Regional Environmental Fair in Marshall for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Our topic was Shoreland.
- Partnered with the local Soybean Growers Association for an altered hydrology project.
- Partnered with LQP County, Houston Engineering and submitted a Drainage Records Management Grant on behalf of Lac qui Parle County
- SID Sampling was completed for WRAPS along with some sampling for DO Delisting.
- 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 22 landowners to upgrade their septic systems in 2017.
- 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 seek funding of \$500,000 from the legislature for engineering analysis for two floodwater retention projects as identified in the PL 87-639 study at sites located in Norman Township, Yellow Medicine County on the West Branch of the Lac qui Parle River and Florida Township, Yellow Medicine County.
- Continue to partner with our respective local units of government within the Watershed for WRAPS and to transition to “One Watershed, One Plan” approach.
- Hire a new staff person to help with the Drainage Records Modernization Grant, Buffer Enforcement for the Watershed and Lac qui Parle County, and Lac qui Parle County Drainage Inspecting/maintenance work.
- Continue to expand use of Prioritized, Targeted and Measureable as criteria for Goals and Objectives in the next water management plan as appropriate.
- 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 \$15.00 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.
- Re-apply for funding for three grade control structures on Del Clark Lake to protect the Lake from sediment and nutrients depositing into the Lake.
- Adjust the current permit application form to promote conservation practices be in place to aid with water management within the District.