

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. In 2019, the Watershed District requested an extension to their management plan as they finish WRAPS and work towards One Watershed One Planning. This extension was granted.

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 four (4) special meetings in 2019. 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

2019 Board of Managers' & Attorney



Sitting - Left to right: David Ludvigson, Attorney Matt Haugen, Darrel Ellefson, David Craigmile, Michael Frank, & 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.

2019 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	03/31/2022
Michael Frank	Publicity	Canby, MN	Yellow Medicine County	12/31/2021

District Staff:



Trudy Hastad, Administrator



Mitch Enderson, Coordinator



Jared Roiland, Ditch Inspector

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 Jared Roiland, Ditch manager/inspector. The Office's for the Administrator, Coordinator, & Ditch Manager are located in the Lac qui Parle County Courthouse. The Watershed District also has a park manager, Ron Fjerkenstad, who lives on-site at Stone Hill Park/Del Clark Lake. The Park office is located in the house, on-site, at Stone Hill Park/Del Clark Lake by Canby, MN.

2019 Advisory Board:

Ron Antony
Joseph Drietz
Roy Marihart
Darwyn Bach
Dale Sterzinger
Chessa Frahm
Harvey Swenson
Nate Ludvigson
Roger Ellefson

Yellow Medicine County Commissioner
Lincoln County Commissioner
Lac qui Parle County Commissioner
Yellow Medicine County SWCD
Lincoln County SWCD
Lac qui Parle County SWCD
Lac qui Parle County Ag Producer
Lac qui Parle Contractor
LQP Pheasants Forever/Local Surveyor

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Advisory Board met on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 5:30 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 Attorney, Matt Haugen, with the law firm Nelson, Oyen, Torvik for general legal counsel. Attorney, John Kolb, with the Rinke Noonan Law Firm is on retainer and handles the District's legal ditch counsel.

Operating Budget:

A public hearing was held on September 4, 2018 (meeting #583) to approve the 2019 levy & budget of \$290,000 of which \$250,000 is approved via MN Statute 103D.905 Sub. 3, and \$40,000 via MN Statute 103D.905 Sub 9 (1). No one attended the public hearing, so there being no opposition, the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed managers approved the 2019 levy of \$290,000 along with the 2019 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 February 2019 the County Ditch #54 Improvement Bid was let and contract awarded. Construction started end of July 2019. Lots of problems due to wet conditions and contractor shut down in November and will continue in spring 2020. We received the final engineer report for the improvement of CD #42 in October 2019 but are waiting for the viewers' to complete the separable maintenance portion prior to holding the final hearing. Repairs were requested and completed on WS Ditches #1, WS District #2, WS #88-1, WS #92, & Lat A WS #1.

Permits for Drainage:

In 2019, the Board approved 493 permit applications. There were 403 permits issued in Lac qui Parle County, 80 in Yellow Medicine County, and 10 in Lincoln County. 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 2019, the LGU approved 403 watershed permits and staff reviewed approximately 475 applications for wetland impacts. Approximately twenty activities known to be exempt were not issued formal decisions, and approximately 20 more permits were given restrictions (tile depth, elevations, setbacks, etc.). Six permits were asked for cropping history to verify eligibility for a drainage exemption. Seven permits were notified to contact DNR to comply with WCA through restrictions and were provided Joint Applications for Activities Affecting Water Resources. Three potential violations were indicated, with one meeting an assessed benefits exemption, one occurring in a manmade cattle pond wetland, and the third resolved and restored following the LGU contacting the operator. A township official is currently working with the LGU to submit a Joint Application for equalizing a culvert installation that will have WCA impacts covered under the Wetland Conservation Act Road Replacement Program. Both wetland bank sites in the County received a credit deposit in 2019. One was 2.35 credits and the other was 5.5118 credits. End of the year monitoring reports were received for both bank sites.

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 2019, the Watershed staff received 101 requests for maintenance on the Lac qui Parle County Drainage systems. These were for ditch cleanouts, sinkholes, tile repairs, line replacement, culvert replacements, crossing washouts, inlet repairs, & nuisance beaver dam removals. The Drainage authority received four petitions for outlets, three for Lateral B #34 & one for CD #86 and all were approved.

Redetermination of benefits were completed on County Ditch #84 (to be seeded in 2020), and Lateral B CD #84 (tile system) in 2019. Redetermination of benefits were ordered for Judicial Ditch #23, County Ditches 4, Br 1 & 2 of #4, Br 4 CD #4, Lateral A CD #4, Lateral B CD #4, CD #12, CD #20, Branch 2 CD #20, CD #24, CD #44, & CD #45. We are working to get survey data on CD #79 & CD #83 for a public waters permit from DNR to cleanout the channel & outlet. We are working with FEMA on mitigation for 21 ditch banks that sloughed in due to flooding in the spring of 2019.

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 2019, administrative penalty orders were issued to six landowners with nine parcels not compliant with the public waters buffer law. By the end of 2019, there was only one parcel not compliant. We are waiting to hear from SWCD regarding non-compliant ditch buffers.

Nuisance Beaver Program:

In 2019, the Watershed District paid cost-share on 51 nuisance beavers and nine (9) 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 2019, the Board again authorized 75% cost-share up to \$250 per beaver dam removal and \$20.00 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 approved up to \$1200 for tree snagging in the river in section 17, Garfield Township, Lac qui Parle County in 2019.

STONEHILL PARK & DEL CLARK LAKE:



The (R-1) dam known as Del Clark Lake 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 2019 estimated that approximately 1,800 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. Seasonal camp sites were filled in 2019 with a waiting list. The overflow and camp sites are filled most weekends as well as this continues to be a popular spot to camp, swim, fish, relax. 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.

The Watershed Board updated and approved the rules and regulations for the park in 2019. The City of Canby sponsored the 1st annual fishing tournament in January. The annual 4th of July parade, slip-in-slide, and fireworks display was held to the enjoyment of many folks. In 2019, the Board replaced the roof on the bathhouse, and installed an oscillating heater in the shop. Two water lines were repaired in the park. The Board signed a three-year service agreement with Minnesota Pump Works for inspection and service work on the sewer at the Park.

Education and Outreach Activities in 2019:

- Staff completed the centerlines for the LQP County Drainage Records Modernization Grant.
- Staff is completing scanning the maps and profiles using the County KIP printer and once this is complete we will work with Houston Engineering to develop the drainage layer and help us get our data loaded into the MN Geospatial commons which is a grant requirement. This grant expires April 30, 2020.
- Fifteen septic systems were brought into compliance using the SSTS Loan program in 2019.
- We were awarded a Clean Water Legacy Grant called the Del Clark/Canby Creek Protection Grant. The grant was executed in April. Area II will do the surveying and engineering of the project. Staff is working with Yellow Medicine SWCD and Houston Engineering on a video project highlighting the grant and work being done. Project will be bid in the spring of 2020.
- We hosted a WRAPS workshop in February. The morning session was for agency people, with the afternoon session for the public. Everyone was given an update on our WRAPS and asked to complete a ranking of implementation strategies exercise, heard about programs available through SWCDs and NRCS, and given an opportunity to initiate a farmer led conservation council.
- A local partner meeting was held in April to listen to reports generated by State agency staff. MPCA discussed the Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network, the work they do and how it is utilized. MPCA also reviewed the process and what was developed as part of the Stressor Identification Report. DNR discussed the Watershed Characterization Report, highlighting the geomorphology and hydrology characteristics in the Watershed.
- Worked on some content for interpretive signs, including messing around with some 3D modeling that is visually neat.
- Our annual canoe trip was held June 14, 2019 with 23 paddlers. The flows were pretty high, and we did encounter slight trouble at a beaver dam, we lost one canoe but everyone was safe. The route was on the LQP River beginning a couple miles SW of Dawson and emerging at the Riverside Wildlife Management Area SE of Dawson where a lunch was held.
- Houston Engineering hosted a local partner meeting in July to overview what they are currently working on with SAMS modeling to set up priority tables.
- A family event was held at Stone Hill park/Del Clark Lake on August 19th with approximately 25 people attending.
- A Demonstration day was held on October 9th with the 10th grade Dawson Biology students attending. They learned about water quality monitoring, existing impairments, and macroinvertebrates/fish that MPCA samples for. Two MPCA staff demonstrated fish shocking, and the students also learned what type of degrees were needed to do this type of work for a living.
- In October, comments were provided on WRAPS reports and implementation scenario tables from Houston Engineering.
- Continue with the local radio show April – October as needed to update public on Watershed work, information, meetings, etc.
- A photo contest was held in October with prizes given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place. The photo's are then used to make a calendar and used to promote the Watershed.

Upcoming Projects:

- Continue to partner with our respective local units of government within the Watershed to complete WRAPS (June 2020).
- Apply for a planning grant to transition to the “One Watershed, One Plan” approach.
- 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.
- Let bids for Del Clark/Canby Creek Protection grant and oversee construction.
- 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.
 - Adjust the current permit application form to promote conservation practices be in place to aid with water management within the District.
- 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.
- Complete the Drainage Records Modernization Grant and develop a drainage layer.