

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 11, 2019

The annual meeting of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, Lac qui Parle County Courthouse, 600 6th Street #7, Madison, MN. Watershed Managers present were: Darrel Ellefson, David Craigmile, David Ludvigson, John Cornell, & Michael Frank. Advisory Board members present were: Darwyn Bach, Roger Ellefson, Joe Drietz, Nate Ludvigson, Roy Marihart, & Harvey Swenson. Absent were: Ron Antony, Chessa Frahm, & Dale Sterzinger. Staff present: Trudy Hastad.

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Chairman Ellefson opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Ellefson asked for nominations for a Chairman and Recorder from the Advisory Board members according to M.S. Chapter 103D.331.

Harvey Swenson motioned to nominate Roy Marihart as Chairman of the Advisory Board, seconded by Roger Ellefson. Chairman Ellefson called three times for other nominations with there being no other nominations. Chairman Ellefson called for a vote. Motion unanimously passed.

Advisory Board Chairman Marihart asked for nominations for a Recorder. Darwyn Bach nominated Nate Ludvigson, seconded by Joe Drietz. Chairman Marihart called three times for other nominations with there being no other nominations. Chairman Marihart called for a vote. Motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Marihart asked for additions to the agenda. Harvey Swenson motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Joe Drietz. Motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Marihart asked for approval of the December 12, 2018 Advisory Board meeting minutes. Roger Ellefson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Harvey Swenson. Motion unanimously passed.

Administrator Hastad reported on the yearly activities of the Watershed as follows:

- Board approved 493 drainage permits and reviewed for WCA in 2019.
- Staff completed the centerlines for the Drainage Records Modernization Grant, and are scanning the maps and profiles using the County KIP printer which is working well. Next step is to continue working with Houston Engineering to develop the drainage layer and upload our data into the MN Geospatial commons which is a grant requirement. We are on track to complete the grant which expires April 30, 2020.
- Thirteen septic system were brought into compliance using the SSTS Loan program.
- We completed the work plan for the Del Clark/Canby Creek Protection Grant in February. The grant was executed and we received the first 50% of the funding. The Area II Engineer was out to survey the project area in June and staff is currently working with the Yellow Medicine SWCD to delineate wetlands in the project area and we are waiting to hear back on that. Staff is working with Yellow Medicine SWCD and Houston Engineering on a video project highlighting the grant and work being done. We are hoping to bid the project in early June 2020.
- We hosted a WRAPS workshop in February. Agency people met in the morning where staff had everyone complete a ranking of implementation strategies for Houston Engineering to use when planning a SAMS modeling workshop and writing our report. The afternoon session was given an update on WRAPS, completed the same ranking opportunity to initiate a farmer led conservation council.
- We held a WRAPS meeting in April for local partners to listen to reports generated by State agency staff. MPCA discussed 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.

- Staff worked on some content for interpretive signs, including messing around with some 3D modeling that is visually neat.
- The 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 noon lunch was served.
- Houston Engineering hosted a local partners meeting in July to overview what they are currently working on with SAMS modeling to set up priority tables.
- We held a family event at Stone Hill Park August 19th with approximately 25 people attending.
- A demonstration day with the 10th grade Dawson/Boyd Biology students was held on October 9th. 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 are 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.
- MPCA & Houston Engineering have been working on the draft TMDL and draft WRAPS reports in November that we will hopefully be able to review in December.
- In December 2018 letters were sent to 37 landowners found to have non-compliant buffer on public waters. In November 2019, APO's were sent to 6 landowners with 9 parcels non-compliant for public waters in LQP County. We are waiting to hear from SWCD regarding non-compliant ditch buffers.
- The Olson wetland bank site was seeded and approved for WCA credit release in 2019.
- WCA PRAP was done March 27th, 2019 at the SWCD office.
- The HRM bank inquired about credit release approval. The consultant had never turned in a request form, this was done and signed by the TEP and returned for the sponsor to submit to St. Paul.
- Staff attended two day training in May.
- Staff was notified of a potential wetland violation in June. Upon review, found the wetland in question met an exemption for assessed benefits to a public system.
- Staff attended BWSR academy in October.
- The 2019 camping season was a success with seasonal sites filled.
- Replaced the roof on the bathhouse, and installed an oscillating heater in the shop.
- Repaired two water lines in the park.
- Signed a three-year service agreement with Minnesota Pump Works for inspection and service work on the sewer at the Park.
- The annual July 4th parade, slip-in-slide, and fireworks display was held to the enjoyment of many folks.
- The Board updated and approved the rules and regulations of the park.
- Canby Creek Dam inspections were held with DNR and again with NRCSA. Recommended fencing on R-6 and cattle/calf pair stipulations, and cleanout of the outlet stream on R-4. Contacted DNR for a permit for cleanout and they need a survey.
- Staff is working with FEMA on 21 ditch bank slough-ins in LQP County.
- County Ditch #54 improvement project was bid and construction started the end of July. The contractors are experiencing extreme wet conditions so shut down the project in November and will continue in the spring.
- Received the final engineer report for the Improvement of County Ditch #42. We will do final engineer hearing around the end of January.
- The Watershed received a petition to modify an order abandoning part of Watershed Ditch #11 in Lincoln County. The petition was approved and Moore Engineer was hired as the Engineer.
- The 2018 audit was completed by CliftonAllenLarson and approved.

- The Watershed paid cost-share on 51 nuisance beaver and 9 beaver dam removals.
- In November, staff held a photo contest and had 38 participants. Calendars will be made using some of the photo's.

Manager Craigmile gave an interesting power-point presentation on the past & current climate conditions and flooding concerns throughout the Watershed.

Questions & comments followed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Ludvigson, Recorder
LQP-YB Advisory Board

approved virtually on 12-9-2020