

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**SWCD Office, Evansville, Indiana**  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 27, 2010

**Present:**

Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Chairman  
David Ellison, Vice Chairman (Absent)  
Laura Lamb, Secretary  
Wayne Fehd, Member  
John Hahn, Member (Absent)  
Fay Heil, Associate

**SWCD Personnel:**

Norma Duckworth (Absent)  
Bonnie Bittner

**NRCS Personnel:**

Darrell Rice  
Lindsay Martinez

**GUESTS:** Brian Fribley, Owner/Operator Arbors Edge, LLC & Steve Helfrich, Facilities Director, USI

The minutes of the March meeting were mailed to each member prior to the meeting.

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Laura Lamb, seconded by Wayne Fehd, and carried.

Davie Sue asked the board to refer to the March financial report. The previous Balance on 3-1-10 was \$25,597.18, Receipts, \$10,617.98, Debits \$17,168.38 and balance as of 3-31-10 \$19,046.78.

A motion was made by Wayne Fehd, seconded by Laura Lamb, and carried, to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

**The following claims were submitted for Supervisors' approval:**

W4535 IASWCD (Supervisor/Staff Training)	\$30.00
W4536 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.73
W4544 Camp Reveal Remainder of Contract Pond Day)	\$225.00
W4537 City of Terre Haute (Storm Quality WS Registration)	\$20.00
W4542 Boleck's Craft Supplies, Inc. (Education Supplies)	\$66.00
<b>Note: the Auditor paid the following claims</b>	
Ann Farney Catering (Annual Meeting)	\$1,052.00
Evansville Courier company (Legal Ad for Annual Meeting)	19.21
Office Depot (LaserJet Cartridge)	\$136.31
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.73

Wayne Fehd reviewed the claims; passed the claim registers (County & District) for signature

Wayne Fehd made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Davie Sue asks members to introduce themselves to our guests and the guests to staff and board members. She welcomed them to our meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Natural Resource Committee – Dave Ellison, Chairpersons

Darrell reported the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Grant for projects in the Locust Creek Watershed are on track, under construction and we have no new applications at this time. Davie Sue asked him to please explain the LARE Project to our guests.

Darrell reported the Tillage Plot is on track and the cover crops are growing. He explained to our guests that the district has sponsored a Tillage Plot for the past several years and this year are doing some areas in cover crops to demonstrate the advantage. The Annual Rye Grass already has a large root system (foot deep) and for \$8 an acre the benefits show an excellent return.

Davie Sue gave our new guest Brian Fribley a brochure of the district Business Plan and explained to him that the district follows it with our projects and partnerships. She explained our partnerships are not all funding but resources and networking.

**BUSINESS PLAN**

**ACTIONS FOR 2010**

**BUSINESS PLAN**

**ACTIONS 2010**

**Urban Soil Erosion:**

- Continue developers' workshop
- Continue SWCD's level of involvement with MS4's
- Develop education programs
- Continue existing watershed initiatives and establish new one by 2012

**Agriculture Soil Erosion:**

- Field Day/No-Till workshops
- Continue Locust Creek Core IV projects
- Establish a priority watershed TBD in Vanderburgh County utilizing Core IV principles
- Locate and promote programs that provide incentives to adopt conservation practices (Newsletter)

**Water Quality:**

- Partner with Health Department to address water quality concerns
- Continue septic information in newsletter & informative materials from other sources
- Continue conservation programs on Ag lands that improve water quality
- Continue water quality monitoring

**Preservation of Natural Areas:**

- Locate & Identify

**Preservation of Farmland:**

- I. Create additional wetlands, forest & wildlife areas
  - SWCD becomes knowledgeable about federal, state & local programs related to natural areas
  - Preservation, Educate & promote programs to general public
  - Promote native plant species
  - Work with partners to eradicate invasive
  - Educate the public
- II. Preserve existing wetlands, forests & wildlife areas
  - SWCD becomes knowledgeable about programs to aid in the creation of natural areas

Educate/promote programs to the public through workshops and partnerships

**Urban Initiatives**

- I. Encourage the utilization of “green spaces” in subdivisions & urban
  - Educate SWCD on zoning & related “green space” issues
  - Remain involved in influencing zoning ordinances related to “green space”
  - Partner with city Arborist to promote Tree City USA programs
  - Partner with City Beautiful to promote relevant programs
  - Partner with City/County parks department to preserve/create parks & related areas

Land Use Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Bonnie reported the first installment for the Clean Water Indiana Grant 2010 (\$5,250) was direct deposited in the district checking account.

The four districts partnering on the Soil Quality Conference will meet in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room on May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the final plans. Bonnie reported she got the certificate of Insurance from the County for the Conference. Draft flyers were passed for member to view. Darrell reported the speakers are very excited about what we have put together and they are using it as a template for the nation. The workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Exposition Hall of the Vanderburgh 4-H Center.

An application form for the Cover Crop Initiative Project was passed to supervisor for signature and there are three more applications coming. The district put \$5,000 in the Project for aerial seeding of cover crops. The money will pay for the airplane application. Land of Lakes is donating the seed a blend of rye, crimson clover and tillage radish. After some discussion the board suggested give first preference to someone who has not done cover crops in the past.

A flyer on the District’s Invasive & Native Species Conference with speakers Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Sharon Sorenson and Dr. Edith Hard castle on June 19, 2010 at the University of Evansville were passed for members and guests. We have secured finances from INPAWS \$500, The Nature Conservancy \$650 and Master Gardeners \$875. INPAWS will have someone in attendance to make Dr. Douglas Tallamy an honorary member of INPAWS on stage. INPAWS is advertising the conference all over Indiana.

One of the district’s Backyard Conservation Projects was a native planting on the Bent Twig Trail at the University of Southern Indiana. The district Chairman and Executive Assistant attended the dedication ceremony on April 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of Earth Day. Betty and David Rice, Dr. Price and Anne Statham among other adults and students were present. We have pictures for the newsletter.

Bonnie reported she attend the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) meeting at Sugar Ridge. Basically the Indiana State Department of Ag (ISDA) wants districts to take over the payment process for CREP. The state will send the money to the district; they will write the check and send out the 1099. ISDA is still working on the forms and logistics. Probably several districts will be lumped together and one (whoever has the most CREP projects to do) will do the paper work for all. The district doing the paper work will receive a small percentage for doing it.

The Eagle Slough Steering Committee will meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room. We have a new trail to the west of Teal Wetland which has been name Beaver Point Back Country Trail. The third Eagle Scout project was bat and wood duck houses for the trail. Rock for the parking lot entrance was delivered and the work will be done this coming week.

Eagle Slough Natural Area is the opening for the Ohio Valley Birding Festival on Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 a.m. and it's closing on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Two of the summer intern references were contacted by Norma and they gave her a good reference. The third was called twice and did not respond. She will work Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as needed. Board asked Bonnie to find out when she will start.

Backyard Conservation Projects contracts are still coming in; Bonnie gave chairman three to review and sign.

District Operations Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

Two board members still need to sign up for dates to attend county commissioner/county council meeting.

Bonnie reported after talking with several entities, asking the Answer-Phone staff person to please come out to see if she could set it up and finding out an administrative person had to do it the district now has voice mail.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairpersons

Three names were suggested for River Friendly Farmer nomination. Staff will check their qualifications out and send the form to the most qualified.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

The next meeting will be May 18, 2010 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Browning Room A, Central Library. The Smart Growth group was explained to our guest and what they have accomplished. He asked to be put on the group email list.

Education and Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Water Quality Specialist report and spreadsheet showing the programs, number of people reached was passed to each supervisor for review. Since January 2010 she has done 21 Presentations and reached 5,740 people which have been sent to the City and County Engineer's office to use for the MS4 education needed to send to the state.

District Operations Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

Members and staff discussed possibilities for Annual Meeting speaker and asked Bonnie to contact Tom Turpin at Purdue. The date was set for February 22, 2011 in the Exposition Hall of the Vanderburgh 4-H Center with Ann Farney Catering. Bonnie is to check on all aspects of this and report back.

Davie Sue reported the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) 2010 Dues for Norma is due. She must belong to the SWCS in order to get her CPESC certification each year.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay the SWCS 2010 dues (\$80) for Norma, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried

Davie Sue reported the Indiana Association of Conservation Districts (IASWCD) 2009 dues bill came this month.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay the IASWCD 2010 dues (\$2,000) seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The Four Rivers RC&D Annual Report for 2009 was passed for members to review. Anyone wishing a copy was asked to request it from Bonnie. Wayne Fehd requested a copy.

Wayne Fehd checked the petty cash report with the actual petty cash reporting it was in order. He passed the report for members to initial.

Darrell Rice, NRCS reported he met with Representative Gail Riecken and State Conservationist, Jane Hardisty at the State House to talk about getting an Ohio River Basin Initiative going like the Mississippi River Basin. They feel like the timing is great and want to put together a caucus. Congressman Brad Ellsworth signed on. Representative Riecken would also like to get a Wetland at Glenwood School. Since Eagle Slough Natural Area is so close maybe they would be willing to use it and maybe do a Native Planting at the school. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) state office is sweeping funds from other states for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is ongoing with constant applications; which is bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars to Vanderburgh County. NRCS also has a contribution agreement for districts to hire technical help. NRCS pays 100% the first year but districts must get the county on board because NRCS contributes less each year. Board asks him to get some examples from other counties.

Bonnie passed district time sheets for review and signature by the board.

Davie Sue announced the date for the May board meeting will be May 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Vanderburgh County SWCD office.

Steve Helfrich requested to become an associate board member if the board would accept him.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to accept Steve Helfrich as an Associate board member, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Members and staff thanks Steve and welcomed him.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to adjourn the meeting 9:15 p.m. seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Bittner  
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on 5-25-10

Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

David Ellison, Vice-Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Laura Lamb, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Wayne Fehd, Member \_\_\_\_\_

John Hahn, Member \_\_\_\_\_