



**Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

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**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SWCD Office, Evansville, Indiana  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2011**

**Present:**

Laura Lamb, Chairman  
David Ellison, Vice Chairman  
Stephen Helfrich, Secretary  
Wayne Fehd, Member  
Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Member

**SWCD Personnel:**

Norma Duckworth  
Bonnie Bittner

**NRCS Personnel:**

Darrell Rice (Absent)

**GUEST: Dennis Verkamp, Professional Engineer and President of Biagi Chance Cummins London and Titzer Consulting Engineers**

The minutes of the March meeting were mailed and/or emailed to each member prior to the meeting.

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Steve Helfrich, seconded by David Ellison, and carried.

The March Minutes were passed for signature.

Laura asked the board to refer to the March financial report. The previous Balance on 3-1-11 was \$37,925.76, Receipts, \$17,942.69, Debits \$15,677.53 and balance as of 3-31-11 \$40,190.92.

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

<b>The following claims were submitted for Supervisors’ approval:</b>	
W4622 IASWCD (Registration/2 Supervisors/1Staff	\$45.00
W4623 Mark Schmidt (LARE Payment)	\$4,223.20
W4624 Marvin Schmidt (LARE Payment)	\$10,432.00
W4629 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.74
W4640 Stephen Helfrich (Hotel/Leadership Training)	\$81.75
W4641 David Ellison (Mileage/Annual Conference)	\$138.80
<b>Note: the Auditor paid the following claims</b>	
Evansville Courier company (Legal Ad for Annual Meeting)	\$19.21
Staples Advantage (Toner/Manila Envelopes)	\$151.86
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.74

Stephen Helfrich reviewed the claims; passed the claim registers (County & District) for signature

David Ellison made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Stephen Helfrich and carried.

**“All Vanderburgh County SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.”**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### Natural Resource Committee – Dave Ellison, Chairperson

Six Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Grant project clients in the Locust Creek Watershed were sent check amounting to \$13,002.00.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

### **ACTIONS 2011**

#### **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 – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Bonnie reported she emailed Jerry Frankhauser concerning supervisor's question about the Transect Data and he replied the Transect Data work done at one or more of their regional Purdue Agricultural Centers, but he has not seen the data nor has any been forwarded to his office. Bonnie was asked to scan the reply and email it to a board member.

### Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Copies of the Living Land and Waters presentation by its founder Chad Pregracke were passed to members asking them to attend. The presentation will be April 28, 2011, 6:30 p.m. in the Exposition Hall of the Vanderburgh 4-H Center. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) partnered to bring the Living Land and Water Garbage Barge to Evansville. In addition to Chad's talk on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 500 trees were scheduled to be planted on the 29<sup>th</sup> and a river

bank cleanup on the 30<sup>th</sup>. These two projects have been cancelled due to the flooding in Vanderburgh County and will be rescheduled.

#### District Operations Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Steve Helfrich attended the County Council meeting this month where basically they discussed the need for budget cuts and ways they could accomplish the cuts.

Bonnie reported she called the 4-H Center and set up the date for the 2012 Annual Conference. She received the contract and the price had gone up; after some discussion she was advised to check around and get three bids for a place and caterer. She was also asked to check District Law on Annual Meetings.

The Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program was not funded in the federal budget cuts for 2011. This means the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will withdraw their funding which cover the salary for a Coordinator, office space, equipment, etc. Members were asked to refer to a copy in their packets for a copy of the Close Out Procedure sent by Roger Kult, RC&D Program Manager. Consensus was to table the Four Rivers RC&D Financial Fee for Service Contract this month.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairpersons

Bonnie will attend a meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with Posey, Gibson & Warrick to discuss two new ideas for Clean Water Indiana (CWI) 2011 grant if there is any money available from our planned projects.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets of an invitation from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) inviting the district to a stake holders meeting for the Draft Highland-Pigeon Creek Watershed total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that will provide an opportunity for public comments. The meeting will be held at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Central Branch on May 18, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The SWCD Water Quality Specialist reported she will be attending and thinks more people will be present this time because of the push to clean up Pigeon Creek's water.

##### Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Eagle Slough Natural Area (ESNA) is flooded which resulted in its location being cancelled for the Birding Festival this year. The May 21<sup>st</sup> Dedication Ceremony for ESNA was cancelled and will be rescheduled for sometime this fall. A check for the ESNA deck lumber bill will be sent by Four Rivers RC&D. Davie Sue asked the board members to be thinking of long term plans for ESNA.

The next Smart Growth meeting will be June 16, 2011 9:00 a.m. at CK Newsome Center. Laura reported they separated into committees at the last meeting. Darrell Rice will head the Riparian Buffer Sub-Committee and Jill Walters will head up a Complete Streets & Transit Enhancement Sub-Committee. The sub-committees will schedule their own meetings if necessary between the scheduled Smart Growth meetings.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the invitation and information on the Planning for Bicycle-Friendly Community Seminar. It will be held on May 18, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Vectren Conference Room on riverside. Davie Sue, Steve and our guest Dennis Verkamp want to attend if their schedules permit. They expect Greg Meyer, ESNA Chairman will be attending also.

##### Education and Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the next Leadership Training on Communication. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bonnie.

The Water Quality Specialist report:

March/April

Activities

Office coverage, committee work, webinars etc/Vehicle Maintenance/Computer maintenance  
Prepared materials for Wesselman's Wildlife program 3-29-11  
Continuing work on eastside sewer project – on going- working with R Boehm and K Barnhill  
Erosion control – received, reviewed and found complete plan for Levee repairs – all notification sent and received copy of NOI from engineer  
Visited Kohl's and West side erosion complaint sites took notes and photos  
Submitted photos to Bonnie from programs  
Collected close to 100 posters/7 schools/judging complete. Finishing handout materials packets and certificates and making appointments to return to students  
Prepared program for Howell Wetlands- drove there, but it was cancelled 4-16-11  
Prepared program for Zoo – attended and worked with at least 400 people discussing caring for resources and making earth bracelets with kids 4-17-11  
Prepared Activity and Program for Daniel Wertz/65 students and 3 teachers/mainly on soils formation, the living soil; then did soil activity on 4-22-11  
Preparing program on tree planting and forestry etc for Daniel Wertz  
Tree planting for barge and barge workshops postponed because of flooding.  
Visited Hugh Miller with Darrell Rice regarding rain garden/Left him materials and will be getting back with him soon.

#### District Operations Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to a copy of a letter sent to Senator Lugar's office requesting a congressional investigation into why the delay in the leasing process for the Vanderburgh County Service Center. Four questions were asked: 1. Why is the lease process so cumbersome & taking so long? 2. Why was the Service Center without a lease a year before being evicted? 3. Why was the leasing process taken away from the local and state staff? 4. How can a small understaffed office in DC possibly administer all of the leases in the United States effectively?

Laura reported the Indiana Association of Conservation Districts (IASWCD) 2011 dues bill came this month.  
David Ellison made a motion to pay the IASWCD 2011 dues (\$2,000) seconded by Davie Sue and carried.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the CWI Annual Financial Reporting Grant which the state matches up to \$10,000 what the county provides for the district. Bonnie signed the contract as Fiscal Officer and mailed it to the state office.

NRCS sent a memo to all SWCD Chairpersons and offices on Support of computers to SWCDs. They provide and support computers for SWCD employees and their goal is to continue to support them without their total number rising.

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

Steve Helfrich made a motion replenish Petty Cash for \$26.72  
Seconded by David Ellison and carried.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) report was tabled due to the District Conservationist's absence. He called and said he was helping to sand bag a friend's house that was in danger of flooding.

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

Laura announced the date for the May board meeting will be May 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall at Camp Reveal.

David Ellison made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:30 p.m.  
seconded by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Bittner  
Executive Assistant/Fiscal Officer

Minutes approved on 5-24-11

Laura Lamb, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

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

Stephen Helfrich, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

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

Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Member \_\_\_\_\_