

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Monday, August 25, 2009

Present:

David Ellison, Chairman (Absent)
Davie Sue Litov, Vice Chairman
Laura Lamb, Secretary
Maurice Berendes, Member (Absent)
Wayne Fehd, Member
Tom Niksch, Associate
Paul Bousman, Associate

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice
Lindsay Martinez

GUEST: Scott & Tina Wininger, Camp Reveal

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

A motion was made by Wayne Fehd to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2009 meeting seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Vice-Chairman Davie Sue asked Bonnie to read the **July** financial report, which showed a balance of \$54,923.16 on 7-1-09, Receipts 532.36, Debits \$268.56 and a balance as of 7-31-09 of 55,187.43.

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:

W4449 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.68
W4450 Old National Bank Petty Cash (Replenish Petty Cash)	\$31.43
W4455 Hornville Tavern (Tillage Day Lunch)	\$712.80
W4456 University of Southern IN (Dr. Brandon Field/Mesker Zoo Rain Garden)	\$600.00
NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims	
Farm Service Agency (Postage Meter Bill)	\$117.30
Oaks Printing (July Newsletter)	\$1,578.16
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Newsletter Postage)	\$188.38
Universal Map Group (Wall Map)	\$179.00
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement Cell Phone)	\$16.68
Office Depot (Office Supplies)	\$68.34
Office Depot (Office Supplies)	\$239.69
Bauer's Tents (Tables/Chairs Tillage Day)	\$438.91
Vic's Corner Garage (Compressor/Blazer)	\$582.59

Wayne Fehd reviewed the claims stating they were in order.

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

Vice-Chairman, Davie Sue Litov welcomed and introduced Scott and Tina Winger asking staff and members to introduce themselves.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Two Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Projects are finished costing \$16,000 and two others are ready for construction.

The Tillage Plot Quad County Tillage Field Day was a great success with between 90-100 people in attendance. Ron chamberlain talked on Gypsum Applications in No-Till, Rodney Rulon, Cover Crops, Marion Calmer, Year Round Residue Management and Matt Inzeo, Congressman Brad Ellsworth's Washington, DC office aide flew in to talk about the Cap and Trade Bill. As a result of the Tillage Day five farmers went up to Putnam to the Cover Crop Field Day and afterward they met with some of the speakers who answered their questions. Bonnie asked for a motion to pay the speakers fees.

Laura Lamb made a motion to pay the speakers bills for \$1169, second by Wayne Fehd and carried.

BUSINESS PLAN

ACTIONS FOR 2009

- Soil Erosion:** Continue developer's workshop to highlight urban control practices and legislation (Partnering with other agencies)
Conservation tillage will be increased by 20% over 2002 amounts, with a minimum of 5% per year on highly erodible land.
Promote No Till Workshop for producers
Locate and promote programs that provide incentives to adopt conservation practices (Newsletter/ongoing)
- Water Quality:** Educate public on maintenance of septic related issues by SWCD & Partners with Newsletter, flyers, fair booth
Nitrates and phosphates levels will be reduced in Locust Creek by 10% over 2002 Levels
Target Locust Creek with Core 4 grant (i.e. soil erosion, nutrient management, pesticide Management, & buffer strips)
Partner with Health Department to address water quality concerns
- Preservation of Natural Areas:** Preserve existing wetlands, forests & wildlife areas
Create additional wetlands, forest and wildlife areas
Encourage the utilization of "green spaces" in subdivisions & urban areas
Partner with the city to get rid of kudzu
- Preservation of Farmland:** Reduce the loss of prime farmland to urban development

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Scott Wininger reported the old fence is down, cleaned up and mowed ready for the Natural Resource Conservation Service employees training day on September 16, 2009. They will put up new fencing and pipe water to the horses.

The Oaklyn Library Meadow Project was tabled.

The next Eagle Slough steering committee meeting is September 1, 2009, 9:00 a.m. in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room.

Members were asked to read an e-mail from Elissa Bakke giving us Dr. Summers' notes to the district board which are:

"I have been working on finishing the report this past week but as is often the case I have underestimated the amount of time needed. I essentially need about 1-2 additional weeks to ensure all of the sections are up to date and have been properly sourced and edited. As I mentioned last week my time is still limited by missing time from work with this health issue which has tended to wax and wane over the past couple of months (the medication is worst part!)."

"I would like to ask for one last extension of two weeks in order to make sure I get a fully finished quality product to the board. As a good faith measure in appreciation for the patience of Norma and those on the board, I would like to offer to repeat the study in its entirety at a time of their choosing (one year from now, two, etc.) pro bono. I would be willing to provide, at no cost to the SWCD, a complete repeat of the current study so that they would have additional year-to-year data or a follow-up at their choosing. I feel I need to offer this as the work is important and also in appreciation of the board understanding my current situation of getting the report finished this past summer."

After some discussion consensus was to ask Dr. Summers to attend a board meeting give a report and then a decision will be made on whether to accept his offer to repeat the study in its entirety pro bono.

Two Clean Water Indiana (CWI) 2009 grant project folders were passed to supervisors for signature. Bonnie will mail checks to them for the first phase of the projects.

The University of Evansville Soils Project in Area Wetlands was tabled for lack of an update. Associate supervisor Tom Nicksch will follow up before the September board meeting.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Mesker Zoo Rain Garden dedication ceremony will be Friday, August 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. right inside the main entrance of the zoo. Wayne Fehd, Davie Sue Litov & staff will represent the district. Norma will have a rain garden display with handouts. Invitations were mailed to legislators, city council members, county commissioners, county council, mayor, supervisors, USI president & associate supervisors. Mass e-mails were sent out with a pdf of the invitation. The media was contacted and Channel 14 will be there to meet with Paul Bousman at 5:00 a.m. Dr. Field, USI Professor will have a page on the rain garden on the zoo website by day of the dedication. The Zoo marketing person will be master of ceremonies, the Zoo Director, SWCD Vice-Chairman, President of USI, City Council member, County Council member & Paul Bousman will speak. Refreshments will be provided by USI.

Vice-Chairman will roll out the district Backyard Conservation Program during her talk at the Mesker Zoo Rain Garden dedication ceremony. The Backyard Conservation program consists of the district cost sharing \$50 on Rain Barrels, 50% up to \$1,000 on Rain Gardens & 50% up to \$1,000 on Native

Plantings to home owners in Vanderburgh County who meet the criteria and sign an agreement. We already have several people interested.

District Operation Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

David Ellison was unable to attend the County Commissioner's meeting due to being out of town.

Two supervisors and one staff member signed up for the Cornerstones of Leadership (Board Development) workshop in Nashville, IN on September 18th and 19th.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay the registration fee, mileage and Per deim for board members/staff attending the Board Development Workshop in Nashville, IN, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The 2009 annual meeting awards committee reported they are submitting Tim Griffith for Conservation Educator, Mesker Zoo for Conservation Education Group, Greg Meyer for Urban Conservationist, Joe Schalasky for Friend of Conservation & Wayne Fehd is our River Friendly Farmer.

Norma reported the air conditioning is working since the new compressor was installed. The blazer failed to start again last week, a short in the door was detected, disconnected and she thinks it will be okay now.

All supervisors and staff were reminded we will meeting with facilitator Chris Lee on September 8, 2009 in the conference room of the district office to write a new district business plan.

The paper work was sent to the SWCD Foundation to transfer the district funds to Four Rivers RC&D. The check was to be sent to Four Rivers RC&D and the check made out to Vanderburgh County SWCD Education Development Fund. Four Rivers said they would let the district know when they received the check.

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Vice Chairman asked members to refer to copies in their packet of a Pond Pro Day held in Marion County. A Mr. Dave Ackert brought it into the office asking if the district could sponsor one. He came in again this week to say he had a spot to have one. After some discussion members ask Bonnie to pursue getting information on who would partner with us, etc.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Staff is currently working on a date via doodle on the internet to set a date for the next Smart Growth meeting.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Water Quality Specialist report was included in members packets. She also reported she is invited to a follow up meeting of Leadership Evansville Green Ideas and the September 26th Riverwatch workshop at USI made the Sunday paper.

District Operation Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the NRCS/SWCD Cooperative Agreement for office rent which needed to be signed. After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Davie Sue Litov signed the agreement and asked Bonnie to mail it to the NRCS state office.

The Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) Fall Conference will be held on October 14-15, 2009 in Kendallville, IN. After some discussion

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay registration fee, hotel & mileage for two staff, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Petty Cash report was checked by Wayne Fehd and passed to members to initial.

Wayne Fehd reported Petty Cash needed to be replenished.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to replenish petty cash for \$43.89
Seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

District Conservationist (DC) reported he has a site for the Soil Judging contest in September. He explained the Soil Judging contest to our guests. He passed a copy of Vanderburgh County with dots indicating the sites checked for types of tillage used. This was a disappointing year due to the wet spring. The Conservation Stewardship Program was opened to entire state which pays incentives for programs they are currently doing and new programs. The conservation Technology Center (CTIC) did a survey and found farmers prefer financial incentives over education. The top four respected information sources farmers use are Cooperative Extension, certified crop advisers, agribusiness, and NRCS. The survey also indicated large landowners are more conservation-oriented than small landowners.

Staff time sheets were passed for review and signature.

The next meeting will be on September 22, 2008 in the conference room of the Vanderburgh County SWCD office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on September 22, 2009 by

David Ellison _____

Davie Sue Litov _____

Laura Lamb _____

Wayne Fehd _____

Maurice Berendes _____