



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, August 23, 2011

Present:

Laura Lamb, Chairman
David Ellison, Vice Chairman (Absent)
Stephen Helfrich, Secretary
Wayne Fehd, Member
Scott Winiger, Member

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth (Absent)
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice

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

A motion was made by Scott Winiger to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting seconded by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Chairman Laura Lamb asked Bonnie to read the **July** financial report, which showed a balance of \$51,999.59 on 7-1-11, Receipts \$2,735.86, Debits \$12,519.80 and a balance as of 7-31-11 of \$41,315.65.

A motion was made by Steve Helfrich, seconded by Scott Winiger, and carried, to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

The following claims were submitted for Supervisors' approval:

W4660 Marvin Zwahlen, Jr (LARE Project)	\$2,449.85
W4657 McCullough Land Improvement, LLC (ESNA Deck)	\$2,333.50
W4656 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.69
W4654 Marvin Zwahlen, Jr. (LARE Project)	\$4,350.15
W4655 Michael Thomas (LARE Project)	\$5,752.38
W4658 Petty Cash (Replenish Petty Cash)	\$39.08
W4663 Pike County SWCD (Supplies No-Till Planter WS (CWI Grant)	\$176.33
W4659 Center Heights Lumber Company, Inc. (ESNA Deck Supplies)	\$133.79
NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims	
Vanderburgh County Farm Service Agency (PO Box Six Months Bill)	\$28.00
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$43.49

Steve Helfrich reviewed the claims stating they were in order.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Scott Winiger, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Staff received an email from the LARE Program Manager saying the district had \$75,854.86 tied up there waiting for projects. District Conservationist was checking into it. He knows district had one project that had money waiting and they sold the farm; he will check to see if the new owners are interested.

The Tillage Plot was planted in Gypsum and staff will ask owner to have data ready for next board meeting if possible.

BUSINESS PLAN

BUSINESS PLAN 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

Staff reported Paul Bouseman sent an email saying to reallocate the CWI 2011 funds for another project.

Staff reported district has received another 118 acres for conventional seeding of cover crops making a total of over 800 acres in Vanderburgh County. District needs a motion to change the direction of our funds in the CWI 2011 Grant. After some discussion

Steve Helfrich made a motion for staff to send a request to direct the funds allocated for the rain garden and remaining Education Outreach funds to aerial and conventional cover crop seeding, seconded by Scott Winiger and carried.

The Cover Crop/Planter Setup workshop had over 70 participants from Gibson, Pike, Vanderburgh, Posey, Warrick and Knox Counties on August 2nd at Jeff McGuire's farm. Speakers included Barry Fisher, who spoke "Practical Cover Crop Integration" and provided information on "Setting up your Planter for No Till Success". Kevin Rayburn discussed "Have You Considered Gypsum?" Jerry Schenk provided information on Precision Farming, and Roger Kult reported on the Farm Bill Future and What it means to a Farmer and how it impacts NRCS programs. Our Clean Water Indiana Grant made it possible.

Vanderburgh, Posey and possibly Warrick Co will partner to apply for the Clean Water Indiana Grant 2012. We are planning a two stage ditch in Vanderburgh County and have a teleconference with The Nature Conservancy on Thursday of this week. Staff has a tentative agreement with the landowners. After some discussion

Steve Helfrich made a motion to approve applying for the two-stage Ditch project in the CWI 2012 Grant application, seconded by Scott Winiger and carried.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

No Business This Month

District Operation Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Laura Lamb attend the County Commissioner's meeting tonight prior to our board meeting and reported they discussed repairs to the Old Court House roof, the Centre chillers and closing a median on Hwy 41 at the old Busler Service Station. Steve Helfrich reported he attended the City Council Meeting.

Chairman, Laura Lamb and Executive Assistant, Bonnie Bittner attended the County Budget hearing on August 17th. Commissioner Winnecke made the presentation for the commissioner's budget which the district is under. Bonnie will check when the budget cuts will be done.

The Annual Meeting Committee reported they have a contract for the place, the awards recipients have been decided and they gave the board several ideas for a speaker. After some discussion three possibilities were decided on for staff to check.

Staff reported Scott Winiger was voted in as a supervisor at the State Conservation Board meeting the first of August. Congratulations were given to Scott.

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for Lauren Preske's request for the district to partner with Wesselman Nature Society, City of Evansville Department of Urban Forestry and the Vanderburgh County Big Tree committee to host a Tree-mendous Tree Tour in November. After some discussion the board decided to wait and see what our budget will be for 2012. Staff will get back with Lauren.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the minutes from the August 16th meeting. The next meeting will be September 20th at 9:00 a.m. at Camp Reveal in the dining hall.

The next Smart Growth Meeting will be September 15th at 9:00 a.m. in the C. K. Newsome Center. Laura reported at the last combined meeting one member stated he would like more trees in the buffer ordinance. There was some concern they would clog the waterway; normally shrubs and grasses are used for Riparian Buffers. Blaine Oliver and Laura met with Complete Streets Committee to resolve issues in subdivisions on sidewalks. The Building Commission has agreed to initiate some training for concrete installers that need to meet ADA requirements and also a more prominent role in ADA inspections

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Water Quality Specialist report was included in members packets.

Norma Duckworth Report – June-August

Web meetings – Project Wet

Office coverage, committee work, webinars etc

Board Meeting = preparation

Vehicle Maintenance

Computer maintenance

TMDL committee phone and email work

Program for 4-Her's interested in water quality at 4-H Center – including water testing

Judged 13 soil and water projects at Vanderburgh fair

Prepared and presented Program on watersheds for Wesselman Jr Naturalists at USI

Trip to Indy for NRCS computer card

Assisted 2 patrons with questions and information for rain barrels

Area plan sub reviews and response

3 erosion control plan reviews and responses

Review of city complaints and citations from Karan Barnhill

Assisted Darrell with LARE grant

Submitted newsletter articles to Bonnie

Sorted and purged files

District Operation Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for a flyer (agenda) on the South Southwest Region Meeting in Montgomery on September 6 at 5:30 p.m. Vanderburgh time. Members were asked to let staff know if they can attend.

Darrell reported he was interested in purchasing the district's Laser Plane 350. The district bought it in 1991. Several years ago NRCS supplied updated equipment and then the Tech Team was formed and they do the surveying for projects. After some discussion it was suggested Darrell check to see what shape the equipment is in and if it still works.

Petty Cash report was checked by Scott Winiger and passed for members to initial.

District Conservationist reported 2 Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) and 4 Conservation Reserve Projects (CRP) have been approved for Vanderburgh County. Darrell was in Gibson County for the On Farm Network training today. We have 36 fields in Vanderburgh, Gibson and Warrick in the program and they will be doing stalk sampling for nitrates the end of September.

District staff's time sheets were passed for review and signature.

The next meeting will be on September 27, 2011, 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall at Camp Reveal.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by
Wayne Fehd and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on September 27, 2011 by

Laura Lamb _____

David Ellison _____

Stephen Helfrich _____

Wayne Fehd _____

Scott Winiger _____