



## 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, January 25, 2011

**Present:**

Davie Sue Litov, Chairman  
David Ellison, Vice Chairman  
Laura Lamb, Secretary  
Wayne Fehd, Member  
Stephen Helfrich, Member  
Scott Wininger, Associate Board Member

**SWCD Personnel:**

Norma Duckworth  
Bonnie Bittner

**NRCS Personnel:**

Darrell Rice

**GUESTS: Dennis Verkamp, Professional Engineer and President of Biagi chance Cummins London and Titzer Consulting Engineers.**

Davie Sue asked members to introduce themselves to Dennis Verkamp. Stephen Helfrich told board and staff that Dennis worked closely with him and his staff to design the parking lots, new lake and other projects that incorporate conservation measures at the University of Southern Indiana.

The minutes of the December Vanderburgh Co. SWCD board meeting were emailed or mailed to each member prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Wayne Fehd to approve the minutes of the December, 2010 meeting seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Davie Sue asked the board to refer to the December financial report. The previous balance 12-01-10 \$26,410.04, Receipts, \$2,040.00, Debits, \$7,320.46, balance as of 12-31-10 \$21,130.02.

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

**DECEMBER CLAIMS**

W4603 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$18.60
W4607 Darrel Adler (Airplane Cost/Aerial Seeding/CWI Grant)	\$450.00
W4605 Richard Litov (Lake & River Enhancement Grant)	\$4,589.28
W4606 Ken Adler (Airplane Cost/Aerial Seeding /CWI Grant)	\$241.40
W4609 Alan Stahl (Tillage Plot as per Contract)	\$1,000.00
<b>Claims Submitted to County:</b>	
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement Cell Phone Bill)	\$18.60
Oaks Printing (January Newsletter Printing/Ad Revision)	\$1,558.49

Wayne Fehd reviewed the claims reporting they were in order.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison - Chairperson

Staff had a teleconference with Doug Nussbaum to go over a spreadsheet on all the contracts to make sure there is still money to cover them. The consensus was there is enough money in the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) budget for Vanderburgh's projects and because of some slippage there may be an extra \$15,000 available.

**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

The district has another project at Eagle Slough Natural Area thanks to an Alcoa Grant. The deck posts are in place and part of the floor. The project is suspended until the weather breaks. The deck was closed off at the beginning and an orange barrel positioned. Part way down the deck the flooring was left off so no one could get on and travel to the end. Members and staff were advised you can go online <http://www.flickr.com/photos/steve-gifford/sets/72157625261504731/show/> and look at Steve Gifford's pictures of the project and the volunteers working.

The Smart Growth meeting for January was cancelled due to weather and lack of members able to attend.

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

Members were asked to refer to a copy in their packets on the Farm Life Exhibit at Angel Mounds.

Vanderburgh County SWCD is a sponsor and they want to recognize board and staff at the opening ceremony. Members are to contact Bonnie so she can email the number of attendees to Mike Linderman at Angel Mounds.

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

Members were asked to sign up for the County Commissioners and County Council meeting dates in 2011.

Election Committee form was passed for remaining member to sign.

We are on target for Annual Meeting at this point. Rob Miller, Manager of the Darmstadt branch of Old National Bank called to say they would donate flowers again this year because the district gives them lots of good publicity. Wayne Fehd, David Ellison and Stephen Helfrich sign on to bring door prizes.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for a report on Annual Conference from Bonnie. She reported State Board announced at their meeting on Monday Morning they had \$84,000 in Clean Water Indiana money available that multi-counties can apply for. They prefer large project proposals that can have an impact. Representatives Gail Riecken, Vaneta Becker, Wendy McNamera and Senator Jim Tomes attended the Legislative Breakfast. After the breakfast Representative Riecken brought Representative Steven Stemler over to discuss with Darrell Rice, Bonnie and Jane Hardisty the Ohio River Basin Alliance. We are working to make this happen in Southern Indiana. Darrell, Jeri Ziliak (Posey SWCD Coordinator) and Bonnie met with Rosalind Leeck in the hall between session about Indiana On Farm Network program in Southern Indiana. The sessions were informative, the networking was excellent and the speakers were very good this year. The best quote I heard at the conference was

**“Soil and Water make life possible”**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Soil and Water Resource Committee – David Ellison - Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for a flyer on the Corn Soybean Day on Friday, January 28, 2011. Vanderburgh, Posey, Warrick, Pike and Gibson SWCDs are partnering with Extension to put this event on as part of their Clean Water Indiana Grant. Members were asked to send in reservations. Districts are bringing in Hans Kok, Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative Coordinator to talk on Soil Compaction/Rain Simulator Demonstration. Darrell explained Rain Simulator and how it works to our guest Dennis Verkamp.

Vanderburgh & Posey County offices were approached at Annual Conference about doing On Farm Network in Southern Indiana. We will partner with Gibson and Warrick. The four counties met for a conference call with Rosalind Leeck and her staff on January 20<sup>th</sup>. They did a pilot On Farm Network in Northern Indiana and want to get one going in Southern Indiana. This program was developed to address key challenges in advancing water quality goals in the state related to production agriculture. Its goals are to increase profits for farmers and decrease environmental problems. The four counties are to get a maximum of 15 Farmers in the program each have 3-5 40-50 acre fields. Then we are charged with gathering the pertinent information on the fields, creating

shape files of the fields, assist the farmer in plot layout and design if conducting strip trials, organizing sampling crews, managing the shipments of samples to the lab, organizing the results meeting for the group, and general information collection and dissemination.

Members were asked to refer to info in their packet on our Cover Crop Meeting. Office staff met on January 20 with surrounding county districts, Marty Finney (Daylight Farm Supply) Dan Dorney (Baker Seed LLC) and Hans Schmitz from Gibson County Extension. Last year's aerial seeded cover crops were hurt by the lack of rain. Districts are planning a Bus Tour to view cover crops and Darrell is working with Marty Finney at Daylight Farm Supply on it.

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

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets on the Sustainable Natural Resources task force. The task force is made up of Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation districts, Indiana Conservation Alliance<sup>4</sup>, Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Wildlife Federation and The Nature Conservancy. They all have a common interest in the sustainability of our natural resources. They want to ensure that our resources (particularly water, wildlife, farms and forests) will be there in the future. SWCD Chairman will send Bonnie a cover letter to be sent with this document to our legislators.

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

Norma Duckworth, Water Quality Specialist, passed her monthly report for supervisors review.  
Complete submitting data to Riverwatch database  
Completed reports for Riverwatch trainings and submitted to Riverwatch  
Submitted additional information and data to IDEM for TMDL report  
Created and submitted poster contest flyer to EVSC for newsletter  
Submitted flyer to Bonnie for web site  
Distributed Poster contest and stewardship materials to schools  
Truck maintenance  
Multiple county meeting regarding corn and soybean day, farm network and other projects  
Meeting with Darrell, Bonnie and Doug Nussbaum regarding LARE grant  
Review two erosion control plans and reviewed sub review submittals  
Set up meeting with Debbie Vannatter for next week  
Worked on farm days display ideas  
Requested and received quiz board from Project Wet

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

The Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) dues for 2011 are due for the two district employees.

David Ellison made a motion to pay the IDEA 2011 (\$30) dues for the 2 district employees seconded by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Chairman asked Bonnie to forward the email with copies of different Supervisor Attendance Policies to board members. They are to look it over and come with their thoughts to the next board meeting.

Wayne Fehd reported the petty cash is in order and passed the report for supervisors to initial. He reported we need a motion to replenish Petty Cash back to the \$50 level.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to replenish petty cash for \$19.01 seconded by Stephen Helfrich and carried.

Darrell reported we have final appropriations for 5 EQIP project totally \$125,000 and have been making payments on Lake and River Enhancement Projects (LARE). The district 2% share for doing the paper work should be another \$1,000. We are working with producers on Cover Crops and the Indiana On Site Network.

County employee time sheets were passed for review and signature by the supervisors.

The February meeting will be the Annual Dinner Meeting set for February 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Exposition Hall at the 4-H Center. There will be a short business meeting following the Annual Meeting

David Ellison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.30 p.m., seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bonnie Bittner

Minutes approved on 2-22-11

Davie Sue Litov \_\_\_\_\_

David Ellison \_\_\_\_\_

Laura Lamb \_\_\_\_\_

Wayne Fehd \_\_\_\_\_

Stephen Helfrich \_\_\_\_\_