

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

**Present:**

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

**SWCD Personnel:**

Norma Duckworth (Absent)  
 Bonnie Bittner

**NRCS Personnel:**

Darrell Rice  
 Lindsey Martinez

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

A motion was made by Laura Lamb to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2010 meeting, seconded by Wayne Fehd, and carried.

Bonnie gave the June financial report. The previous balance 6-1-10 \$33,611.84 Receipts, \$879.81, Debits \$8,081.03 and balance as of 6-30-10 \$26,410.62.

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

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

**JUNE CLAIMS**

W4554 Petty Cash (Replenish)	\$21.79
W4556 Abby Pepper (Summer Intern Salary)	\$400.00
W4555 June Neyhouse (Refund Ticket Money N & I Plant Conference)	\$24.00
W4578 Friends of Angel Mounds (Farm Life Exhibit)	\$1,000.00
W4567 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.78
W4558 Dr. Douglas Tallamy (Speaker Fee N & I Plant Conference)	\$1,000.00
W4557 Sharon Sorenson (Speaker Fee N & I Plant Conference)	\$200.00
W4559 Cash Change (N & I Plant Conference)	\$100.00
W4560 Dr. Douglas Tallamy (Speaker Expenses/Airfare, Car Rental)	\$533.51
W4564 I.D.E.A. (2010 Dues/Norma/Bonnie)	\$30.00
W4566 Petty Cash (Replenish)	\$35.01
W4563 Vanderburgh 4-H Center (Expo Rental Soil Quality Workshop)	\$500.00
W4568 Abby Pepper (Summer Intern Salary)	\$400.00
<b>NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims</b>	
River City Industrial Service, Inc. (Copy Paper)	\$115.40
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.78
Oaks Printing (N & I Plant Conference Programs)	\$104.16
AmeriStamp Sign-A-Rama (Sign for N & I Plant Conference)	\$50.00

Wayne Fehd reviewed the claims stating he recommended the claims be approved. He passed the County & District claims registers for board signatures & review.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

The Lake and River Enhancement Grant Program had a client turn in bills for the project on St. Joseph Avenue. There have been many favorable comments on the project. District catching up on project payments.

The Tillage Plot Project was tabled.

**BUSINESS PLAN 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 – Wayne Fehd Chairperson

The Soil Quality Workshop is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Vanderburgh 4-H Expo Hall with registration starting at 8:30 p.m. Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey and Gibson County have a conference call scheduled on Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to go over details and make sure everything is covered for the conference.

Warrick, Posey and Gibson SWCDs are on board for the Aerial Cover Crop Seeding Project that Vanderburgh County SWCD has in progress. Two applications were passed for signature. The aerial seeding is targeted for August 25<sup>th</sup>. A mixture of Crimson Clover, Radishes and Rye Grass will be flown on corn and bean crops.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The district has three Backyard Conservation Projects pending that will be implemented in the fall. Checks were mailed today for six projects.

District Operation Committee – John Hahn, Chairperson

The County Commissioner/County Council Meeting for budget hearings will be August 18, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in room 301. Dave Ellison and Bonnie will attend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

No New Business this Month

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd Chairperson

Eagle Slough Natural Area steering committee will meet on August 3, 2010, 9:00 a.m. at Oaklyn Library.

The Smart Growth Meeting date is August 19, 2010, 9:00 a.m. in the C K Newsome Center. They are working on a Riparian Buffer Ordinance. Laura Lamb updated the board telling them they started with Bill Jeffers, Co. Surveyor's draft Riparian Buffer Ordinance and have made several update, deletions and are not finished.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) annual conference will be in Bloomington, IN October 12, 13 & 14th. Bonnie asked for permission to attend the three day session.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay expenses for Bonnie to attend  
The IDEA Conference seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Bonnie passed the summer Intern's report:

- Water Monitoring 3 sites per month on her own
- Assisting with Water Monitoring at several other sites
- Reading and recording E.coli and BOD5 samples
- Putting collected data into Hoosier Riverwatch database, printing and placing in files. Putting data into table and creating graphs for each site.
- Inventorying supplies, preparing kits for the field and packing supplies for move to Boonville. Loading equipment into Blazer.
- Proofing flyer for upcoming workshop, organizing RW materials
- Sorting and packing supplies, materials and other office items for move to Boonville.
- Filing materials and educational supplies
- Copying materials for Invasive Species, Fair and other upcoming events. Placing in folders and placing in boxes for transportation and easy set up.
- Assisting with fair set up.

- Sorting and packing activity packets so they will be easily accessible during temporary conditions.
- Supported Water Quality Specialist in whatever capacity needed!

Water Quality Specialists Report was passed:

- Monitoring, overseeing monitoring and supplies, entering reports, reviewing data, and preparing documents for 13 sites within Vanderburgh County and one in Warrick.
- Ordering new supplies from Riverwatch to continue the 2010 monitoring program.
- Separating equipment and loading in Blazer for storage during our temporary move to Boonville. Moved most equipment into Blazer. Chemicals will have to be stored out of heat and cold. Inventorying training kit.
- Monitoring at Pigeon Boat ramp included macro invertebrates.
- Preparing for and advertising upcoming Riverwatch program. Talking with potential participants when they call. Meeting scheduled with Paul Bouseman to view site on August 6<sup>th</sup>. We have 9 participants booked.
- Working with Karan Barnhill to present idea to United Neighborhoods. We are trying to get more folks to do monitoring in their neighborhood.
- Verified Central HS student information with HRW so they will receive certification.
- Took Blazer in for AC repair. Fueled Blazer at County Garage.
- Sorted and boxed materials, supplies, etc. for move to Boonville. Took home personal items. Supervised Abby in boxing materials and organizing files. Marked what is to be stored, salvaged and moved to office.
- Viewed new temporary office with staff. Decided on where desk and files will be placed.
- Extensive preparation of fair booth materials, obtaining supplies, loading and setting up fair booth. Participation at fair booth.
- Judged Conservation Projects at Vanderburgh fair.
- Visited Carol Lee Taylor's rain garden. Several meetings to work out issues in making garden efficient and doable. High water table, underestimated watershed and other factors made this a difficult site.
- Viewed State Hospital site to view rain gardens there.
- Preparation of talk for Master Gardeners upcoming on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August.
- Prepare materials, set up and manned booth at Invasive Species workshop.
- Attended board meeting.
- Met with Greg Meyer and office staff regarding education at Eagle Slough.
- Continuing arrangements with PTI for class Darrell and I are giving in September to contractors.
- Completed 3 SWP3 plans and sent approvals to all parties.
- Visited airport site twice and contact Karan Barnhill about needed improvement along perimeters and on Hwy 57.
- Soils Conference – responded to all requests for input or ideas from other SWCD employees involved- especially regarding conference materials.
- Supplied Newsletter articles.

#### District Operation Committee – John Hahn, Chairperson

Board members discussed the SWCD lighted sign that was erected in front of the office in 1998 and cleaned in 2006. Bonnie submitted three bids for removal and storage of the sign as directed. Some members had checked out the condition of the sign previous to the board meeting. After some

discussion on the condition of the sign and the fact that we are not sure we can put up a sign when we return to a different office in Vanderburgh County it was decided to leave the sign.

Bonnie reported she checked out the size and cost of a post office box at the Inglefield post office. A medium box runs \$50 per year and a large box \$100 per year. She asked for permission to open a medium box at the Inglefield post office. After some discussion

Wayne Fehd made a motion to open a medium size box at the Inglefield Post Office seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The three possibilities for a temporary board meeting site are Vanderburgh 4-H Center Conference Room at \$50 for two hours, Oaklyn Library (no charge when available) and North Park Library (no charge when available). The two libraries close at 8:00 p.m. so we would need to start earlier. After some discussion members decided on Vanderburgh 4-H Conference Room since we can have it at our regular time 7:00 p.m. They also said Oaklyn Library is the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and North Park Library 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to have the SWCD board meetings 1<sup>st</sup> choice Vanderburgh 4-H Conference room, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice Oaklyn Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice North Park Library seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The Cooperative Rent Agreement between the district and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) needed to be discussed and signed. Bonnie had scanned and emailed it to the district chairman. After some discussion it was decided for Bonnie and the chairman to sign it.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to have Bonnie and David Sue sign the Cooperative Rent Agreement seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the House Bill 1119. Currently, SWCDs approve claims during a Board Meeting and write checks based on those approvals. Pay bills "between meetings" as "things come up" isn't permitted (although it admittedly does happen). However, after July 1<sup>st</sup>, SWCDs will be permitted to pay for items listed between meetings, if House Bill 1119 is adopted by the board. After some discussion

Laura Lamb made a motion to adopt House Bill 1119 seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Wayne Fehd reported he checked petty cash with the petty cash report submitted; everything is in order. He passed the report for supervisors to initial and then

Wayne Fehd made a motion to replenish Petty Cash for \$10.51, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Darrell reported that the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) has been expanded with additional State funding and will target the Wabash River. This enhancement will be called the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has been expanded into the Wabash River to target wetland development. There will be a Standard Conservation Reserve Program signup in August to retire whole field cropland. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may receive additional funding in Indiana by sweeping funds from other states. We

have nine unfunded EQIP applications. We have one Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application that is at the "pre-approved" level.

The county employee time sheets were passed for review and signature.

The August meeting was set for August 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in a new location. 1<sup>st</sup> priority for the board meeting while the office is temporarily located in the Warrick County Service Center is Vanderburgh 4-H Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oaklyn Library, and 3<sup>rd</sup> North Park Library.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Bittner  
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on August 24, 2010 by

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

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

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

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

John Hahn\_\_\_\_\_