



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, July 26, 2011

Present:

Laura Lamb, Chairman
David Ellison, Vice Chairman
Stephen Helfrich, Secretary
Wayne Fehd, Member
Scott Winiger, Associate

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth (Absent)
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice

Guest: Dennis Verkamp, President of Biagi, Chance, Cummins, London, Titzer Consulting Engineers

The minutes of the May & June meeting were mailed/emailed to each member prior to the meeting. The June board meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

A motion was made by Steve Helfrich to approve the minutes of the May/June 2011 meeting, seconded by Dave Ellison, and carried.

Bonnie gave the May & June financial report. The previous balance 5-1-11 \$27,485.66 Receipts, \$1,097.14, Debits \$311.76 and balance as of 5-31-11 \$28,271.04. The previous balance 6/1/11 \$28,271.04, Receipts, \$23,522.11, Debits, \$693.56, Balance as of 6/30/11, \$51,099.59.

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

The following claims were submitted for Supervisors' approval:

MAY CLAIMS

W4646 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.70
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NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims

Vanderburgh County Fair association (Fair Booth)	\$120.00
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Four Rivers RC&D (Dues for 2011)	\$350.00
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Vanderburgh 4-H Center (Expo Rent/Annual Meeting)	\$500.00
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Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.70
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Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS 2011 Dues)	\$80.00
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JUNE CLAIMS

W4651 Steve Gifford (ESNA Deck Supplies)	\$268.31
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W4650 Center Heights Lumber Co. Inc. (ESNA Deck Supplies)	\$187.16
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W4649 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.70
W4648 Post Office (July Newsletter Postage)	\$201.39
W4653 Post Office (Post Office Box Fee 6 Months)	\$28.00
W4652 Meyer Stone & Stratman, LLP (Reimbursement/Recording Quick Claim)	\$20.00
NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims	
Posey County SWCD (Share of Mileage for State Soil Board Meeting)	\$36.00
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.70
Oaks Printing (July Newsletter Printing)	\$1,510.32
Vanderburgh County SWCD (July Newsletter Postage Reimbursement)	\$201.39

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

Wayne Fehd made a motion to approve the May & June claims, seconded by Steve Helfrich, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

District Conservationist reported most of the outstanding Lake and River Enhancement Projects (LARE) are in the finishing stages. The Pigeon Highland Watershed is wrapped up and we need to move on to another one with LARE Projects. A grant for the Little Pigeon/Blue Grass was submitted for the board to approve. Steve Helfrich volunteered to look it over and report at the August board meeting.

Tillage Transect data and graphs were passed to members. Vanderburgh County measures residue in every other year. District Conservationist explained how the new way to show the data is more accurate. Vanderburgh has always showed fairly low partly because of Union Township. This year they are able to show the difference with Union Township in and out which makes Vanderburgh County look much better.

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

Bonnie reported she submitted the six months report for the Clean Water Indiana 2011 Grant the last week in June.

Bonnie reported she contacted Paul Bouseman by email a week ago to get an update on the CWI 2011 Rain Garden Project. He replied that he would contact Mary Ann Watson and try to get something back for the July board meeting. Mary Ann was in Africa for a month and no update has been received as of board meeting.

District Conservationist reported he has a meeting next week with Superior Ag. He thinks they will stay pretty close to the variety of seed they used last year. We have over 700 acres already signed up. We use one blend of seed for fields going in to corn and another for field going into soybeans. Also there are 3,000 acres in Vanderburgh that could not be planted because of the wet spring and we are going to try to get those into cover crops. Supervisor Wayne Fehd’s son is going to put a field in with rows showing different cover crop seed. Supervisor Steve Helfrich asked if the board could tour when it comes up. Wayne told the board the locust started singing for the first time on July 19th which means ninety frost free days. Board asked Bonnie to make a note to remind them at the October board meeting so they could see the value in Wayne’s story.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for information on the CWI 2011 Planter Set-Up Workshop five surrounding counties are partnering to put on. Barry Fisher, Indiana NRCS State Agronomist will lead the workshop. Barry is an expert on no-till practices and equipment. Farmers will be shown how to set up their no-till planters to achieve the best no-till stand and reduce nutrients and pesticides which will continue to improve water quality. The workshop will be August 2nd starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Jeff McGuire’s farm.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Laura reported the fair booth was cancelled due to lack of people able to help manned the booth.

District Operation Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

The County Commissioner/County Council Meeting for budget hearings will be August 16, 17, 18, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in room 301. Bonnie reported she called to see when the district budget will be discussed and the county council office doesn’t have the agenda yet. She will continue to check and let members know. David Ellison attended the County Commissioner’s meeting tonight and reported that one resident living on Peck Road is unhappy with the runoff from the new North High School which is causing problems on his property. Mike Wathen, Erosion Control Specialist for the county will be checking it out.

The Annual Meeting committee reported they have the location saved and a contract will be sent. The committee plans to meet in a week or two to talk about the other details in the planning stage.

The board asked Scott Winiger, Camp Reveal Director, if anyone objected to their using Camp reveal for their board meetings. He assured them there was no problem with anyone concerning their meeting at Camp Reveal. After some discussion the board decided to continue meeting at Camp Reveal.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for a letter from Bruce Nelson, Acting Administrator for the Farm Service Agency in Washington DC to Senator Richard Lugar's office in regards to the Vanderburgh County Office returning to Vanderburgh County. The Vanderburgh County SWCD chairman wrote a letter to Larry Ordner asking for a congressional investigation. Mr. Nelson gave detail of the process they were going through and the main reason it is taking so long is because congress put all the leasing responsibilities for all the offices in the United States on two people in Washington DC. He stated he appreciates Vanderburgh County SWCD's concern but they are working diligently to complete the leasing process and anticipate that the process will be completed by November 2011. The district chairman later received a letter from Senator Lugar's office asking that she follow up by September if she would like to make another inquiry. After some discussion the board felt they were satisfied at this time with the inquiry.

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Bonnie reported she attended the State Soil Conservation Board Meeting in June to hear about the CWI 2012 Grant. They prefer multiple districts submit a grant together (at least 2), they can apply for up to \$60,000 and it can be three years in length if necessary to complete. 75% of the grant will be sent up front and you can finish early.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) does compliance status reviews on clients that are randomly selected by computer. Eleven tracts were selected this year and three were out of compliance. A copy of each letter for the three out of compliance was passed to for board to review. The first year clients receive a letter then they are checked the next year and if still out of compliance they lose their farm payments.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd Chairperson

Eagle Slough Natural Area steering committee will meet on August 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at Camp Reveal. Bonnie reported she deposited a check from Four Rivers RC&D for Eagle Slough Natural Area (Alcoa Grant) to pay the outstanding bills on the deck. Bonnie asked for a motion to pay McCullough Land Improvements, LLC's bill. A copy of the Four Rivers RC&D June minutes was in their packets for review.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to pay McCullough Land Improvements, LLC
Bill (\$2,333.50) seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Laura reported on the status of the proposed Riparian Buffer Ordinance and a rough timeline for necessary reviews and presentations before seeking approval from the City Council and County Commissioners. The Smart Growth Meeting date is September 15, 2010, 9:00 a.m. in the C K Newsome Center.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the Board Development Leadership Class. They were asked to check their schedules and let Bonnie know if anyone was available to attend the Board Development Leadership Workshop.

Bonnie reported the newsletter cost options and after some discussion board decided they like the newsletter as is for the difference in the costs.

The Water Quality Specialist Report was tabled.

District Operation Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

The vacant board member position was discussed and members asked Scott Winiger if he was willing to step into the position. Scott's affirmative answer was accepted by the board.

Dave Ellison made a motion for Scott Winiger to fill the vacant Board position, seconded Steve Helfrich and carried.

Our guest Dennis Verkamp asked if he could become an associate board member.

Dave Ellison made a motion to accept Dennis Verkamp as an associate board member, seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Bonnie and Scott filled out the form and it was signed by the appropriate members. Bonnie will entered it in MyShare online and it will go to the State Soil and Water Conservation board meeting for approval.

Members and staff welcomed Dennis and thanked him for his request.

Members were asked to refer to a letter from Acting State Conservationist on the 2011/2012 Office space reimbursement. There will be meetings this fall for more clarification and questions.

Members were asked if they had any resolutions they wanted to submit at the Annual Conference Business Meeting and if so they should get them to Bonnie.

Indiana Woodland Steward request was tabled.

Bonnie reported the Rent Accountability Form was submitted to the Area Office.

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 \$39.08, seconded by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Darrell reported he has 4 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) projects. The state has approved a quarter of a million dollars. We have 3 new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) approved. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) contract has been planted to trees. We are looking at an additional 15 acres of trees planted in Union Twp. under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

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

The August meeting was set for August 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall at Camp Reveal on Boonville New Harmony Road.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by David Ellison and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on August 23, 2011 by

Laura Lamb, Chairman _____

David Ellison, Vice Chairman _____

Steve Helfrich, Secretary _____

Wayne Fehd _____

Scott Winiger _____