

Minutes of Regular Meeting
 VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 (SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Present:

Davie Sue Litov, Chairman
 David Ellison, Vice Chairman
 Laura Lamb, Secretary
 John Hahn, Member
 Wayne Fehd, Member
 Steve Helfrich, Associate Supervisor

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth
 Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice
 Lindsay Martinez

The minutes of the May meeting were emailed or mailed to each member prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Laura Lamb to approve the minutes of the May, 2010 meeting, seconded by John Hahn, and carried.

Davie Sue asked the Treasurer to read the June financial report, which showed a previous balance on 5-01-10 of \$24,147.64, Receipts, \$10,723.18, Debits \$1,258.98 and balance as of 5-31-10 \$33,611.84

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

The following claims were submitted for Supervisors' approval:

W4546 Elaine Landmark (Rain Barrel Rebate)	\$50.00
W4561 Four Rivers RC&D (ESNA Parking Lot)	\$2,300.00
W4547 University of Southern Indiana (Native Planting Rebate)	\$611.00
W4548 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.78
W4553 Abby Pepper (Summer Intern Salary)	\$400.00
W4562 The Nature Conservancy (ESNA Interpretive Signs)	\$2,519.94
W4550 Alejandro Javier Toto-Acosta (1 st Place Poster Contest)	\$50.00
W4551 Taylor Nicole Goebel (2 nd Place Poster Contest)	\$30.00
W4552 Mitchell Renn Shelton (3 rd Place Poster Contest)	\$20.00

NOTE: the Auditor paid the following claims

Staples Business Advantage (HP 3500 Ink Cartridges -4-)	\$558.33
Four Rivers RC&D (2010 Dues)	\$300.00
Vanderburgh County Fair Association (Fair Booth)	\$120.00
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.78
Micrology Laboratories, LLC (Water Testing Supplies)	\$157.19

John Hahn reviewed the claims stating he recommends the claims be approved.

John Hahn made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Laura Lamb,

and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

District has a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) project in the works on St. Joe Avenue and another one that had to be revised due to the lack of a neighbor's response. Chairman asked Darrell if it would be useful to have consent forms so names and locations of projects could be used in publications.

The SWCD Tillage Plot on Stahl Bros. is scheduled to be used for a three day soil training the first week in August for approximately 30 students from all over the state. They will then attend the district Soil Quality Conference on August 5th in the Expo Hall at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center. The cover crop that was planted last fall has really impressive results.

The district's aerial seeding project is on schedule. Superior Ag will handle all the billing and Ed Air, Inc. is flying the seed on the tracts of land. Dubois County is patterning our program in their county. Gibson, Warrick and Posey are joining in on the Vanderburgh program. The district will send out a Press Release closer to the date.

BUSINESS PLAN

Priority 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% increase 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

Our District Support Specialist approved using \$4,000 of our 2010 CWI Grant for the aerial seeding project.

The Native & Invasive Plant Conference held at the University of Evansville on Saturday, June 19th went very well. We had 101 in attendance. Dr. Douglas Tallamy who wrote Bringing Nature Home,

Sharon Sorenson, Goose Pond a Nation's Model for Habitat Restoration and Dr. Edith Hardcastle, Landscaping with Native Plants in Southwestern Indiana were our speakers. Sharon Sorenson brought a flyer on Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area for participants. It has a calendar showing what birds and events are at Goose Pond during each month of the year.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

University of Southern Indiana sent a participant agreement for chairman signature on the Native Planting Rebate program in Bent Twig.

District Operations Committee – John Hahn, Chairperson

Dave Ellison and John Hahn signed up to attend the County Commissioner/County Council Meetings

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

The district received an invoice from the Vanderburgh 4-H Center for the rental of the Expo Hall for the Soil Quality Conference.

Laura Lamb made a motion to pay the \$500.00 rental Fee for the Expo Hall at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center for the Soil Quality Conference.

Chairman reported she has the Soil Quality Conference as word of the day on WIKY three days before the workshop.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

The new entrance to Eagle Slough Natural Area is finished and the gate has been locked back giving people access to the new parking lot on the north side of waterworks road. The new traveling sign that is available for schools, museums, etc was shown to members. It was on display at the Native and Invasive Plant Conference and it drew a lot of people who were looking at it and discussing its information.

The next meeting for Smart Growth will be July 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the CK Newsome Center. The Smart Growth group is working on a Riparian Buffer Ordinance. Darrell mentioned that the draft ordinance does not exempt Ag land.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Water Quality Specialist's report for herself and the summer intern was passed for member to review.

May/June Report

Monitoring

12 sites are being monitored on a monthly basis. E-coli present at most site. Phosphates have been high at several and DO extremely low at Kleymeyer and Pigeon boat ramp. We also monitored at the boat ramp for macro-invertebrates. We did not find a large variety. We did find a couple of right handed snails (desirable) along with a couple of live mussels. Abby has started on Eagle Slough.

Newsletter

Several newsletter articles for the district newsletter were written on recent activities and one regarding the consequences of high levels of phosphates in natural waters.

Programs

A library program was presented to approximately 60 children and 12 adults about water quality and quantity. Intern assisted in preparation and presentation.

Materials were prepared for a Booth at Invasive and Native Plant Conference. Set up rain garden display and offered a variety of handouts, including plant list and plant resources. Answered several questions and handed out large quantity of handouts throughout the day.

Prepared for fair booth and upcoming Riverwatch Training. (August 28th) Created flier – sent to Paul Bouseman and Karan Barnhill. Notified Riverwatch to get on their site and ordered (received) monitoring supplies.

Also a Master Gardener program rescheduled to August 10th with Darrell Rice.

Edited and created Storm water Solution brochure.

Rule 5

Completed one plan and have another for the parks department from BLA in house (to be reviewed).

District Operations Committee – John Hahn, Chairperson

Chairman ask for a motion to pay the Four Rivers RC&D Dues for 2010

Laura Lamb made a motion to pay the RC&D 2010 Dues (\$300)

Seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Chairman asked for a motion to pay the Indiana District Employee Association 2010 dues for Norma and Bonnie.

Laura Lamb made a motion to pay the IDEA dues (\$30) for Norma and

Bonnie, seconded by Dave Ellison and carried.

The Rent Accountability Form was filled out with the work Bonnie does for Darrell Rice, District Conservationist to lower the amount of rent the district pays for their space. Darrel and Bonnie signed it and chairman, Davie Sue Litov also signed to verify. The form will be mailed to the NRCS Area Office.

John Hahn checked the petty cash and passed the report asking members to initial it.

John Hahn made a motion to replenish Petty Cash for \$35.01 to bring it up to \$50 seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Darrell reported he has one Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) approved in Knight Twp. bottoms a 60 acre tract. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers in complying with Federal and State laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers CRP, and NRCS provides technical land eligibility determinations and conservation planning.

The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as grass waterways, native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips and riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

NRCS employees are going for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) training. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers this program and provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) on a continuous application basis.

Darrell filled the board in on our office situation. The Service Center FAC committee in Indianapolis will have a conference call on Thursday to decide what our temporary options will be until they have an office in Vanderburgh County.

The county employee time sheets were passed for review and board member signatures.

The July meeting was set for July 27th and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. due to lack of business.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on July 27, 2010 by:

Davie Sue Wallace Litov _____

David Ellison _____

Laura Lamb _____

Wayne Fehd _____

John Hahn _____