

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Members Present:

Laura Lamb, Chairman
David Ellison, Vice-Chairman
Stephen Helfrich, Secretary
Wayne Fehd, Member
Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Member
Scot Winiger, Associate

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth (Absent)
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS:

Darrell Rice

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

A motion was made by Davie Sue Litov to approve the minutes of the February, 2011 meeting, seconded by Steve Helfrich, and carried.

Laura Lamb asked the board to refer to the February financial report. The previous balance 02-01-11, \$25,726.28 Receipts, \$13,083.85, Debits \$843.96 and balance as of 02-28-11 \$37,925.76

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

FEBRUARY CLAIMS

W4627 Gibson County SWCD (Vanderburgh Share of Corn Soybean Day/CWI)	\$187.00
W4616 I.D.E.A. (2011 Dues/2 Staff)	\$30.00
W4621 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.74
W4617 NACD (Soil Stewardship Materials)	\$253.96
W4626 Wayne Fehd (Hotel, Parking, Mileage/Annual Conference)	\$581.39
W4618 Cash Change (Change for Annual Meeting)	\$250.00
W4619 Indiana League RC&D (Leadership in change/Steve Helfrich)	\$125.00
W4620 Post Master (Bulk Mailing Fee)	\$185.00
W4625 Tom Turpin (Mileage for Annual Meeting Speaker)	\$152.00
<i>Note: Auditor paid the following claims</i>	
Staples Advantage (Office Supplies)	\$110.64
AmeriStamp Sign-A-Rama (Imprinted Pencils)	\$205.00
Tri-State Trophies (Annual Meeting Awards)	\$218.60
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement/Soil Stewardship Materials)	\$253.96
Oaks Printing (Annual Report Printing)	\$761.71
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.74

Farney Catering (Annual Meeting Dinner)	\$1,125.00
Evansville Courier Company (Legal Notice)	\$19.21

Davie Sue Litov made a motion to approve the February claims, seconded by Steve Helfrich, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee: David Ellison, Chairperson

Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) payments are caught up. District received a call from a client thanking them for one of the LARE projects upstream that had helped his lake.

250 plus people attended the Corn Soybean Day put on by the Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, Warrick and Pike County SWCDs in partnership with Extension ((Jon Neufelder and Hans Schmitz)/ The districts supported this program with their Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grants. The Corn & Soybean Day was held on Friday, January 28 at the Gibson County 4-H Grounds. The program provided information to participants on soil conservation, weed resistance issues, crop insect problems as well as a grain marketing update.

A meeting was held in March at the Evansville Black Buggy Restaurant for producers who participated in the 2010 SWCD Cover Crop Program. The purpose was to regroup and discuss successes and failures from last year so we can improve this year's program. This year we are asking clients to work with crop consultants to see what cover crop will work best for their particular fields. Marty Finney of Daylight Farm Supply kicked off the meeting by sharing his in depth knowledge of cover crop establishment and their benefits to soil structure and crop production. He also filled the group in on his work in South America to bring completely worn out soil with the help of cover crops back to growing very good corn. Jesse Ueboelhor of Superior Ag showed slides taken recently of local successful cover crop establishments.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Eagle Slough Natural Area (ESNA) will celebrate a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on May 21, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the entrance of ESNA. Members were asked to put the date on their calendars. Darrell reported ESNA now has a farm and Tract number.

The next Smart Growth Meeting will be on April 21, 2011 in the CK Newsome Center in the SEEQ / EEPA offices. Several new people attended the March meeting and were not interested in Riparian Buffers; as a result the group discussed branching out into sub-committees: one to continue work on the riparian buffer ordinance; the other to work on initiatives to make the City more accessible, to encourage alternate means of transportation (e.g. improving public transit and installing sidewalks) and to consider ways to reduce parking lot area.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

This year's Envirothon was held at Camp Reveal and had 19 teams from surrounding county schools. Central High School had two teams one of which won third place and will compete at the state Envirothon on April 20th. Bonnie read a thank you sent to the board by the Central High School teacher who worked with the two teams from Central.

Steve Helfrich reported the Leadership in Change was an excellent training experience for him as a new supervisor. He took the Myers-Briggs personality inventory, took part in a group discussion on problem solving and learned information about Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He thought Janet Ayres was a very good facilitator and he also appreciated the Amish experience provided him at the conference.

Wayne Fehd, Steve Helfrich and Bonnie Bittner attended the March 15th training meeting for supervisors and staff in Washington IN. Steve attended the breakout session for new supervisors, Wayne, Managing district personnel and Bonnie, a SharePoint training.

District Operation Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Executive Assistant passed out sign-up sheets for the County Commissioners/County Council meetings for 2011 asking members who have not signed up to sign on the dates they are able to attend and return it to her. Laura Lamb reported she attended the commissioner's meeting before coming tonight. They talked about the new business SS&C Technologies that is coming to Evansville and will bring 500 white collar tech jobs. The Centre needs some repairs for leaks that could cost \$100,000.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for information concerning the LincPass Bonnie traveled to Benton, IL to apply for that will be needed to get into her computer and eventually the front door of the service center.

The certification of Election Committee form was passed for supervisor's signature. The form will be filed.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packet for the three different supervisor attendance policies that were put to committee and tabled until all supervisors were in attendance. After several members gave their opinions to the committee chair he reported consensus was not to have an official policy and deal with each situation if and when it comes up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

A copy of the Indiana Conservation Partnership training certification program was sent by email and/or faxed to members prior to the meeting. Consensus was for staff to each fill them out and submit them to Troy Hinkle.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets of the Tillage Transect memo. Darrell explained it is done every third year. It was established in the early 90's to get a handle on what is going on and to measure residue. It will take place when everything is planted sometime around wheat harvest. He invited supervisors to go along if they wanted to. Wayne Fehd expressed an interest and will be notified.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Members discussed how they want to go forward with the Clean Water Indiana Grant as far as Cover Crops and Rain Gardens. Supervisor will make some contacts get some figures for possible rain garden before a final decision is made. The \$84,000 additional CWI monies that are available for grants were

explained. Vanderburgh and surrounding counties are submitting two grants one for a Gypsum project and one for hiring a person to take the Onsite Farm Network project samples.

Darrell reported Seaton Harvest Garden Manager ask him to come onsite to look at a project that was installed years ago, has since failed and wanted to know if there was any money available to redo the project. It does not qualify for federal money. Consensus was the district has no budget at this time for the project.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the resume of a young lady asking to be a summer intern. Consensus was the district has no budget at this time for an intern.

The Water Quality Specialist Report and a thank you note for a Project WET presentation was passed for review.

Vehicle Maintenance

Preparation for Annual Meeting; set up display table, Attended, Participated, Assisted with clean up and sorted photos

Attended board meeting

Participated in webinar for Project Wet on Feb 23

Prepared, set up and presented program integrating Project wet and water conservation and quality with Indiana State Library Association – 22 participants

Tekoppel School – Prepared power point, activity sheet and Jeopardy for 75 fifth grade students for Forestry Poster Contest – 3 days

Contacted Debbie Vannatter regarding planting trees at Daniel Wertz as part of Living Lands and Water Visit; passed information onto Darrell Rice and Linda Powell

Prepared and delivered materials to Angel Mounds for continuing programs on farming

Picked up quiz board etc from Angel after their program completed

Visited Kohl's and West side erosion complaint sites; took notes and photos

Picked up posters from schools for judging; not all are in yet should be by end of spring break

Recruited speaker for wildlife presentation at Envirothon competition

Attended committee meetings; preparation for Envirothon including preparation to speak on water.

Envirothon March 15th, assisted with set up, organization of day, gave water presentation, helped grade tests and assisted with clean up 19- 5 member teams

Wrote several articles for SWCD newsletter and submitted to Bonnie Bittner

Still tying up loose ends SWP3 for Evansville Sewer Department; completed evaluation.

District Operations Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for Four Rivers RC&D Fee-For-Service Policy. Consensus was it is a great policy but tabled at this time.

Bonnie explained the board needed to make a decision on the district's foundation money that is being held by Four Rivers RC&D. After some discussion:

Davie Sue Litov made a motion to have the district's money from the Education Development Fund at Four Rivers RC&D sent to the district, seconded by David Ellison and carried.

Annual Meeting 2012 was discussed and consensus was to engage the Vanderburgh 4-H Center Exposition Hall and Farney Catering for February 28, 2012.

The Rent Accountability form for January-March 2011 was passed for chairperson's signature.

Steve Helfrich reviewed the petty cash and reported everything was in order. The report was passed for members to review and initial.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to replenish Petty Cash for \$23.46
Seconded by Davie Sue Litov and carried.

Darrell reported he has 7 unfunded Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) on the books. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)-General – 100 acres, CRP-Continuous – 9 Applications, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – 120 acres, Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) – 150 acres (Tree Planting).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is partnering with the Vanderburgh, Posey & Warrick County SWCDs & Four Rivers RC&D to bring Living Land and Waters to Vanderburgh County on April 28, 29 & 30th. Chad Pregracke will speak at the 4-H Center on the 28th, tree planting on the 29th and river clean up on the 30th.

There was an Ohio River Basin Alliance Conference on March 14-16, 2011 in Indianapolis. Jane Hardisty, Indiana State Conservationist and Gail Riecken, Indiana State Legislator are working and meeting with the Ohio River Basin Alliance trying to get some federal money down in this area.

Four Rivers RC&D forestry committee is having a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) day on March 29, 2011. Perry County SWCD does a timber stand improvement each year as a community service.

The county employee time sheets were passed for review and signatures by the supervisors.

The April Board Meeting was set for April 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the Dining Hall at Camp Reveal on Boonville New Harmony Road.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion.

David Ellison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.
seconded by Stephen Helfrich and carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on 4-26-11

Laura Lamb, Chairman _____

David Ellison, Vice-Chairman _____

Stephen Helfrich, Secretary _____

Wayne Fehd _____

Davie Sue Wallace Litov _____