

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Members Present:

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

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS:

Darrell Rice
Lindsay Martinez

GUEST: Stephen Helfrich, Facilities Manager, University Southern Indiana

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

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

Davie Sue Litov asked the board to refer to the February financial report. The previous balance 02-01-10, \$27,669.92 Receipts, \$933.75, Debits \$3006.71 and balance as of 02-28-10 \$25,597.18

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

FEBRUARY CLAIMS	
W4526 Camp Reveal (Pond Pro Day Contract)	\$750.00
W4528 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.75
W4538 Norma Duckworth (River Watch Ed. Supplies/Project WET Supplies)	\$51.72
W4539 USI (Locust Creek Water Assessment Project)	\$6,775.00
W4527 T.R.U. Event Rental Inc. (Deposit for Table Skirts/Annual Meeting)	\$56.74
W4529 Cash Change (Change for Annual Meeting Tickets at Door)	\$175.00
W4540 Norma Duckworth (Hotel and Mileage/Landscape Conference)	\$274.93
W4530 Spence Restoration Nursery (Registration/Landscape Conference)	\$90.00
Note: Auditor paid the following claims	
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone Bill)	\$16.75
Anser-Phone (Voice Mail)	\$14.29
Office Depot (Office Supplies)	\$56.46
T.R.U. Event Rental Inc. (Table Skirts/Clothes for Annual Meeting)	\$120.01

Oaks Printing (Annual Report)	\$765.73
CCC (Farm Service Agency) (Postage Meter Bill)	\$515.92
River City Industrial Services, Inc. (3 Boxes Copy Paper)	\$76.50
Vanderburgh 4-H Center (Rental Exposition Hall/Annual Meeting)	\$154.00
Bonnie Bittner (Mileage/Ordering Online Meeting Central Library)	\$8.80
Image Sales, Inc. (Imprinted Pencils)	\$173.89
Tri-State Trophies (Awards for Annual Meeting)	\$294.80
Zeidler (Palm Rental Annual Meeting)	\$156.99

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee: David Ellison, Chairpersons

Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) projects are on hold until the weather breaks.

District Conservationist reported the cover crop on the Tillage Plot is greening up.

Chairman and staff attending the Pond Pro Workshop on Saturday heard nothing but praise for the information attendees received from the speakers. Bonnie read an email received from one attendee stating how much he enjoyed the workshop, learned a lot and it helped him in his lake association. He gave a website link and a number for a free magazine that the current month has information on lakes and ponds. A speaker for a future workshop was given to put on file.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

University of Evansville Eagle Slough Soils Project was tabled until a report is received.

The money for the 2010 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) has not been deposited as of board meeting time.

The Native & Invasive Species workshop is on schedule for June 19th, 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CDT at the University of Evansville.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the application submitted for the summer intern position that was posted after the last board meeting. Members approved the applicant after hearing the Water Quality Specialist interviewed her if her references give her good reports. Water Quality Specialist was asked to call the references.

District Operation Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Executive Assistant passed out sign-up sheets for the County Commissioners/County Council meetings for 2010 asking members to sign up on the dates they were able to attend and return it to her. Laura Lamb reported she attended the Commissioners meeting when they passed the Landscape Ordinance worked on by the Smart Growth Group. The City Council, County Commissioners and Area Plan passed it.

Executive Assistant reported she cancelled voice mail because it was not working with the current phone after working on it with three different people advising her by phone. Members thought we needed to have voice mail and ask Bonnie to call the county to see what could be done

NEW BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the Ohio River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) information. Norma answered members' questions. On that note the District Conservationist reported Representative Gail Riecken is talking to the Natural Resource Conservation Service State Conservationist, Jane Hardisty about getting an Ohio River Watershed Initiative started in Southern Indiana.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for an Eagle Slough Natural Area Parking Lot proposal. ESNA Steering Committee is asking the district to fund an infrastructure development. The total project will cost \$4,560 and the steering committee is requesting \$2,300 from the district. The proposal gave individual components of the project and their costs. Maurice Berendes who is spear heading the project is contacting Rob Brown, Corp of Engineers to look at it. All other permits have been gotten. After some discussion:

Wayne Fehd made a motion to award ESNA \$2,300 for the Parking Lot Project seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The current Backyard Conservation Projects were discussed. Steve Helfrich, Facilities Director, USI brought a plan for a rain garden around a section of the new parking lot at USI. They are also putting in native plants on the Westside of the campus. He was asked to send photos for the newsletter

Mesker Zoo submitted a Low mow no mow native plant project, an individual submitted an application for a native planting and Eagle Slough Natural Area will be putting in a native planting.

Leadership Evansville gave Mesker Zoo an award for the rain garden the district partnered on financially. District Chairman and Executive Assistant along with their husbands attended at the Zoo's request. The Zoo Director and Botanical Curator invited district representatives to go on stage to accept the award with them.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Members and staff were pleased with the Annual Meeting and received several thank you for the change in the awards from a plaque to the water drop. They also appreciated the change in the menu. Wayne Fehd will check on a new type of imprinted pencil as a marketing item.

District Conservationist and Water Quality Specialist reported on the WNIN Channel 9 Panel Discussion on the movie DIRT. The Water Quality Specialist said DIRT is an independent film that won an award which will be shown on Channel 9 on April 20th at 10:00 p.m. They are doing a series on independent films. The Evansville Courier and Press Editor was the moderator. He had done research on the district website and gave the district a lot of good press. Handouts from the evening were passed for members to view. Both were members of the panel and were extremely please by how the whole

evening went. There were several farmers (one being an SWCD board member) and urban people with different views. These different views were discussed in a professional manner. The District Conservationist told them about the district's Native & Invasive Species Workshop on June 19th at University of Evansville and the Soil Quality Workshop on August 5 at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center. As a result the director of Channel Nine wants to film the Soil Quality Workshop. She also asked about the Backyard Conservation Project and expressed interest in putting in a rain garden at her house and possibly filming the whole installation.

The Water Quality Specialist Report was passed for review. She also passed a spread sheet showing the programs she has given in 2010 and the number of people reached. The City and County use it to meet their education needs for MS4s. She and auditor Bill Fluty shared meeting time for AARP; each give a presentation. He complimented SWCD and our Water Quality Specialist for all the education they are doing in Vanderburgh County which was very much appreciated. She is going to share a space with Keep Evansville Beautiful and the City Engineer's MS4 staff at the Home Show. She is asking Fireside Gallery to donate or sell at cost a composter to give away at the Home Show. She asked members to go to www.vandgov.org and complete a survey as requested by the County Engineer's office. They also used the Locust Creek Water Monitoring Project and all her education presentations to meet the IDEM audit for MS4s educating the public.

Water Quality Specialist asked for an okay to attend a Storm Quality Workshop in Terre Haute on March 26th. The registration fee is \$20.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to send the WQS to Terre Haute for the Storm Quality Workshop, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

District Operations Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Executive Assistant passed Authorizations for Entities form for members to sign for the Certificate of Deposit put in United Fidelity Bank at North Park.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets of the 2010 NRCS Rent Accountability Form and a letter on the back from Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist. Chairman signed the form. After District Conservationist signs, it will be mailed to Area Office for Area Conservationists signature.

The Petty Cash Report was tabled. The Executive Assistant/Fiscal Officer's computer was switched to a laptop and Quick Books was installed but the district info was not in place. Our IT Specialist is off this week so Petty Cash Report was not accessible.

The District Conservationist passed Bio's and pictures of the speakers for the Soils Quality Workshop on August 5th in the Expo Hall at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center. Firestone wants to do a soil compaction demonstration through Raben Tire Company. Vice-Chairman offered to talk with Raben about sponsoring the Workshop.

NRCS Area Conservationist wants to bring Living Lands and Water to southwest Indiana. There was a meeting in the conference room today and we would like to partner with ORSANCO.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) had a dedication ceremony in Linton for Goose Pond; which is the largest natural wetland in the US. It was well attended and went very well.

The Tech Team will be starting on construction as soon as the weather breaks; there is a backlog of work due to the weather last year. We are constantly receiving Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) applications. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program is in its 3rd sign up period and has received 14 applications with two being approved for funding.

The district is also sponsoring an aerial cover crop application (\$5,000) and has 280 acres signed up so far. Sam Ellison is working on the districts behalf with Land-O-Lakes seed to acquire seed at cost for this project.

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

The April Board Meeting was set for April 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m
seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on 4-27-10

Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Chairman _____

David Ellison, Vice-Chairman _____

Laura Lamb, Secretary _____

Wayne Fehd _____

John Hahn _____