



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, May 24, 2011

Present:

Laura Lamb, Chairman
David Ellison, Vice-Chairman
Stephen Helfrich, Secretary
Wayne Fehd, Member (Absent)
Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Member

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice

Chairman, Laura Lamb asked members if there were any corrections to the minutes that were mailed/emailed to members.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to accept the April minutes, second by Dave Ellison and carried.

The minutes were passed for supervisor signatures.

Laura asked the board to refer to the April financial report. The previous balance on 4-1-11 was \$40,190.92, Receipts \$1,558.57, Debits \$14,263.83 and the balance as of 4-30-11 was \$27,485.66.

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

The following claims were submitted for Supervisor's Approval:

APRIL CLAIMS

W4649 David Ellison (Hotel/Parking Annual Conference)	\$295.06
W4630 Post Office (April Newsletter Postage)	\$197.55
W4631 Vanderburgh County 4-H Center (Room Rental/LL&W)	\$400.00
W4639 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.90
W4632 Zeidler-Central (Annual Meeting Flowers)	\$300.00
W4633 Marvin Zwahlen, Jr. (LARE Project Payment)	\$2,162.40
W4634 Timothy Adler (LARE Project Payment)	\$281.60
W4635 Michael Thomas (LARE Project Payment)	\$3,026.16
W4636 Todd Thomas (LARE Project Payment)	\$2,150.40
W4637 Ray Steinkuhl (LARE Project Payment)	\$554.40
W4638 Gary Ludwig (LARE Project Payment)	\$4,827.04
W4642 Petty Cash (Replenish Petty Cash)	\$26.72
W4643 Claudia Brenna Duncan (1 st Prize Poster Contest)	\$50.00
W4644 Lindsay Marie Koester (2 nd Prize Poster Contest)	\$30.00
W4645 Katelyn Pirtle (3 rd Prize Poster Contest)	\$20.00

NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims:

Oaks Printing (April Newsletter)	\$1,540.38
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Postage Reimbursement for April Newsletter)	\$197.66
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Cell Phone Reimbursement)	\$16.74

IASWCD (Dues 2011)	\$2,000.00
Staples Advantage (3 Boxes Copy Paper)	\$105.84
Oaks Printing (2 Part Receipts)	\$183.45

Steve Helfrich checked the claims saying they were in order.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to approve the claims, second by David Ellison and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee: Dave Ellison, Chairperson

Three more Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Projects were funded for \$10,304.57. District is trying to get all projects in because they are talking about ending the funding for this grant.

BUSINESS PLAN

ACTIONS 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

Davie Sue reported Paul Bouseman, Botanical Curator at Mesker Park Zoo met with Mary Ann Watson at Memorial High School this afternoon concerning the rain garden the district will do as a CWI 2011 Project. Norma Duckworth, Water Quality Specialist will look at the site and Paul will figure a budget.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Norma passed a report on the Highland-Pigeon Creek Watershed total Maximum Daily Load meeting she attended. They mainly looked at e-coli and phosphates and did not give much detail or provide any local specific information. They asked participants to read the report online. They also have a section on the website that includes Vanderburgh County SWCDs data that was collected. The report can be viewed at <http://www.ingov/idem/nps/3857.htm>.

Norma reported she had over 100 posters submitted from 8 schools. She gave a presentation on the poster contest to each of the schools and returned handing out Certificates to each participant and also a check to the three winners. Claudia Duncan won first prize, Lindsey Koester won second and Katelyn Pirtle won third. Norma also gave talks in several schools on the Soil Stewardship theme and what materials the district has available for their use.

Mr. Hugh Miller is putting in a large rain garden at his home and asked for the district's assistance on design. Norma met with Mr. Miller in his office to discuss what she had researched for his project. Darrell Rice, District Conservationist gave Norma some recommendations and she also talked to an engineer in Monroe County who suggested Mr. Miller cut the design in half making two rain gardens. She also reported she still has inquiries on rain gardens and rain barrels so the backyard conservation project was successful. She took pictures of one rain garden the district cost shared on and wants to interview the client and do a newsletter article on it. Steve Helfrich reported he thinks the University of Southern Indiana will put in a second rain garden on the campus.

District Operations Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

The County Commissioner/Council meeting report was tabled because no one was signed up to attend this month.

Laura Lamb, Davie Sue and Bonnie volunteered to be on an Annual Meeting Committee to explore ideas to cut the cost of the meeting.

The Four Rivers RC&D Financial Fee for Service Contract that was tabled at the last meeting was signed by the chairman after a short discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairpersons

River Friendly Farmer nominations were discussed and members all agreed to nominate Steve Jackson.

David Ellison made a motion to nominate Steve Jackson for 2011 River Friendly Farmer Award, second by Davie Sue Litov and carried.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the LARE Status Report. Applying for a new LARE Watershed project was discussed. We have a Pigeon Creek Watershed Plan that establishes sub-watershed priorities which is why Locust Creek was initially funded. LARE funds are frozen now but the SWCD would like to get a watershed on line when funding is released. The board discussed looking at Blue Grass Creek and Schlensker Ditch as priority watersheds.

David Ellison made a motion to sign the application for the LARE Grant

second by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets explaining the Locally Led Work Group and its purpose. The purpose is to prioritize the ranking for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). When a client applies for these programs their application goes through a ranking process using National, State and Local ranking priorities. The application that ranks with the highest points will be funded for the program. Supervisors gave Darrell their recommendation to move the 10th ranking item for WHIP from Soil Erosion (Sheet & Rill) to Water Quality (Surface Water-Excessive Nutrients and Organics) all other items for EQIP and WHIP would remain the same.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to approve the ranking criteria as changed,
second by Davie Sue Litov and carried.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

A newspaper article on the flooding of the Eagle Slough Natural Area (ESNA) was passed for members to view/read. ESNA committee member/photographer did a bird count during the flood and reported the flooding brought in birds never seen out there before.

A copy of the draft ordinance that The Smart Growth buffer committee put together was passed for members to view. They are looking to implement the ordinance in the flood plain and are ready to submit it to the Smart Growth group to get it ready to present to the Mayor, County Commissioners and Home Builders Association. The Mayor and Commissioner Abell are proactive on buffer strips. The Smart Growth Group will meet again on June 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the C.K. Newsome Center.

Education and Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The district Water Quality Specialist would like to have a fair booth for a display again this year at the Vanderburgh 4-H Fair in July. She is working on possibly having someone share the booth and they can reimburse the district for half the cost of the booth.

Davie Sue Litov made a motion to pay \$120 for a Fair Booth,
Second by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Chairman asked members to review copies of the water quality Specialist report in their packets.

Norma Duckworth Report – April/May Activities

Office coverage, committee work, webinars, etc/Board Meeting preparation and attendance/Vehicle Maintenance/Computer maintenance/Completed poster contest judging (over 100 entries-8 schools), completed packets, made certificates, notified schools, parents etc/Winners Claudia Duncan, Lindsey Koester and Katelyn Pirtle/Photos and information submitted to Bonnie/Posters will be submitted to state contest/Returned posters and certificates with activity sheets to non winning schools/Made presentation at St. Wendel School 5/5/11 to poster winners @1, #2 contacted 3rd place winner teacher and mother/Made arrangements to present at Tekoppel on 5-10-11-completed/Making arrangements for Forestry Program for Daniel Wertz 5th grade for 5-12-11 (cancelled at last minute by teachers)/Working on Hugh Miller rain garden suggestions/Doing research on large gardens and spoke with Todd Stevenson engineer from Monroe Co/Also consulting with Davie Sue Litov and Darrell Rice/Met with Hugh Miller 5-19-11 at his office with documents, plans, suggestions etc. for rain garden/Riverwatch advanced training 5-13-11 in Jasper/TMDL meeting for Pigeon Highland Watershed 5-18-11, wrote report/made contact with Larry Caplan regarding fair booth/returned national poster entry to student's mother/visited Carol Lee Taylor rain garden-doing much better-took photos-sent two to Bonnie.

District Operations Committee – Stephen Helfrich, Chairperson

Two budget proposal letters were submitted to members. The district budget proposal was discussed; chairman signed the letter and asked that it be sent to the County Commissioner president with copies sent to the other two commissioners.

The Four Rivers RC&D 2011 dues invoice was submitted for consideration. After some discussion:

David Ellison made a motion to pay the \$350 RC&D dues for 2011, second by Steve Helfrich and carried.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society dues invoice for 2011 was submitted for consideration. After some discussion:

Steve Helfrich made a motion to pay the 2011 SWCS dues for 2011 second by David Ellison and carried.

Steve Helfrich checked the Petty Cash report with the actual cash and reported everything was in order. He passed the report for supervisors to initial.

Darrell rice, District Conservationist passed out a list of clients that applied for the On Farm Network program. Vanderburgh SWCD and the surrounding counties applied for a CWI Grant to hire someone to do the stalk sampling but the grant was not approved. He passed out copies of a map showing all the sites the Indiana State Agriculture employees in our area have assisted with planning or survey and design. This map covers all conservation programs. It shows Vanderburgh County is doing very well on accomplishing a large amount of conservation on the land. Darrell also discussed the close out process of the 4-Rivers RC&D office. The RC&D Council can keep RC&D in operation without federal funding for an office and employee. He also discussed the new EQIP organic funding.

County Employee time sheets were passed for review and signatures of supervisors.

Chairman, Laura Lamb set the date for the next board meeting on June 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall of Camp Reveal.

David Ellison made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Second by Steve Helfrich and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant/Fiscal Officer

Minutes approved on 7-26-11

Laura Lamb, Chairman _____

David Ellison, Vice-Chairman _____

Stephen Helfrich, Secretary _____

Wayne Fehd, Member _____

Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Member _____