

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Present:

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

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth (Absent)
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice
Lindsay Martinez (Absent)

GUEST: Abby Pepper, SWCD Summer Intern

Chairman, Davie Sue welcomed Abby, asking her to tell members a little about herself. She is from Princeton, IN. This coming fall she will be a junior at Purdue University majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. Water is where she wants to focus her studies and she probably will work in a government office, i.e. Environmental Protection Agency. Members introduced themselves.

Chairman, Davie Sue asked members if there were any corrections to the minutes that were sent.

Laura Lamb made a motion to accept the April minutes,
second by Wayne Fehd, and carried.

The minutes were passed for supervisor signatures.

Davie Sue asked the board to refer to the April financial report. The previous balance on 4-1-10 was \$19,046.78, Receipts \$6,555.19, Debits \$1,453.33 and the balance as of 4-30-09 was \$24,147.64

A motion was made by Wayne Fehd, second by Laura Lamb, and carried,
to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

The following claims were submitted for Supervisors' approval:

APRIL CLAIMS

W4534 United Bank (Certificate of Deposit)	\$10,000.00
W4541 Post Master (Postage April Newsletter)	\$199.95
W4543 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.78
W4549 Norma Duckworth (Mileage)	\$81.20
W4545 John Farless (Native Planting)	\$945.00
NOTE: the Auditor paid the following claims:	
SWCS (Dues/Norma Duckworth)	\$80.00

Vanderburgh County Farm Service Agency (Postage Bill)	\$146.60
IASWCD (2010 Dues)	\$2,000.00
Oaks Printing (April Newsletter Printing)	\$1,599.34
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Postage Reimbursement for April Newsletter)	\$199.95
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Cell Phone Reimbursement)	\$16.78
Amols' Specialty, Inc. Ad Specialty (Education Supplies)	\$213.68

Wayne Fehd checked the claims saying they were in order.

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

Wayne passed the claim registers for the supervisors' signatures.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – Dave Ellison, Chairperson

The Lake and River Enhancement grant projects 3 of the 6 have been delayed on due to weather but now are in progress. The Tech Team installed tile on a Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOBs), tile on another client and three pipes on a third client.

The 2009 Tillage Plot is on schedule. In conjunction with the District Soil Quality Workshop on August 5, 2010 the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is having a three day training session at the district Tillage Plot site on August 2, 3 & 4th. Approximately 30 people will be coming from multiple states and will be encouraged to stay over for the Soil Quality workshop on August 5th.

BUSINESS PLAN

ACTIONS 2010

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

Chairman asked members to refer to a copy in their packets for the Clean Water Indiana 2010 Grant Memo from the state board which gave all the new directives that are possible for the grant. Districts just need to email their changes to the District Support Specialist and only if it is too far off the direction of their grant proposal will it be sent to the State Board for reviewing. Chairman also asked members to refer to copies in their packet for notes outlining the Soil Quality Conference (CWI 2010 Grant) Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson & Warrick are hosting at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center in the Exposition Hall on August 5th. Darrell Rice, District Conservationist reported the speakers for the conference are so impressed with the planning they are using it as a template for more conferences in Indiana and nationally.

Bonnie reported when the budget for the Soil Quality Conference is finished she will email the District Support Specialist the plan to use the remaining funds for the Aerial Seeding of Cover Crops in September.

Chairman passed out flyers to board members on the Native & Invasive Species Workshop. We are on schedule for the conference. June is Invasive Species Month as proclaimed by The Nature Conservancy and the Governor of Indiana. To take advantage of this educational opportunity the Vanderburgh County Soil & Water Conservation District is joining with several Conservation Partners to bring in keynote speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy. Other conference speakers are Sharon Sorenson and Dr. Edith Hardcastle.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Members had a discussion on how to make the Backyard Conservation Program sustainable. The sites so far are in landscapes.

Laura passed the summer intern’s report. She has been to see the water monitoring sites the district is working on and she is helping the Water Quality Specialist organize and put together education program. She will do her own special water monitoring project at Eagle Slough Natural Area.

The flyer for the Septic system Maintenance and Onsite Wastewater Alternatives: Improving Water quality in Your Watershed Networking Session the district Water Quality Specialist attended was passed for members to view. Bonnie reported the Water Quality Specialist was pleased with the workshop and thought it well worth her time.

District Operation Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

The sign up sheets for the County Commissioner/County Council meeting was passed to Laura Lamb to sign up for another date. The two absent members still need to sign up to attend meetings...

Bonnie reported Dr. Tom Turpin, Purdue Professor will be our speaker, the meeting will be in the Vanderburgh 4-H Exposition Hall on February 22, 2011 and Farney Catering is engaged for the dinner. Members were asked to look at a copy of Dr. Turpin's email with a list of his topics. His "Feeling Good Talks" are \$250 plus mileage. The Extension presentations are mileage only. The board without any discussion immediately agreed on the Extension presentation "Honey Bees and Other Pollinators"

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – Dave Ellison, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the Brine Remediation Program which they are free to let people know they can apply for funds. Darrell explained the history of the Brine Remediation program and that it has won state and national awards. The remediation program is available in Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh. Larry Hazelwood, the coordinator hired for the program will work out of the district office in Vanderburgh.

Copies of the MOU between IDEM and the SWCDs were passed, explained and signed by the chairman. Vanderburgh County SWCD is a level 2 which includes an administrative function, the review of construction plans and a field assessment of permitted project sites because of our Water Quality Specialist's credentials.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Chairman reported the Eagle Slough Natural Area parking lot is finished and the entrance with two stone pillars (one with Eagle Slough Natural Area and logo on it) and a Billy Bollard in the middle.

Bonnie reported the Smart Growth group met on May 18th in the Central Library Browning Room A. Riparian Buffers were discussed, different options for zoning ordinances, and the group decided to start meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the C.K. Newsome Center.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Bonnie reported Alejandro Javier Toto-Acosta won first place in the poster contest, Taylor Nicole Goebel, second place and Mitchell Renn Shelton, third place. They are all students at Corpus Christi School.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to send the \$50, \$30 & \$20 checks respectfully to the students, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

The 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 contacted a couple groups to share the booth but without any luck. Members suggested contacting the Master Gardener president. Wayne and Laura volunteered to man the booth on one of the evenings.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay \$120 for a Fair Booth, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

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

District Operation Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

The district budget proposal was discussed. Bonnie will contact the county council office to see when the proposal is due.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for a letter from the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) on submitting resolutions for the business meeting at Annual Conference in 2011.

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

Wayne Fehd made a motion to replenish Petty Cash to \$50.00 for \$21.79, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Darrell Rice, District Conservationist reported there will be a standard Conservation Reserve Program sign up period this summer. He has several clients interested in the program. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. He is working with a group on a Glenwood Wetland Project which will tie into a Habitat Program at Glenwood School. He also brought members up to date on the office moving. Indiana NRCS received one million additional dollars for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

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

Davie Sue set the date for the next board meeting on June 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m. in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room.

Laura Lamb made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

MINUTES APPROVED ON June 2, 2010

Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Chairman _____

David Ellison, Vice-Chairman _____

Laura Lamb, Secretary _____

Wayne Fehd _____

John Hahn _____