

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Present:

David Ellison, Chairman
Davie Sue W Litov, Vice Chairman
Laura Lamb, Secretary
Wayne Fehd, Member
Maurice Berendes, Member (absent)
Scott Winiger, Associate

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice
Lindsay Martinez

GUESTS: Mike Below

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

A motion was made by Laura Lamb to approve the minutes of the October, 2009 meeting, seconded by Wayne Fehd, and carried.

The minutes were passed for board members signature.

Dave Ellison asked Bonnie to give the October financial report, which showed the previous balance 10-1-09 \$43,946.06, Receipts, \$175.37, Debits \$2,334.74 and balance as of 10-31-09 \$41,786.69.

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

The following claims for October were submitted for supervisor approval:

W4494 Oaks Printing (October Newsletter)	\$1,479.84
W4495 Office Depot (Office Supplies)	\$142.15
W4476 Post Office (October Newsletter Bulk Mailing Postage)	\$190.10
W4496 River City Industrial Service, Inc. (Copy Paper)	\$108.10
W4477 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.66
W4497 Gibson County SWCD (IDEA Conference Hotel Share)	\$81.75
W4498 Posey County SWCD (IDEA Conference Mileage Share)	\$113.85
W4499 Tri-State Trophies (Name Badge)	\$12.50
W4500 Bonnie Bittner (Mileage to Tri-State Trophies)	\$8.80
W4501 Pulse Computer System, Inc. (6 Aerial DVDs)	\$60.00

Claims Submitted To County:

No Claims This Month

Mike Below received a phone call and asked to be excused.

Wayne Fehd reviewed the claims stating everything was in order.

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

Wayne passed the claim registers for board member signature.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

The Lake and River Enhancement report was tabled due to lack of new information.

A small segment of The Tillage Plot was broadcast with cereal rye and Annual Ryegrass seed by Darrell Rice and Lindsay Martinez on one side of the corn location and one side of the bean location.

BUSINESS PLAN:

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% 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

The Pond Pro Workshop is on schedule with most of the speakers contacted and a brochure started. A meeting will be set up soon to see what needs to be done at this time.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

The Eagle Slough Natural Area clean up day was described as awesome. 38-40 people volunteered for the clean-up/work day. The Teal Wetland Viewing Platform was completed. The Eagle Scout project (Kiosk frame, benches to be installed with the signage along the trail and the frame for the sign at the road entrance) was completed. Almost 4 tons of tires and trash was hauled out and put in a dumpster donated by Veolia.

Dr. Summers sent six copies (two in color) on the Locust Creek Water Monitoring study he and his students conducted. He will send a CD with photos of macro invertebrates and fish later. He wants to do more studies in 2010 and 2011 and hopes to do some education. One copy will be sent to Doug Nussbaum the district LARE Grant contact.

The two landowners who were chosen for the Clean Water Indiana 2009 Sediment and Nutrient Grant projects have completed their projects. The paper work was passed for signature so the final checks could be mailed.

Tom Niksch, Associate Supervisor, had not heard back from Dr. Batema as of board meeting time. Norma Duckworth, Water Quality Specialist, offered to contact Dr. Batema for a report.

The announcement at the Region Meeting was anyone who applied for the CWI 2010 Grant will get the amount they applied for.

Education Outreach Committee – Lauren Lamb, Chairperson

Two Backyard Conservation projects were given to board for approval and signature one for a rain barrel rebate and one for Native Plantings.

District Operation Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

The County Commissioner Meeting report was tabled. Supervisors were reminded of the dates they signed up to attend in December.

Bonnie contacted John Hahn and he volunteered to be the alternate delegate at the Annual Conference Business Meeting; Wayne Fehd is the delegate. Bonnie will send the form into the state office.

Chairman Dave Ellison asked for ideas to improve the board from members attending the Leadership Conference in Nashville. It was suggested that supervisors take more responsibility for agenda items especially if they are under their committee so they can report on them at board meetings. Staff complimented supervisors on their attendance at the board meetings. Some districts have trouble getting a quorum at board meetings.

Two supervisors and one staff member will be attending the Leadership Conference in Wabash on Impacting Community.

Three supervisors and one staff will be attending Annual Conference in January. A copy of the resolutions was brought back from the S SW Region Meeting for supervisors. After reviewing each one; consensus was members agreed with the state board on which to adopt and which to not ratify.

NEW BUSINESS:

Soil and Water Resource Committee – Dave Ellison, Chairperson

No business This Month

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Dave asked members to refer to copies in their packets for the Smart Growth Meeting minutes. They made changes in the draft Buffer Ordinances.

Vice-Chairman Davie Sue reported she proceeded with looking into having an Invasive Species Workshop in June of 2010. June was designated Invasive Species Month by Governor Mitch Daniels and The Nature Conservancy. Bonnie contacted Doug Tallamy asking him if he would speak and what dates he would be available in June 2010 copying Davie Sue. After several e-mails between the three he has consented to speak on Saturday, June 19, 2010. Davie Sue contacted Master Gardeners and they want to partner and have committed to sponsoring lunch up to \$800-\$1,000. She contact Wild Birds Unlimited and they signed on as sponsors and will advertise through their e-mail list and on their website. Allen Pursell, the Nature Conservancy asked for a proposal; which will be sent. She will also contact the Audubon Society. Eagle Slough signed on as a sponsor and will advertise both by e-mail and on the website at their meeting this morning. Sharon Sorenson agreed to speak and we made contact Purdue to get someone from the Weeds Science Department. We will contact the Evansville Courier and Press. We plan to charge and any money left over will go back into the Backyard Conservation Rebate Program. She contacted INPAWS and they paid Doug Tallamy's expenses (airfare, hotel) and honorarium when he talked at their conference. After some discussion;

Wayne Fehd made a motion to appropriate up to \$2,500 for an Invasive Species Workshop, seconded by Laura Lamb and Carried.

Education & Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Dave asked members to refer to copies in their packets for the Water Specialist's report and a spreadsheet on the programs she has presented with the number of people reached. To date in 2009 she has given 90 programs and reached 7,213 people. She sends this information to the City and County Engineer's offices for them to use in reporting MS4s education.

District Operation Committee –Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

Dave reported the slate of officers for the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) are President, Paula Baldwin, Vice-President, Ray McCormick, Secretary, Jeff Meinders and Treasurer, Brian Campbell. Members were told to let Wayne know if they wanted someone nominated from the floor.

Wayne Fehd reported the Petty Cash report matches the Petty Cash; he passed it for members to initial.

Wayne reported Petty Cash needs to be replenished for \$29.99 to bring the total back to \$50.00.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to replenish Petty Cash for \$29.99 seconded by Davie Sue Litov and carried.

Darrell reported an SWCD employee from North Carolina put Kudzu in Google and Vanderburgh County came up. He has e-mailed back and forth with him addressing our local experiences with Kudzu control. The ranking criteria for EQIP will be on the table in 2010 and the district should lead these workgroups so all resource concerns are identified and prioritized. Rent will be the same as last year for SWCDs and the person in charge from Washington DC who handles the office leasing will be getting the bids out next month for our office.

Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative hired Hans Koch with a one year contract, which is funded by NRCS and IASWCD. We are going to ask him to speak at our Soil quality Workshop in July.

Last year the Conservation Implementation Teams assisted with putting over 39,000 practices on the land. There are already almost 23,300 practices scheduled to be installed for FY2010. NRCS thanks the SWCDs for supporting the Conservation Implementation Team structure that allows so much conservation to go on the land. NRCS also appreciates anything the SWCDs can do to support local technicians to assist with this workload.

There is a bill being presented to the Senate & House to allow SWCDs to pay bills between board meetings.

One million of Clean Water Indiana Funds went back into the general fund. They want to get language passed that funds will be "Non-Reverting"

Darrell asked if the board would go along with his giving Superior Ag a proposal for aerial seeding cover crops in 2010. Superior Ag is interested if we can guarantee 500 acres; the airplane will cost at least \$10 an acre to seed. We can put a stipulation of no tilling for the following spring. Jerry Redman thinks it would be a great partnership; we could even open it up to surrounding counties. Consensus was board are interested in his pursuing this idea and coming back with a proposal.

Friday morning there will be a small Soil quality workshop for employees at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room.

County Employee time sheets were passed for review and signature.

The December meeting was set for December 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with a motion from, Laura Lamb seconded by Davie Sue and carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on December 22, 2009

David Ellison _____

Davie Sue W Litov _____

Laura Lamb _____

Wayne Fehd _____

Maurice Berendes _____