

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Present:

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

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth (Absent)
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice
Lindsay Martinez (Absent)

GUEST: Scott Wininger, Camp Reveal

Vice-Chairman, Davie Sue Litov called the meeting to order and welcomed Scott Wininger.

Davie Sue asked members to approve the September minutes that were mailed to them with a draft agenda for the October board meeting.

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

Davie Sue asked Bonnie to give the September financial report, which showed the previous balance 9-1-09 \$48,412.71 Receipts \$1,053.32, Debits \$5,517.97 and balance as of 9-30-09 \$43,946.06.

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

September Claims:	
County Highway (Blazer Gas)	\$26.16
Erica Rupprecht (Rain Barrel Rebate)	\$50.00
Betty McCoy (Rain Barrel Rebate)	\$50.00
IDEA Registration Fee (Fall Conference/Bonnie)	\$120.00
J & S Fencing (Fencing/Camp Reveal Project)	\$219.43
Bonnie Bittner (6 Pack Thermal Adding Machine Tape)	\$13.90
Tractor Supple Co. (Supplies/Camp Reveal Project)	\$1,857.15
PVC Plastics Co., Inc. (Pipe, etc./Camp Reveal Project)	\$538.68
AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.68
Norma Duckworth (Supplies/Soil Judging)	\$100.65
Sunbelt Rentals (Trencher/Camp Reveal Project)	\$887.89
Wayne Fehd (Hotel/Mileage/Leadership Conference)	\$433.00
Bonnie Bittner (Hotel/Mileage/Leadership Conference)	\$378.24
Davie Sue Litov (Hotel/Mileage/Leadership Conference)	\$294.88
Alan Stahl (Tillage Plot payment/2009 as Per Contract)	\$1,000.00
Perry Co. Cattleman's Association (121 Posts/Camp Reveal Project)	\$121.00
Petty Cash (Replenish Petty Cash)	\$37.22

Keep American Beautiful (1,000 Littler Bags)	\$420.25
Office Depot (Office Supplies)	225.65
<i>Claims Submitted to County:</i>	
Bonnie Bittner (Mileage)	\$8.00

Wayne Fehd reviewed the claims recommending the September claims be approved.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison - Chairperson

The district has the designs back on two of the Lake and River Enhancement projects and they are in the planning process. .

The Tillage Plot on Stahl Brothers has not been harvested yet. Cover crops were suggested to them since the seeding date has been extended to November 15th. Board discussed whether to give them up to \$300 for seed if they will use cereal rye for a cover crop on the plot.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to offer Stahl's \$300 for Cereal Rye seed if they will plant a cover crop on the tillage plot weather permitting before November 15th, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson and Warrick county staff & Darrell Rice, District Conservationist met to discuss having a Pond Pro Day on October 19th. It was decided to have one in March 2010 at Camp Reveal. Two dates are being considered (March 20 or 27, 2010) depending on when we can get the speakers. Ethel Osborn, Ann Ice and Bonnie are calling to engage the speakers. It was also discussed devoting a part of our Clean Water Indiana 2010 Grant proposal for the Pond Day; all counties agreed on the partnership.

BUSINESS PLAN

Priority 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

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Davie Sue asked members to refer to copies in their packets for the newsletter on Eagle Slough Natural Area (ESNA) that was e-mailed to our ESNA Volunteer list. The ESNA Steering Committee chairman sent out an e-mail to the ESNA Volunteers telling them what was accomplished, what is planned for the future and asking them to come for the Clean Up Day on November 7, 2009.

The USI Monitoring of Locust Creek Final Report will be delivered on November 6, 2009. They experienced trouble with the scientific software and had to wait for a new version to reinstall.

The Clean Water Indiana 2009 Sediment and Nutrient Grant is 80% finished. The no-till is finished and we are waiting on their Nutrient Management plan to wrap it up.

Bonnie reported she called Associate Supervisor, Tom Niksch to inquire if he has gotten a report from Dr. Batema, University of Evansville Professor on the Soils Project he is doing at Eagle Slough Natural Area for the district. Tom will be reporting back to the district.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Ashley Tandy, Indiana State Department of Agriculture e-mailed Bonnie that Joseph Kelsay, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture will speak at the district annual meeting on February 23, 2010. He will start in his new position in November and they will be back in touch at that time with a bio, etc.

District Operations Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

County Commissioner and County Council meeting report was given by Wayne Fehd. He attended on October 13, 2009. Bonnie will remind David Ellison of his commitment to attend the County Commissioner's meeting on November 3, 2009 and Wayne Fehd is scheduled to attend the County Council meeting on November 4, 2009.

The election committee reported associate board member, John Hahn has agreed to run for the elected position in 2010. Bonnie will get the application to Laura Fribley, District Support Specialist. Davie Sue asked Scott Wininger if he would consider becoming an associate board member. Scott replied that he would like to.

Laura Lamb made a motion to accept Scott Wininger as an associate board member
Seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Vice-Chairman Davie Sue reported she got an idea at the Leadership Conference how to measure our success on business plan that was voted on at the last board meeting. She asked for a committee to work on it. Laura Lamb, Bonnie and Darrell volunteered to be on the committee.

Davie Sue asked members and staff to refer to copies in their plackets for a brochure on the fourth Cornerstones of Leadership workshop (Impacting Community). It will be held in Wabash, IN on December 4-5, 2009. Members should fill out a registration form and get it to Bonnie.

There is also a one day Leadership Conference (communication) in Indianapolis on November 21, 2009.

Laura Lamb made a motion to send up to two people to that conference
If schedules permit, seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison - Chairpersons

No Business This Month

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

The Smart Growth Meeting date is in the process of being determined by doddle.com

The Clean Water Indiana 2010 Grant proposal was discussed and consensus was to send it in as written. Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson & Warrick will partner on the Pond Pro Day and a Soils Quality Workshop. Vanderburgh also added a section to cost share on a sediment and nutrient project with someone who signed up for the CWI 2009 grant and was turned down due to lack of funds.

Education Outreach Committee – Lauren Preske, Chairperson

The Backyard Conservation Project applications were discussed. ECHO Housing sent in an application for Native Planting and Carolee Taylor's application for a rain garden were accepted and signed. Greg Meyer wants to put in some native plantings but can't at this time; it was decided he should still get an application in so he is on the list.

Davie Sue reported Norma would like to attend the River Watch training workshop which will require a night in a hotel and mileage. They give updates on skills and materials.

Laura Lamb made a motion for Norma to attend the River Watch workshop and pay the expenses, seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

A request was put in by Norma for Soil Stewardship materials up to \$350.

Laura Lamb made a motion to purchase Soil Stewardship materials up to \$350 seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

The Water Quality Specialist's report was passed.

- Rain Garden, Rain Barrel and Water Quality Presentation and Display for approximately 45 Pond Society members at the Newburgh Library on the evening of September 23
- Meeting next week with USI regarding our Backyard Conservation Program there.
- Sept 24th - Introductory Program for Advance Placements Students at Central High School regarding the Hoosier Riverwatch Training.
- This program was continued on October 21 with Safety Instruction, Basic Habitat Evaluation Techniques and Overview of Hoosier Riverwatch programs.
- Basic Hoosier Riverwatch Training was held at the University of Southern Indiana on Saturday September 16th
- Visited 5 potential rain garden and or native planting sites.
- Arrangements have been made to speak to AARP and Extension Homemakers in March.
- Visited the home of Greg Meyer along with Davie Sue Litov to evaluate his site for rain Gardens and native plants
- Completed 2 SWP3s for local project and sent approvals to all parties.
- Advanced Hoosier Riverwatch was held on October 22 at the SWCD office.
- Water Monitoring of 7 sites on October 23. The incubator is doing pretty good with the e-coli samples.
- Submitted Earth Team Volunteer Hours to NRCS representative. I also nominated Mary Ann Cisneros for Earth Volunteer Award.

- Envirothon information was sent out this past month. That announcement and other information were also sent to Vic Chamness, EVSC to be included in their newsletter to teachers.
- Attending Trails meetings when possible and have been assigned to the Leadership Evansville Education committee. .

District Operations Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

Davie Sue passed out packets of Annual Conference Registration forms and information. Members and staff were asked to fill out the registration form if they wanted to attend and give it to Bonnie.

Davie Sue asked for a volunteer to be our delegate at the business meeting for Annual Conference. Wayne Fehd offered to be the delegate and Bonnie was asked to see if John Hahn would be the alternate.

The 2010 Rent Accountability form was signed by the Vice Chairman and she asked Bonnie to send it to the area office.

Davie Sue asked members to refer to copies in their packets of a letter from the Indiana Association Soil & Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) Auxiliary asking members, staff, spouses to contact them with suggestions on the items in the letter. Bonnie contacted supervisor Wayne Fehd's wife and she for one is willing to respond and help.

Davie Sue asked for a motion to pay the website and domain name renewal.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay the website and domain
Name renewal for \$165, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Davie Sue reported Norma Duckworth, Water Quality Specialist for the district; her CPESC certification is up for renewal.

Wayne Fehd made a motion of pay the \$100 CPESC certification renewal
For Norma, seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Davie Sue asked members to refer to copies in their packets for the 2010 National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference in Florida info

Davie Sue asked for a motion to pay the National Association Conservation Districts (NACD) 2010 dues.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to pay the NACD 2010 Dues of \$1,000.00
seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Wayne Fehd reported he checked the Petty Cash and everything is in order. He passed the report for members to view and to initial.

Darrell reported Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) had 636 contracts funded for \$11.1 million in Indiana this year, the Wetland Reserve (WRP) Program has 2,669 acres of new wetland, and 250,000 acres in pasture improvement, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) had 98 applications and was funded for 1.1 million. State Conservationist Jane Hardisty is thrilled with the 2009 work in Indiana. 39,000 practices were installed in Indiana this year. In 1990 NRCS had 295 employees doing 3 programs with a \$16 million budget. In 2010 they will have 245 employees, doing 12 programs with a \$73 million budget. The new chief for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is Dave White and he is pro-active and pro-farmer.

County Employee time sheets were passed for review and signatures.

The November board meeting was set for November 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the district office.

Davie Sue asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Bittner
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on November 17, 2009 by

David Ellison _____

Davie Sue Wallace Litov_____

Laura Lamb_____

Maurice Berendes _____

Wayne Fehd _____