

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 26, 2010

**Present:**

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

**SWCD Personnel:**

Norma Duckworth (Absent)  
Bonnie Bittner

**NRCS Personnel:**

Darrell Rice  
Lindsay Martinez

Chairman, Davie Sue Litov called the meeting to order.

Davie Sue asked members to approve the September minutes that were emailed or 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, 2010 meeting, seconded by Wayne Fehd, and carried.

Davie Sue asked Bonnie to give the September financial report, which showed the previous balance 9-1-10 \$22,667.25 Receipts \$27,748.15, Debits \$25,291.38 and balance as of 9-30-10 \$25,124.01.

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

**September Claims:**

W4583 Ted Elpers (LARE Project Payment)	\$16,725.59
W4584 Gary Ludwig (LARE Project Payment)	\$8,368.00
W4586 Posey Co. SWCD (CWI 2010 Vanderburgh Share of Expenses.)	\$1,360.45
W4585 Post Office (October Newsletter Postage)	\$197.80
W4591 John Bittner (Airplane Application of Cover Crop/CWI 2010)	\$400.00
W4592 Harold Kempf (Airplane Application of Cover Crops/CWI 2010)	\$999.30
<b>Claims Submitted to County:</b>	
Westside Improvement Association (2010 Dues)	\$25.00
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement October Newsletter Postage)	\$197.80
Oaks Printing (October Newsletter)	\$1,522.17

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 Lake and River Enhancement projects are well underway. Clients are working on 4 Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs) 1 pipe structure and a stream bank stabilization project. We have two clients who have their paper work in order and need to get started, they will be contacted. The district gets 2% of the cost share on each project for taking over the paperwork.

An update on the Tillage Plot was tabled this month

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

### **ACTIONS FOR 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

Clarification was given on the CWI 2010 share of expenses check that was voted on and written last month. The wrong bill was sent so check # 4586 for \$1360.45 was voided and the corrected invoice will be on the claims register at the November board meeting for \$265.49.

#### Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The district Water Quality Specialist was invited to participate in Leadership Evansville to discuss the future of the Zoo. A copy of the ideas generated by the group was passed for members and staff to review. Board Chairman explained the privatization of the Zoo, the research that was done before the decision was made and why the zoo board thinks it will work.

The district Water Quality Specialist was invited to participate in Keep Evansville Beautiful (KEB) 2010 Sustainability Celebration at the Career and Tech Center. The purpose is to education teachers and students what different aspects of the community have to offer in forms of education.

The district Water Quality Specialist attended the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) meeting. The TMDL establishes the allowable loadings of Phosphorus, nutrients, etc. or other quantifiable parameters for a water body and thereby provides the basis to establish water quality-based controls. These controls should provide the pollutant reduction necessary for a water body to meet water quality standards. A copy of IDEM's power point was passed for members to view. Also passed was a copy of the river watch monitoring data the Water Quality Specialist has collected that will be put on the district website.

#### District Operations Committee – John Hahn, Chairperson

County Commissioner and County Council meeting report was given by David Ellison. He attended on October 26, 2010 prior to attending the district meeting tonight. He reported the original agenda item; voting on building baseball fields on the current site of Roberts Stadium was put off until the Commissioners have more answers to their questions. They voted to offer Health Saving Accounts to County Employees among other things. The treasurer talked about how from 2007 until now they had to have 5 million in the bank at all times to draw interest. In 2009 they only made \$150. Old National Bank has given them a better option. The Drainage Board met briefly.

The awards committee reported they have solicited ideas from difference people in the community and will decide some criteria that persons/entities will have to meet to win a conservation award. They will report at the November board meeting.

The district blazer was taken in for an oil/filter change, an air filter change, cleaning inside and out which resulted in one of the side mirror breaking off which was taken to be fixed. The total cost of all the work was \$225.54.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison - Chairpersons

The Clean Water Indiana Grant for 2011 was submitted in the first week of October on MyShare. This is how the grant was submitted:

Outreach & Education (Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, Warrick)	
1. Cover Crop Bus Tour	\$ 500
2. Area Corn & Soybean Day	\$1,500
Cost Share	
1. Aerial Seeding (Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, Warrick)	\$2,000
2. Public Rain Garden (Vanderburgh)	\$2,000
Supervisor/Staff Training	\$1,000
Total Grant	\$7,000

### Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Copies of the article that appeared in the Evansville Courier the day after the Eagle Slough Natural Area (ESNA) Chairman, SWCD Chairman, SWCD Executive Assistant and ESNA Steering Committee member/Photographer met 39 kindergarteners from Glenwood School to give them a first-hand look at trees which they are studying in class. ESNA Chairman gave them a presentation on trees; let them gather acorns which they planted in cups of soil. They also sampled walnuts and pecans. ESNA chairman promised to keep the plantings and show them the saplings they produced next spring. A reporter and photographer were there from the Courier and two television stations came out to observe the kindergartners.

Smart Growth group will meet on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the CK Newsome Center. The group is in the process of inviting different agencies that deal with Riparian buffers to give their prospective on them. This month a Wildlife Biologist from Oakland City attended the meeting. After some discussion it was decided to invite Rob Brown for the November meeting. He came to the September meeting but since such a small group was available Blaine Oliver gave him the history of the group and said they would invite him back.

### Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

The Water Quality Specialist sent some ideas she would like to put on a traveling display to go to school, etc. After some discussion the Education Outreach Committee chairperson said she would contact her and discuss with her some ideas to consider.

The Water Quality Specialist will attend the River Watch training retreat to get updates on skills and materials. The board agreed that was a good idea.

The Water Quality Specialist's report for the September and October was passed.

- Water Monitoring- 13 sites monitored in September and October. October was limited due to supplies. Most of the data was entered into our and Hoosier Riverwatch's database. I will also be sending the data to IDEM TMDL department, Gail Riecken, and the city and county MS4 entities. I will print a copy for all the board members; also I will add the latitude and longitude for each site and give the data to Bonnie to put on our web site.
- Water Monitoring – Vegetation was removed from Carpentier Creek at the Kohl's location. The city is looking into how they could legally do this since there was an agreement with the Corp of

Engineer's. Supposedly they will be replacing, but unfortunately with non native plants and turf grass. The area was recovering from the destruction of the original stream bank and loss of natural vegetation.

- Education with the Tech School at Pigeon Creek on the 1<sup>st</sup> and heard their presentations on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 99 students participated in this mock problem of the safety and feasibility of water your lawn with water from Pigeon Creek. I taught water conservation and macros at the creek and then critiqued their conclusion and presentations on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Education - I met with Eric Reek from Signature School. We discussed a possible joint program. He borrowed our macro-invertebrate samples and other materials. They have now been returned.
- Education – Soils Judging Contest in Gibson County on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately we had no participation from Vanderburgh County. We did add encouragement for someone to pick up the activity in our last newsletter.
- Outreach – September 14<sup>th</sup> a.m. Attended meeting in Gibson County regarding Clean Water Indiana grant money planning session and other multi county discussions. Initiated plans for area meeting in November.
- Grant- Attended IDEM meeting at CK Newsome on grant on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Not much probably useable for us. They are looking for upgrading permanent structures for energy efficiency for the most part. Our seeding program would barely qualify. In the water area they were looking mainly at upgrading pumps etc
- Outreach – Met with Mr. Funkhouser at Central Library on the 17<sup>th</sup>. He is a Harvard Graduate student working on a PHD. He mainly wants information about Pigeon Creek and the watershed. He is hoping to compile a report that would assist all entities working in the watershed to have access to information and better understand the challenges we are facing in this area.
- Education and Outreach – Prepared and presented along with Darrell Rice a program to the Professional Training Institute students. These are mainly contractors, excavators, engineers, etc getting hours for their Vanderburgh County license. We had about 30 students.
- Outreach – Leadership Evansville sponsored a session on how to improve Mesker Park and BG. About 50 people were in attendance. They broke into discussion groups and brainstormed. We just received a report from that meeting and hope to set up another meeting soon. No date as of today. That meeting will narrow the list and try to expand on how those ideas could be implemented. Eventually this information will be given to the governing boards of the zoo and to city officials.
- Office – Picked up Blazer from Vic's. Got it fueled, oil changed, new air filter, washed and mirror repaired. Also checked with County Commissioner and Auditor regarding vendors and if proper registration is in vehicle. It appears that the proper registration is in vehicle. This was questioned by state policemen who stopped me to let me know the mirror was hanging off the vehicle. I also contacted Dave Ellison regarding body shops, got estimates and then chose the lowest estimate.
- Education – Riverwatch at the zoo with coverage by channel 14. August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Outreach – TMDL meeting with Indiana Department of Environmental Mgt – This was the initial information meeting. Other public meetings and comment periods will follow. These studies help to pin point areas that are degraded and or improving. These reports are needed in most cases to get federal and state funding for projects. They will be considering our data also.
- Attended locally led meeting sponsored by NRCS at Oaklyn Library on the 14<sup>th</sup>. These meetings are held to prioritize local Ag and environmental needs

- Attended KEB luncheon on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Presented a display table and information at the ALCOA/ KEB program at the Tech School on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 people attended

District Operations Committee – John Hahn, Chairperson

Chairman asked for volunteers to be on the election committee. Laura Lamb volunteered to be chairman, David Ellison and Scott Wininger volunteered to be on the committee. Davie Sue Litov, appointed supervisor's term is up this year. She agreed to be reappointed for another term. Wayne Fehd, elected supervisor's term is up this year. He agreed to run for another term and volunteered a name for the election committee to contact to be on the ballot.

Chairman asked for a motion to pay the Water Quality Specialist CPESC renewal for 2011.

Laura Lamb made a motion to pay the Water Quality Specialist CPESC renewal for 2011 seconded by David Ellison and carried.

Members received Annual Conference materials and registration in the mail and were advised to get them to Bonnie.

Davie Sue asked for a motion to pay the website renewal for 2011.

Laura Lamb made a motion to pay the website renewal for \$165, seconded by David Ellison and carried.

Davie Sue asked for a motion to pay the National Association Conservation Districts (NACD) 2011 dues. After some discussion

David Ellison made a motion to pay the NACD 2010 Dues of \$775.00 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 initial.

District Conservationist report some of the aerial seeding cover crops are coming up since we had a little rain. Seeding projects were finished by September 30<sup>th</sup>. We have 8 EQIP, 9 Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP

County Employee time sheets were passed for review and signatures.

The November board meeting was set for Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall at Camp Reveal. Bonnie is to call the 4-H Center and cancel November and December.

Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bonnie Bittner  
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on November 22, 2010 by

Davie Sue Wallace Litov \_\_\_\_\_

David Ellison \_\_\_\_\_

Laura Lamb \_\_\_\_\_

Wayne Fehd \_\_\_\_\_

John Hahn \_\_\_\_\_