

Minutes of Regular Meeting
VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Present:

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

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice
Lindsay Martinez

GUEST: Dr. Brent Summers, Professor, University of Southern Indiana
Scott Wininger, Director, Camp Reveal
Mike Below, Owner, Hoosier Native Environmental Design

Chairman David Ellison welcomed our guests and asked staff, board members and guests to introduce themselves. Chairman Ellison asked Dr. Summers to give his presentation

Dr. Summers gave his background, told the board the sampling on Locust Creek was done in September, October, November and December of last year. This study provides a baseline of data and he will do another study next year. He told the board he appreciated the opportunity to partner on this project because he was very interested in doing a study this close to the University and also it gave his student an opportunity. He showed a very informative power point showing sampling sites, Habitat Assessment, Nitrates, Other chemicals, Coliform Bacteria & the Conclusions. He explained each step of the power point answering questions from members and staff. He asks the board and staff to continue to support best management practices within the watershed. Dr. Summers told the board he would have a bound copy of the report to them within a week. David thank him for coming, for the work he has done and will continue to do in Locust Creek.

Chairman David Ellison reported the minutes of the August meeting were mailed to each member prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Maurice Berendes to approve the minutes of the August 2009 meeting, seconded by Laura Lamb, and carried.

David asked Bonnie to give the August financial report. The previous balance on 8-1-09 was \$55,187.43 Receipts, \$606.90 Debits \$7,381.37 and balance as of 8-31-09 \$48,412.71.

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

The AUGUST claims were submitted for supervisor approval:

W4448 Post Office (Omitted on July Register)	\$188.36
W4463 Vic's Corner Garage (County returned/Insufficient Funds)	\$582.59
W4460 Rodney Ruling (Speaker Tillage Field Day)	\$266.10
W4459 Calmer Corn Heads, Inc. (Speaker/Tillage Day)	\$902.90
W4457 U.S. Department of Agriculture (Office Rent)	\$2,000.25
W4470 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.68
W4453 Putnam Co. SWCD (Registration Fees (5) Cover Crop Tour)	\$25.00
W4471 Oaks Printing (Invitations Mesker Zoo rain Garden Dedication)	\$143.10
W4454 Petty Cash (Replenish Petty Cash)	\$43.89
W4458 Indiana League of RC&D (Leadership Registration x 3)	\$390.00
W4462 Steve Jackson (CWI 2009 1 st Payment)	\$1,212.00
W4461 Carl Schmitt (CWI 2009 1 st Payment)	\$1,212.00
W4472 Addressing Machines & Supply Company (Adding Machine Ribbon)	\$17.23
NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims	
Rivercity Industrial Service, Inc. (3 Boxes Copy Paper)	\$76.50
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Cell Phone Reimbursement)	\$16.68

Wayne Fehd passed the August claims register and the County Claims register for review and signatures.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

David Ellison signed a Lake and River Enhancement Project contract and announced the district received an additional \$50,000 for projects in the Locust Creek watershed.

Darrell reported he is trying to get Mr. Stahl to use rye grass as a cover crop after they harvest the crops on the Tillage Plot.

Bonnie reported she contacted Ron Lauster in Marion County concerning the Pond Pro Day workshop. He was very gracious with information, sent all the info he had by e-mail and mailed their power point presentation on CD. Mark Cambren, RC&D Coordinator is talking to his council and the surrounding counties are asking their boards for permission to partner with Vanderburgh to sponsor a Pond Pro Day.

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

David ask members to refer to copies in their packets for a letter Vice-Chairperson, Davie Sue Litov sent to Dan Hovland and copied Jane Hardisty thanking them for all the work Darrell, Lindsay & Victor Shelton did and the training day NRCS provided to help the district on the project at Camp Reveal. Scott Wininger, Director of Camp Reveal, thanked the board for their contribution of money for the materials and machine rental needed for the fencing and getting water back to the horses in all three paddocks. Scott said the project makes a safe environment for the horses and the children who visit the camp to ride the horses. Darrell passed a map of Camp Reveal with dotted lines showing the fence and water line. He told the board it took 1682 ft. of fencing (seven strands wire two of them electric), 1,120 ft. of pipe and two hydrants for the project. They divided the team into three groups, one group drove posts for the fence, one putting the wire up, one laid pipe and the third listen to Victor Shelton who explained the different equipment they were using, pasture land, etc. Then they would trade so each group experienced each aspect. Darrell relayed the Area Conservationist, Dan Hovland’s comment that it was the best training they have ever done; not only did they get to experience implementing what they plan but helped a not for profit mission camp.

Oaklyn Library Meadow Project was tabled.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the Eagle Slough minutes from the last meeting. October 7, 2009 the steering committee will meet in the conference room of the Vanderburgh County SWCD office.

Dr. Summers covered the USI Locust Creek water monitoring project at the beginning of the meeting. Norma asked how many bound copies of the final report did the board want her to request. Consensus was two copies for the office and Wayne Fehd requested a copy.

Bonnie reported she mailed the checks (\$1,212.00) to the two participants for the first installment payment on the Clean Water Indiana Grant projects for 2009.

University of Evansville Soils Project in Area Wetlands (Eagle Slough) was tabled. Tom Niksch who was checking on it was not in attendance.

Education Outreach Committee – Lauren Preske, Chairperson

The Mesker Zoo Rain Garden Dedication ceremony went very well. Thanks to Norma who had a display on Rain Gardens with handouts. Davie Sue Litov, SWCD Vice-Chairman spoke on behalf of the district and also rolled out the Backyard Conservation Program. Thanks to board member Wayne Fehd, Associate board members Mike Ruder & Tom Niksch, staff Darrell, Lindsay & Bonnie for attending. County Council Vice-President, Joe Kiefer spoke on behalf of the county, County Council President, Tom Shelter, Jr. attended. City Councilperson, Missy Mosby spoke on behalf of the Mayor. Larry Ordner attended representing Senator Lugar. We had a good crowd of interested citizens.

The agreements and criteria for the Backyard Conservation Program are finished and posted on the website. We have two agreements for the rebate program on rain barrels with pictures ready for signature. They were passed for review and board chairman signature. Bonnie will send the rebate checks. Norma has two appointments for the rain garden rebate program and one for native planting to see if they qualify.

Bonnie reported our annual meeting speaker Ann Hazlett, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture has accepted a position in Washington DC and will be leaving this fall. She e-mailed Ashley Tandy the lady who took care of the correspondence congratulating Ann Hazlett and wanting to know if Lt. Governor Becky Skillman might take her place.

David asked members to refer to copies in their packets for the list of annual meeting awards the committee recommended with one addition—Urban Conservation Business – Browning Funeral Home for the green space in their parking lot. Consensus was the list was acceptable.

District Operations Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

The County Council budget hearings are over and the district received the budget they received in 2009 with no cuts.

Wayne Fehd and Bonnie reported the Leadership Training in Nashville went very well. There are some areas the board and staff can improve. Bonnie congratulated board members on their attendance at board meetings; some district had a problem with attendance at their meetings. David asked that we bring some ideas to the October meeting. The Leadership Institute will have a repeat of the Communication workshop on November 20-21 in Indianapolis. Anyone who missed that workshop; contact Bonnie for more information.

David ask members to refer to copies in their packets for the business plan with the additions that Norma made to clarify some areas and Davie Sue added a couple. Bonnie passed copies of the business plan with the changes made in red. David asked members to review them and after a discussion

Maurice Berendes made a motion to adopt the Business Plan with the changes,
Seconded by Laura Lamb and carried.

David asked members to refer to copies in their packets of a letter from Four Rivers RC&D with a copy of the check sent from the Indiana SWCD Foundation, Inc. The check for \$1,343.84 represents the value of the Vanderburgh County SWCD Endowment Fund held by the Indiana SWCD Foundation as of May 31, 2009. The check was made payable to the Vanderburgh County SWCD Education Development Fund held by Four Rivers RC&D.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

A copy of the Conservation Implementation Team's report was passed for the supervisors to review.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

The Smart Growth group will meet in the Large Group Room in Central Library on September 24, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Education Outreach Committee – Lauren Preske, Chairperson

Norma reported she did not have a written report this month. Vanderburgh SWCD was in charge of the Soils Judging on September 15th on the Dennis Bittner farm, Frank Farney dug the holes & Gibson Southern won the contest. The teachers thought the holes were challenging due to the sandstone which was beneficial for the students. Vanderburgh did not have a team; Terry Kulenkamp said he had all freshman students and he couldn't get them interested this year. They had several competing areas in their schedule. Mr. Kulenkamp said he hope to have a team next year but didn't know. The board will evaluate the situation next year. Norma reported she gave a talk on rain gardens for Pond Society at the Newburgh Library, Thursday she will give a talk at Central High School to Kay Hoffherr's AP class and she has River Watch training on Saturday at USI for 15 people. Next week she will have a booth and display at Keep Evansville Beautiful's exhibit for teachers to see what is available in Evansville for them to tap into for talks and information. Norma said she received a SWP3 for the Downtown Arena for phase I but it did not have a completion section which she explained to the Engineer from Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. She decided to get Ronnie Boehm involved who basically told them the same thing, so they will be submitting a new plan with a completion phase.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for "Impacting Community" Leadership Conference which would also be a graduation for those supervisors and staff that participated in the three other sessions. Members were asked to put the following date on their calendars for the Impacting Community workshop that will be December 4-5, 2009 in Wabash, IN

District Operations Committee – Maurice Berendes, Chairperson

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the USDA Privacy Law Requirements sent to board members and staff from the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board. The 2008 Farm Bill prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture and USDA employees, contractors and cooperators from disclosing a producer's privacy protected information including but not limited to: Name connected to program application, Tax ID numbers, Last 4 numbers of Social Security, Tract or Farm #, CLU Acres or boundaries, CRP practice, location or acres, Operator of a specific farm/tract, Share percentages, Cropland or farmland acres & Cropping history of production history. This information cannot be discussed at monthly SWCD meetings or put in the minutes. You either use an executive session or appoint a district staff person or board member to be the "official district representative to review and sign USDA conservation plans. After some discussion on the pros and cons of different ways to

accomplish this; the decision was made for board members to meet in a separate room of the office to review and sign the plans when necessary on board meeting nights.

Norma asked the board if she could purchase a second portable hard drive to back up the one she has. She cannot keep all her info on the computer that is backed up each night so she has it on a portable hard drive. Her concern is if it goes down, lost or whatever she will lose all her pictures, power points, etc. After some discussion:

Maurice Berendes made a motion for Norma to purchase a second portable hard drive, seconded by Wayne Fehd and carried.

Volunteers were requested to serve on the election committee. Maurice Berendes position on the board is up this year and he has decided to move to an associate position. Wayne Fehd volunteered to be chairman of the committee and he asked Laura Lamb and Davie Sue Litov to serve on the committee with him.

Wayne Fehd reviewed the petty cash report saying petty cash was in order and passed the report for viewing and initialing by members.

Wayne Fehd made a motion to replenish petty cash for \$37.22 seconded by Maurice Berendes, and carried.

Darrell passed a map sent by Four Rivers RC&D showing the number of contracts and the dollars spent in each of the RC&D areas of the state. Our area (Four Rivers RC&D) had the most contracts 116 and \$2,447,529 spent in its area of the state for Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP). We also were fourth in the state for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) with 9 contracts \$52,334. The highest number of WHIP contracts in the state; 19 contracts and the second and third 10 contracts. Darrell also reported he has 43 active EQIP, 1 WHIP, 21 new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) this year with 110 total CRP and 10 Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) contracts. USDA has a new program Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) which is open to anyone but they must sign up before the September 30th deadline.

County Employee time sheets were passed for review and signature.

The October meeting was set for October 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vanderburgh County SWCD conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. due to lack of more business.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Bittner, Executive Assistant

Minutes approved on October 27, 2008

David Ellison _____

Davie Sue Wallace Litov _____

Laura Lamb _____

Maurice Berendes _____

Wayne Fehd _____