



Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

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Minutes of Regular Meeting VANDERBURGH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(SWCD) Office, Evansville, Indiana
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Present:

Laura Lamb, Chairman
David Ellison, Vice Chairman
Steve Helfrich, Secretary
Wayne Fehd, Member (Absent)
Scott Winiger, Member

SWCD Personnel:

Norma Duckworth (Absent)
Bonnie Bittner

NRCS Personnel:

Darrell Rice

Chairman Laura Lamb chaired the meeting reporting the minutes of the August meeting were Emailed or mailed to each member prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Steve Helfrich to approve the minutes of the August 2011 meeting, seconded by David Ellison, and carried.

Chairman asked Bonnie to give the August financial report. The previous balance on 8-1-11 was \$41,315.65, Receipts, \$1,262.45, Debits \$2,777/16 and balance as of 8-31-11 \$39,800.94.

A motion was made by David Ellison, seconded by Steve Helfrich, and carried to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

The AUGUST claims were submitted for supervisor approval:

W4661 AT&T Mobility (Cell Phone)	\$16.69
W1662 VOID	
NOTE: The Auditor paid the following claims	
Vanderburgh County SWCD (Reimbursement for Cell Phone)	\$16.69
Farm Service Agency (Office Postage)	\$126.19
Staples Advantage (Printer Cartridges HP 3500)	\$582.96

Scott Winiger passed the August claims register and the County Claims register for review and signatures.

David Ellison made a motion to approve the August claims, seconded by Steve Helfrich, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

Darrell reported a large LARE project one client signed up for came to a temporary halt when the client sold his farm to another client and moved out of state. The new owner is willing to complete \$12,000 of the original contract. Two supervisors had looked over the new LARE grant proposal for Blue Grass Creek Watershed and suggested we go ahead with submitting it. Bonnie will make some typo changes and submit the grant at the October board meeting for signature.

Gypsum data for the No-Till Plot project was in the supervisor's packets for them to review. Darrell answered their questions. The no-till did better than the conventional. Vice-chairman said the numbers do not reflect all the savings by doing no-till because the numbers do not reflect the labor, machinery cost, diesel/gas or the Gypsum waste product that is fed to cattle.

The Tree Tour request (\$700) by Lauren Preske at the last board meeting was denied after some discussion. The board wants to get the money we have saved this year encumbered for our increased rent next year.

BUSINESS PLAN

ACTIONS FOR 2011

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

The aerial and conventional seeding cost share to clients funded by CWI Grant 2011 is complete. The bills will be sent to the district soon.

The two Clean Water Indiana grants the district is partnering on in 2012 were presented to the board chairman for her signature to keep on file. The grants have been submitted.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

No Business This Month

District Operations Committee – Steve Helfrich, Chairperson

The County Council budget hearings are over and the district received the same amount of budget they received in 2011.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for a possible Annual Meeting speaker. Her name is Amanda Bailey and she is the Extension Educator in Warrick County. She will speak on her experience in Ghana helping the people protect their Cowpeas from a heavy bruchid infestation. She is available for our 2012 Annual Meeting on February 28th at no charge. After some discussion it was decided she sounded very interesting and should be engaged for Annual Meeting speaker.

Bonnie passed a packet of handouts from the South Southwest Region Meeting she attended. She reported they gave an office rent update, explanation of the contribution agreements, national happenings, annual conference review for 2012, resolutions are due for 2012 business meeting and regional issues were discussed.

The Laser Plane 350 agenda item from last month that the board asked Darrell to see if it still worked and report back at the September meeting. The district bought it back in 1991 and it is not used any longer because there are newer machines available to our technical people now. Darrell reported it does still work and he offered \$50 for it. After some discussion by consensus the proposal was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Committee – David Ellison, Chairperson

The Southern Indiana CWMA, currently had some grant money available for invasive species control projects and felt the Mesker Park project could have some great benefits. It certainly could be a high profile project with lots of potential publicity. It also seems to be a great opportunity to bring together lots of partners (Indiana DNR, EcoLogic, US Fish & Wildlife, SWIMGA, Evansville Parks, Purdue extension, SICWMA, Vanderburgh County SWCD, Vanderburgh County NRCS, Sustainable

Evansville, SWINPAWS, etc. A conference call was set up and Steve Helfrich joined in for SWCD. Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets of a report on the conference call. There was a brief summary of the call, the key next steps and some key deadlines. There will be another conference call and Steve asked Laura if she would join in to this one as he will not be in the office.

Land Use Committee – Wayne Fehd, Chairperson

Bonnie reported Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey and Gibson Counties won the District Showcase award for their Aerial Seeding Project in all the counties with the Clean Water Indiana Grant. There will be an entourage from the state offices come on November 3rd for a presentation and tour. Invitations are being worked on now and will be sent out.

Members were asked to refer to copies in their packets for the minutes from the Eagle Slough Natural Area meeting held on September 20th. The next meeting will be November 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at Camp Reveal in the Dining Hall.

The Smart Growth group will meet in the CK Newsome Center on October 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Education Outreach Committee – Laura Lamb, Chairperson

Chairman reported Norma Duckworth, Water Quality Specialist brought her a resignation letter to her on Monday, September 26th. Her last day will be Friday, September 30th.

District Operations Committee – Steve Helfrich, Chairperson

Delegate and Alternate for the business meeting at Annual Conference in Indianapolis were discussed. Vice-Chairman David Ellison volunteered to be delegate and Steve Helfrich alternate.

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

Darrell Rice, District Conservationist, reported all payments are current and he has his work caught up. He is taking early retirement and his last official day will be October 3, 2011. He is starting Good Shepherd North Church and his first service will be December 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in the Heston Hall at Camp Reveal. He thanked the board and staff for their efforts and the help they have given him over the years that made his career with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) a productive and good one. Board and staff wished him well in his new career.

County Employee time sheets were passed for review and signature.

The October meeting was set for October 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall at Camp Reveal..

\Chairman Laura Lamb asked for a motion to adjourn.

Steve Helfrich made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.
Seconded by Scott Winiger and carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Bittner, Executive Assistant/Fiscal Officer

Minutes approved on October 26, 2010

Laura Lamb _____

David Ellison _____

Stephen Helfrich _____

Wayne Fehd _____

Scott Winiger _____