

TIPPECANOE
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

**The Conservation
Celebration Continues!**

2005
ANNUAL
REPORT

Our Mission:

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to provide quality technical, educational, and informational resources for the community through leadership, service, and citizen involvement to foster natural resource conservation and environmental stewardship.

**TIPPECANOE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2005**

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and luncheon was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, in combination with a daylong workshop at the JS Wright Forestry Center in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The day was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Jim King immediately following registration. Supervisor and staff introductions were made, followed by a brief presentation on how the SWCD was organized and its primary function. Participants were encouraged to visit the vendor displays, to sign up for SWCD committees, were provided information on the day's agenda, and were dismissed to their morning workshop session.

Beginning at noon, the Annual Meeting was called to order followed by a presentation by King on the District's 2005-2010 Long Range Plan goals and statements of intent. King continued by suggesting that in the interest of time, the actual reading of the 2004 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Report be foregone and requested a motion to accept both as presented. Said motion was made and seconded, carrying unanimously.

At this time, special guests and the Election Committee was recognized. The three nominees for supervisor were announced – David Kovich, Steve Roy, and Chuck Shelby – and each of the nominees explained their interest in natural resources, and in the case of Steve Roy, his inability to serve due to other commitments. Dan Duntun, IDNR Conservation Program Specialist then presided over the supervisor election calling for other nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed, carrying unanimously. Ballots were distributed to all eligible voters and were collected and counted by the Election Committee.

Next, the 2004 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to George Raub and Randy Geswein. Master Farm Conservationist Award for 2004 was next awarded to Lee Brand, and lastly, Tippecanoe County's first River Friendly Farmer award was presented to Peter Gatchell of Eli Lilly Laboratories.

Awards were followed by the featured program "Birds of Prey and People" which was presented by Mark Booth. At the conclusion of the featured program, participants were dismissed to attend their afternoon workshop session.

Immediately following the afternoon workshop session, participants were brought back together for the announcement of the election results. Chuck Shelby was elected and will serve a three-year term, expiring in 2008. The oath of office was given to Shelby and newly appointed supervisor, Roger McClellan.

Door prizes were distributed and participants were reminded to turn in their evaluations. With no further business, a motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Agricultural Workshop Sessions:

Conservation Security Program
Native Grassland Restoration

Education Workshop Sessions:

A Window to Nature: How to Attract Birds and Butterflies to your Backyard
Celebrating Indiana's Wildflowers

Urban Workshop Sessions:

Planning with POWER
Implementing Urban Conservation Practices at the Local Level

Meeting attendance – 109

Minutes recorded by Chris Remley.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005

Balance Brought Forward	23,275.02	23,275.02
RECEIPTS		
State for District Operations	10,000.00	
County for District Operations	7,000.00	
Federal Funds	0.00	
Other Grants (List)	0.00	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts		17,000.00
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	1,146.75	
Donations & Memberships	600.00	
Total Charges for Services		1,746.75
Annual Meeting Income	465.00	
Reimbursements & Refunds	793.60	
Sales Income	5,957.72	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe) - Sale of Used Equipment	48.00	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue		7,264.32
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	26,011.07	26,011.27
Sale of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	49,286.09	49,286.09
DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	11,810.00	11,810.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	2,045.39	
Audit Expense	0.00	
Conservation Education Programs	596.31	
Dues & Subscriptions	3,662.84	
Office Supplies	712.11	
Other Services & Charges	669.64	
Postage & Delivery Expenses	1,719.03	
Printing/Copying Expense	3,090.10	
Rent	2,440.00	
Repair Expenses	30.57	
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept. of Revenue	339.51	
Supervisor Per Diem	0.00	
Supplies for Resale	4,004.02	
Telephone or Other Utilities	300.13	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	2,856.79	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Awards	294.75	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Advertising & Marketing	911.41	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Insurance	1,801.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Training	118.50	
Total General Government Disbursements		25,592.10
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	37,402.10	37,402.10
Purchase of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	37,402.10	37,402.10
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31	11,383.99	11,383.99
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY	Salaries + Fringe	Other
Totals Only	129,084.27	0.00

2005 ~ 2010 Long Range Plan Focus Areas:

Tippecanoe County
Soil & Water
Conservation



2005 - 2010

Long-Range Plan

1. Increase Riparian Buffers
2. Increase Conservation Tillage
3. Increase Educational Programming
4. Add Urban Technical Assistance
5. Increase/Improve Wildlife Habitat

Priority #1 - Riparian Buffers

**By 2010, 80% of the Riparian Buffer
remaining need will be planned.**

In the past year, the SWCD staff has utilized the NRCS geographical information system to identify streams that have less than a 180 foot riparian buffer, like the area shown in this picture. There are 4,691 acres of buffers needed covering 107 stream miles in 5 priority watersheds. 635 landowners of the areas identified received mailings with information about technical and financial assistance available to them.



To date, 46 landowners have contacted the SWCD office to request assistance with 38 acres of filterstrips and 3 acres of riparian buffers planned. At this time, only 1% of the remaining need has been planned, but we will continue to work hard toward our goal over the next 4 years.

Priority #2 – Conservation Tillage

By 2010, there will be a 50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils.

On cropland with highly erodible soils, steep slopes, or areas adjacent to riparian zones, crop residue can provide the necessary soil protection to effectively reduce wind and water erosion. By reducing the tillage of the ground from conventional tillage to conservation tillage, the results can be easily seen.



Conventional Tillage
Plowing/Disking
Results in Bare Soils and Gully Erosion

Conservation Tillage
Lo-Till/No-Till
Results in Ground Cover and Soil Protection



In the past year, planning began for the SWCD to sponsor residue management education programs, relative to conservation tillage and equipment modification. The following programs are on our calendar and we hope to see many of you in attendance:

- Crop Production and Residue Management Workshop (scheduled for next Thursday, February 9, 2006)
- Conservation Field Day (scheduled for sometime during the month of August 2006)

Since we've only planned workshops and field days to date, and until we've conducted the tillage transect this spring, there are no percentages to report on this priority.

Priority #3 – Soil/Water Education

By 2010, soil/water education will reach 25% more people for each of the following audiences identified: Youth, Adult, Industry & Business, and Local Government.

The following are the number of students, adults, and organizations who have been provided with educational programs, presentations, and/or instruction from the SWCD in the year 2005.

Formal Youth Education: 3,746 students within Tippecanoe County. This was achieved by classroom and field day presentations.

Other Formal Youth Education: 684 students outside Tippecanoe County. This was achieved by participation in surrounding counties' SWCD Field Days.

Informal Youth Education: 77 students within Tippecanoe County. This was achieved through after school/out of school activities, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.

Adult Education: 397 adults within Tippecanoe County. This was achieved through presentations, watershed festivals, webcast presentations, and more.

Industry & Business: 30 adults within Tippecanoe County. This was achieved through formal presentations.

Local Government: 18 governmental agencies within Tippecanoe County. This was achieved through communication and formal presentations.



Priority #4 – Urban Technician

**By 2010, Tippecanoe County SWCD
will have an urban technical
assistance program in place.**

In countless studies throughout the last 10 years, urban runoff has been identified as one of the leading sources of water quality impairments in the surface waters of the United States.

To address these growing concerns, the SWCD Urban Conservation Committee recommended the development of an urban technical assistance program.



The specific roles of the technician would be to provide information, education and technical assistance to local entities and businesses, to provide assistance to homeowners and individuals with natural resource concerns, and to provide natural resource planning recommendations to the County Area Plan Commission, the Twin Cities and developing areas of Tippecanoe County.

Please support us in our efforts for the addition of an SWCD staff member. In the coming year, we will begin aligning ourselves to create the urban technician position. This is one area where the District has been lacking in the past, and we would like the opportunity to better serve the urban community of Tippecanoe County. If you would like to offer your support for the position, please contact the SWCD office to see how you can be of assistance.

Priority #5 – Wildlife Habitat

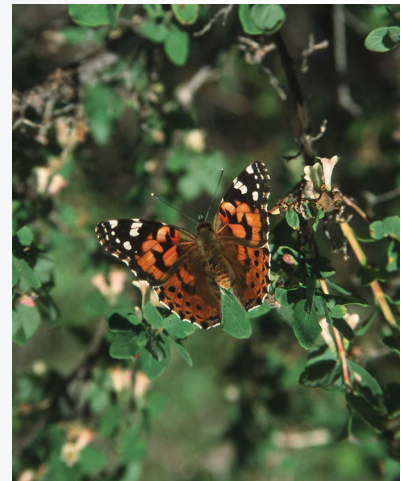
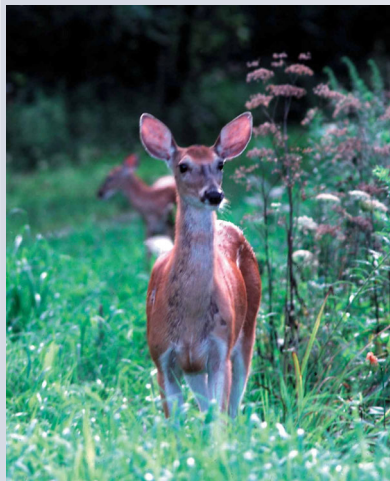
By 2010, wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of the targeted sensitive areas.

A wildlife habitat is an area that offers feeding, roosting, breeding, nesting, and refuge areas for a variety of bird and mammal species. Tippecanoe County's wildlife are precious resources, and surveys consistently show that citizens value wildlife as part of their quality of life.

At this time, we have not calculated all riparian zones, wetlands, woodlands, and ditches to determine the actual need, however, these areas will be digitized soon for future reference. In the past year, the following wildlife habitats have been planned and/or established:

Established in 2005:

- *61 ac. Upland Wildlife Management*
- *7,403 ft. Windbreak/Shelterbelt*
- *12 ac. Food Plots*



Planned in 2005:

- *132 ac. Successional Habitat Development*
- *106 ac. Upland Wildlife Management*
- *78 ac. Tree and Shrub planting*
- *322 ac. Wetland Restoration*
- *323 ac. Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management*
- *3,740 ft. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment*

Conservation Farmer of the Year – Tom Osborn & Osborn Farms, Inc.

Tom Osborn of Osborn Farms, Inc. (shown at right) was named as Tippecanoe County's 2005 Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Tom, Toni and Doug Osborn received this award for their continued wise use and conservation of soil and water resources on lands that they own or operate, and for their encouragement to others to consider the natural resources of their own land. We're looking forward to future generations of Osborns & Conservation Farmers of the Year!

Congratulations Osborn Farms!

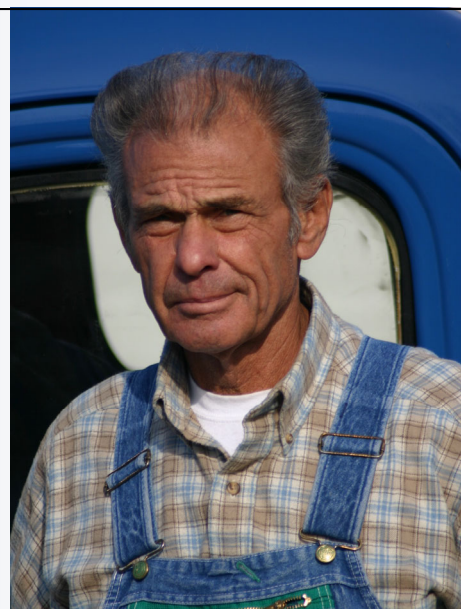


Marion Klutzke is Tippecanoe County's 2005 Master Farm Conservationist

The purpose of this program is to encourage sustained long term conservation efforts (20-25 years) by recognizing those who have devoted a lifetime of stewardship to the land which they own or operate.

Marion Klutzke was selected as Tippecanoe County's 2005 Master Farm Conservationist. He has been a steward of the land for many years. Congratulations Marion and thank you for a lifetime dedication to the protection of Tippecanoe County's natural resources.

Congratulations Osborn Farms!



River Friendly Farmer – Dale Workman—Pheasant Ridge Farms

Dale Workman of Pheasant Ridge Farms (shown at right with Lt. Governor, Becky Skillman) was named as Tippecanoe County's 2005 River Friendly Farmer.

Since 1999, key agricultural organizations have sponsored the River Friendly Farmer (RFF) Program. The statewide initiative recognizes farmers, who through good production management practices helps keep Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams clean.

Thank You Dale for your continued stewardship!



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE....

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES!

In 2004, the District introduced the following committees and developed their charges. As a result of the committees' hard work, priorities were identified and staff assignments made for the coming year.

Leading Committees:

Rural Conservation

Charge: To develop the most effective method to get conservation "on the ground" on agricultural land. (SWCD Staff Assignment – Linda Eastman)

PRIORITY #1 – *80% of the riparian buffer “remaining need” will be planned.*

PRIORITY #2 - *50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils*

PRIORITY #5 - *Wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of targeted, sensitive areas*



Urban Conservation

Charge: To develop a proactive approach to urban conservation issues. (SWCD Staff Assignment – Chris Remley)



PRIORITY #4 – *A full-time urban technical assistance program will be in place.*

Education

Charge: To develop and implement educational programs relative to current natural resource issues and to provide support to other committees and agencies. (SWCD Staff Assignment – Don Emmert)

PRIORITY #3 - *Soil and water education will reach 25% more people for the following audiences identified: Youth, Adult, Industry/Business, and Local Government*

Supporting Committees:

Marketing - *Charge: To develop and implement a marketing plan to needs and goals of the SWCD.* (SWCD Staff Assignment – Linda Eastman)



support the Assignment –

Personnel - *Charge: To meet the goals and support the evolving personnel needs of the SWCD and its conservation partners.* (SWCD Staff Assignment – Chris Remley)

Finance - *Charge: To meet the goals and support the financial needs of the SWCD.* (SWCD Staff Assignment – Chris Remley)

These committees are essential to our continued progress and our intent is to involve our peers and members of the local community. Please contact the appropriate staff member if you are interested in serving on a committee.

OUR APPRECIATION TO...

...the following individuals and businesses of Tippecanoe County who continue to support us. We would like to extend our thanks publicly and recognize each of you for your contributions to our Annual Meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the residents of Tippecanoe County to continue to patronize these worthy representatives of the business community who value our county's natural resources:

BIRGE FARM DRAINAGE

GIRARDOT, STRAUCH & Co.

CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES

INDIANA FEVER (WNBA)

ELI LILLY & COMPANY

INDIANA PACERS (NBA)

F & K CONSTRUCTION

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

FAIRFIELD CONTRACTORS, INC.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

We rely upon contributions, support, and volunteers from the private sector to carry on several of its activities such as field days and education programs. Regrettably, budgets are tight and addressing the County's natural resource concerns requires time and expense.

One less expense, however, for the SWCD is that District supervisors, who are public officials, serve without pay. They approve applications for assistance, assist with field days, special meetings, and education programs, and set policy and direction for the future. All of this and more, without pay, to make Tippecanoe County a better place to live today and for future generations..

We are also fortunate that our County Commissioners and Council support the SWCD by providing office staff and funding for some of our expenses. State and County funding goes a long way toward meeting many of our major obligations, and we wish to express our gratitude for all of the assistance given to our program this past year. Many thanks to all of you!!

The activities of the SWCD are directed by a five member Board of Supervisors. Three of the supervisors are elected by local landowners and residents, and two are appointed by the State Soil Conservation Board based upon recommendation of the District Board. Each supervisor serves a three year term. Your supervisors for 2005 were: **Jim King, Chairman; Roger Verhey, Vice Chair; Roger McClellan, Chuck Shelby, and Dale Workman.** Associate supervisors included: **Sarah Baxter, Dave Kovich, Gene Kroeschen, and Steve Murray.** The local conservation staff members who have worked hard for you during the past year are: **Chris Remley, SWCD District Administrator; Linda Eastman, SWCD Rural Conservation Coordinator; Don Emmert, SWCD Water Quality Educator; Brock Welge and Jennifer Boss, Erosion Control Specialists; Mark Eastman, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service; and Sue Gerlach, Resource Specialist; Indiana State Department of Agriculture.**



All programs and services of the SWCD, IDNR, and NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, or handicap.