

TODAY IS THE DAY TO BE A PART OF
CONSERVATION'S POWER

Join In!

TIPPECANOE
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

2006 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.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2006

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and luncheon was held on Friday, February 3, 2006, in combination with a daylong workshop at the JS Wright Forestry Center in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The day was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chairperson Roger Verhey immediately following registration. Supervisor and staff introductions were made, followed by a brief presentation on how the SWCD was organized, its primary function, and progress was reported on the 2005-2010 Long Range Plan. Participants were encouraged to visit the 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 12:15 p.m., the Annual Meeting was called to order. Roger Verhey suggested that in the interest of time, the actual reading of the 2005 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 two nominees for supervisor were announced – Randy Geswein and Dale Workman – and each of the nominees explained their interest in natural resources. Dan Dunten, 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 2005 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Osborn Farms. Master Farm Conservationist Award for 2005 was next awarded to Marion Klutzke, and lastly, Tippecanoe County's River Friendly Farmer award was presented to Dale Workman.

Awards were followed by the featured program "Wabash River Through Time". 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. Randy Geswein was elected and will serve a three-year term, expiring in 2009 and he was given the oath of office.

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 2:45 p.m.

Agricultural Workshop Sessions:

Agricultural Outlook 2006

Maximizing Your Bottom Line

Education Workshop Sessions:

Improving Water Quality Through Forestry and Corridor Habitat Conservation

Stormwater Phase II Education in Tippecanoe County

Urban Workshop Sessions:

Environmental Data for Your Community

NPDES & IDEM's Permitting and Public Notice Information

Meeting attendance – 75

Minutes recorded by Chris Remley.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006

Balance Brought Forward	\$ 11,883.99	\$ 11,883.99
RECEIPTS		
State for District Operations	10,000.00	
Clean Water Indiana Grant - Supervisor Training	500.00	
County for District Operations	7,000.00	
Other Grants (List) - Tipmont REMC EnviroWatts - Warm Season Grass Drill	10,000.00	
State Appropriation - Rule 5 Technical Assistance Funds	10,650.00	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts		38,150.00
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	2,452.00	
Other Charges for Services - NPDES Phase II Education Costs	7,049.44	
Total Charges for Services		9,501.44
Annual Meeting Income	368.00	
Reimbursements & Refunds	438.61	
Sales Income	16,464.82	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue		17,271.43
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	64,922.87	64,922.87
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	76,806.86	76,806.86
DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	7,700.00	7,700.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	2,008.26	
Audit Expense	218.00	
Conservation Education Programs	7,476.76	
Contractual Services	390.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	3,913.84	
Office Supplies	223.93	
Other Services & Charges	2,235.66	
Postage & Delivery Expenses	1,826.67	
Printing/Copying Expense	2,396.69	
Rent	2,440.00	
Repair Expenses	1,848.50	
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept. of Revenue	667.58	
Supervisor Per Diem	175.00	
Supplies for Resale	25,603.47	
Telephone or Other Utilities	303.34	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	1,921.80	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Awards	223.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Advertising & Marketing	554.39	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Insurance	2,522.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Training	1,434.00	
Total General Government Disbursements		58,382.89
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	66,082.89	66,082.89
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	66,082.89	66,082.89
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31	10,723.97	10,723.97
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY		
	Salaries + Fringe	Other
Totals Only	\$153,015.01	\$0.00

2005 ~ 2010 Long Range Plan Focus Areas:

- 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.**



By definition, a riparian buffer is a zone of trees, shrubs, and grasses along a stream corridor established to protect and improve water quality. This zone filters and removes nutrients and sediment from runoff, supplies food, habitat and shade for fish and wildlife, protects the bank from erosion and moderates flood damage.

In addition to environmental benefits, there are also financial incentives. Cropland adjacent to streams, ditches and watercourses, may be eligible for cost-share assistance and annual rental payments for the area taken out of crop production.

IN 2006:

- SWCD staff mapped 80% of installed conservation practices
- Planned 77 acres of filterstrips
- Planned 45 acres of WRP buffers
- Grant awards and contributions totaled \$22,476.50 from Clean Water Indiana, the Indiana Smallmouth Organization, and Tipmont REMC's EnviroWatts program that will address both this and our Wildlife Habitat priority
- Sponsored/co-sponsored three Conservation Security Program meetings
- Sent out three agricultural editions of the SWCD Newsletter "Conservation Today for Tomorrow"
- Four newspaper articles were printed in the Journal & Courier
- A Public Service Announcement was produced featuring Tipmont's contribution toward the purchase of the SWCD warm season grass drill and its natural resource benefits.
- Finally, at the end of 2006, we were able to document an additional 1% of the remaining need met for a total of 2% in 2005 and 2006.

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.

IN 2006:

- Co-sponsored a “Crop Production & Residue Management Workshop – Focused on Lo-till
- Conducted a conservation tillage transect, documenting tillage methods, crop rotations, etc.,
- 67% No-till soybeans in 2006 - 3% increase from 2004
- 16% No-till corn in 2006 - 4% increase from 2004.
- Co-sponsored a “Conservation Tillage” Field Day at Purdue University’s Throckmorton Farm where we highlighted residue management, conservation tillage and equipment modification.



Priority #3 - Soil/Water Education

By 2010, We will have provided 25% more soil and water education programs to Tippecanoe County youth, adult, industry, and local government



By providing hands-on activities, training and other informational programs, the SWCD continues its outreach efforts to educate the community about protection of their natural resources and the importance of water quality in Tippecanoe County.

IN 2006:

- Signed a formal agreement with local municipalities to provide water quality education
- Formal & Informal Youth: 4905 students. Classroom presentations, field days, out-of-school activities, including Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.
Increase of 19%
- Adult: 583 adults. Presentations, watershed festivals, webcasts
Increase of 47%
- Industry & Business: 7 Formal presentations
Increase of 350%
- Local Government: 4 agencies. Communication & formal presentations
Increase of 200%

Priority #4 - Urban Technician

**By 2010,
Tippecanoe County
SWCD will have an
urban technical
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.

IN 2006:

- Utilized \$6,000 of part-time funds for urban conservation assistance
- Urban conservation survey was sent to local municipal leaders for input
- Newspaper article submitted to the Journal & Courier seeking support from the general public.
- Introduced the first urban edition of Conservation Today for Tomorrow newsletter
- Provided technical assistance to local municipalities relative to Clean Water Act Phase II regulations
- Provided assistance and reports to the Area Plan Commission
- Provided onsite homeowner technical assistance
- Created the first ever SWCD Community Conservation and Development awards
- Submitted grant applications for backyard conservation projects and urban best management practices.

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.

While this priority is important, we have not mapped all riparian zones, wetlands, woodlands, and ditches to determine the actual need. The longer corridor zones adjacent to streams and rivers have been mapped, however, the endangered species and sensitive areas have yet to be done.

IN 2006:

- Planned 79 acres of successional wildlife habitat
- Developed 1034 acres of upland wildlife habitat management plans which include grasses & legumes, native grasses, habitat corridors, trees, wetlands, etc.,
- 300 acres of warm season grasses were planted
- Grants and contributions were received as noted for this and the Riparian Buffer priority highlighted earlier
- Each of the SWCD Newsletter Editions (Agricultural, Education, and Urban) contained at least one article related to wildlife
- News article entitled "Gifts Help Habitats Flourish" was included in Tipmont REMC's newsletter.



DON'T FORGET...

Native grasses provide both food and shelter for a variety of wildlife, and in order to assist you in the planting of your habitat or buffers, the SWCD sells prairie grass and wildflower seed, and has two no-till drills available for your use.





Residential Developers & Builders
Northwest Indiana and Central Indiana

Urban Development Award 2006 David Kovich - Komark Ltd.

The Urban Development Award was designed to promote and recognize conservation efforts by developers, engineers, architects, landscapers, builders, general contractors, and specialty contractors.

David Kovich received two nominations for this award, one of which was from the Builders Association of Greater Lafayette and they stated simply that "As a developer, Mr. Kovich of Komark Ltd puts great effort into protecting the natural habitat of each development site and is quite knowledgeable of the local soil and water conservation restrictions."

The other nomination stated that "As you can see from his billboard promoting The Orchard Subdivision, David realizes the benefits to homeowners of conservation and wildlife."

Thanks David for incorporating conservation and natural habitat into your urban developments!



Community Conservation Award 2006 Mark Krivchenia

Our next recipient of the Community Conservation Award is a volunteer, Mark Krivchenia. He was nominated by a peer who states the following... "Mark is an exceptional volunteer. On top of his full time job, Mark volunteers 15-20 hours per week of his time with NICHES and the Wildcat Creek Foundation. He heads up the land acquisition committee for NICHES as well as for the Foundation. He also serves on NICHES' board and is the President of the Foundation's board. Along with participating in committee and board Meetings, Mark gets out and pulls invasives, picks up trash, participates in the De-Trash the Wabash event, clears trails for both groups in the spring and fall, and plants trees for the Foundation in the springtime. He is also a proud member of the Wildcat Creek Guardians.



Community Conservation Award 2006 Karen Miller

Our Community Conservation Award was developed to promote & recognize urban conservation efforts by community or civic leaders, homeowners, businesses, volunteers, teachers, students, and student organizations.

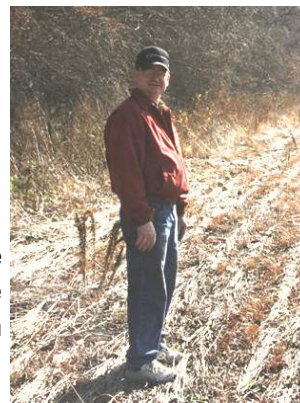
Karen was nominated by Dana White, a parent of one of her students, who states the following..."As part of Mrs. Miller's continuing interest in ecology, community service, and her class study of measurement, she takes her class on an annual trip to Burnett Creek to monitor its water quality. The students care about Burnett Creek's because it is their school's name and the little creek flows into the Wabash, Ohio, Mississippi, and the Gulf of Mexico. I think it is

wonderful that Mrs. Miller is teaching them not only about their environment but also to be good stewards of the land and water."

Roger Verhey is Tippecanoe County's 2006 Conservation Farmer of the Year

This year's Tippecanoe County Conservation Farmer of the Year award is being presented to Roger Verhey.

Roger farms 2300 acres with his father, Darrell in Southwest Tippecanoe County. In 2006, Roger installed several acres of filter strips, one grassed waterway, and 5.5 acres of upland gamebird wildlife habitat in the Conservation Reserve Program's CP33.



Roger currently serves as the Tippecanoe County SWCD chairman, and is vice president of the Tippecanoe County Farm Bureau. He is a member of the National Corn Growers Association where he takes a leadership role in letter writing for agricultural policy.

Congratulations Roger Verhey!



2006 Master Farm Conservationist - Dale Workman - Pheasant Ridge Farms

This award is a lifetime achievement honor for men and women who have dedicated their farming careers to preserving and protecting Indiana's natural resources.

Dale Workman was selected as Tippecanoe County's 2006 Master Farm Conservationist. He has been a steward of the land for many years and began no-till planting in the early 1980s. He utilizes split application nitrogen, has installed eight grassed waterways, a pond, filter strips and an upland game bird

wildlife habitat.

Congratulations Dale and thank you for a lifetime dedication to the protection of Tippecanoe County's natural resources.

Dean Craig is Tippecanoe County's 2006 River Friendly Farmer

Since 1999, key agricultural organizations have sponsored the River Friendly Farmer (RFF) Program. It is designed to recognize farmers who protect and enhance Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams by using sound cropping and livestock management practices in their operations.

The 2006 River Friendly Farmer award recipient is Dean Craig. As Tippecanoe County's River Friendly Farmer, Dean and his wife Kristy were honored at a ceremony held last August in the 4-H Exhibit Hall Auditorium on the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Farmers' Day at the 150th Indiana State Fair.



Thank you, Dean, for your continued environmental stewardship!

2006
SWCD SUPERVISORS

Roger Verhey
 Chairman

Randy Geswein
 Vice Chair

Jim King

Gene Kroeschen

Chuck Shelby

2006
SWCD STAFF

Chris Remley
 District Administrator

Linda Eastman
 Rural Conservation
 Coordinator

Don Emmert
 Water Quality Educator

Tandy Easler
 Erosion Control Specialist

Kelli Sallee,
 Storm Drain Stencil
 Technician/Coordinator

2006
PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Mark Eastman
 District Conservationist
 USDA Natural Resources
 Conservation Service

Dan Dunten
 District Support Specialist
 ISDA - Division of Soil
 Conservation

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
Provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
TIPPECANOE COUNTY - FY 2006
10/01/05 - 09/30/06

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Closure of Waste Impoundment (360) (no)	4	0
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	43	103
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	4,332	3,881
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	243	243
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647) (ac)	79	0
Enhancement - Energy Management (EEM) (ac)	1,396	1,396
Enhancement - Habitat Management (EHM) (ac)	1,396	1,396
Enhancement - Nutrient Management (ENM) (ac)	1,396	1,396
Enhancement - Pest Management (EPM) (ac)	1,035	1,035
Enhancement - Soil Management (ESM) (ac)	1,023	1,023
Fence (382) (ft)	3,800	0
Field Border (386) (ft)	11,025	8,124
Filter Strip (393) (ac)	77	98
Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)	46	37
Grade Stabilization Structure (410) (no)	2	6
Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)	15	21
Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (ac)	1	0
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	3,199	3,037
Pasture and Hay Planting (512) (ac)	52	37
Pest Management (595) (ac)	3,246	2,335
Pipeline (516) (ft)	7,850	0
Pond (378) (no)	1	0
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	83	107
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) (ac)	1,571	1,330
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329) (ac)	4,029	3,875
Residue Management, Mulch Till (329B) (ac)	461	461
Residue Management, No-Till/Strip Till (329A) (ac)	155	161
Residue Management, Seasonal (344) (ac)	68	59
Subsurface Drain (606) (ft)	16,310	850
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	51	9
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	1,113	1,118
Waste Utilization (633) (ac)	226	500
Watering Facility (614) (no)	13	0
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	25	239
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)	200	296

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.