

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

**MINUTES**  
January 10, 2026, 8:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2026, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M.

**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:**

Mark Eastman, Chair -E26  
Melody Clouser, Vice Chair – A27  
Deb Grady-Ruth, Supervisor – A26  
Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor – E27

**Supervisors Absent:**

Doug Osborn, Supervisor – E28

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kris Gertz, SWCD  
Robert Suseland, SWCD  
Mike Smith, SWCD

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kathy Vernon, Council  
Geneva Tyler, ISDA  
Ryan Dobner, Surveyor  
Grace Adams, IASWCD  
Sarah Vaughn, NRCS

**December 2025 Minutes**

Upon a motion by Grady-Ruth, Clouser seconded: **"The December 2026 minutes accurately reflect reports made, actions taken and stands approved. Motion carried."**

**The January 2026 Financial Report, and January 2026 Accounts Payable Vouchers** were distributed.

Upon a motion by Clouser, Kerkhove seconded: **"The January 2026 Financial Report and January 2026 Accounts Payable Voucher Register stands approved."** A vote was taken. **Motion carried.**

DATE FILED	VOUCHER NUMBER	NAME OF CLAIMANT	OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OR FUND	AMOUNT OF VOUCHER	AMOUNT ALLOWED	CHECK/ WARRANT NUMBER
01/09/26	500	Void		\$ -	0.00	7023
01/09/26	501	Comcast		\$ 8.21	8.21	7024
01/09/26	502	Spence Nursery		\$ 200.25	200.25	7025
01/09/26	503	Mike Smith		\$ 125.51	125.51	7028
01/09/26	504	Kris Gertz		\$ 80.75	80.75	7029
01/09/26	506	Journal & Courier		\$ 22.88	22.88	EFT
		Carried Forward		437.60	437.60	

**Organizational Development and Community Outreach**

- ❖ Outreach and Education Networking Group – Smith shared the invite to meet with other conservation partners in the area. He will attend and report back.
- ❖ Farmers Market – Gertz shared past experiences at the Farmer’s Market. Smith shared the willingness to go and talk to producers when he was shopping and not working. The board discussed. We will participate in one Farmer’s Market at each of the 2 locations.

**Healthy Soil, Healthy Water**

- ❖ PARP meeting – 12/16 – Smith shared Vaughn and Smith’s participation in the event. Purdue Extension is interested in doing more joint events. Eastman shared other county’s SWCD successes in joint ventures with Purdue Extension.
- ❖ Producer Meeting at the Fair – Smith shared his idea to bring the spreader cart to the Tippecanoe County 4-HFair and do PARP credits at the fair. Eastman shared success in Fountain County

offering PARP credits. The board discussed pros and cons. Board wanted to move forward avoiding Swine Day.

- ❖ Community Garden – Smith discussed the 2 plots that he and Suseland are managing at the Master Gardeners Community Garden site. He is planning squash and onions for the first crop. Professor Ingwell will provide a trap for researching tomato pinworms. A workshop is planned for May 21.
- ❖ WREC Cost Share – Smith shared our partnership with WREC with the 319 Grant. During this one-year lag in grant funding, WREC is funding a cost-share program. The board would like to see funding for previously underserved areas in the county.
- ❖ Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission – Gertz shared that she was again appointed alternate.
- ❖ Indiana Soybean Alliance and Corn Marketing Council – Smith shared the request for commitment for grant funding. He requested ideas for grant funded projects. His idea was to improve the edge feathering near woods.
- ❖ Aerial Photos - Smith shared that a hard drive was found with historical aerial photos. Dobner shared that any missing sets would help. The board approved sharing the photos with the surveyor's office.
- ❖ Moseley Field Day – Smith shared the idea of doing a field day at Neil Moseley's. The board discussed doing it by April 10, 2026.

### **Healthy Ecosystem**

- ❖ ME Capstone Project – Suseland shared Eastman and he meet virtually. We are working on the appropriate way to handle funding.
- ❖ Native Plant Sale – Online launch by February 1, 2026. Both vendors have gotten back to us so we will move forward with the sale at the Fairgrounds on April 25, 2026.
- ❖ Garden Expo – The Garden Expo is scheduled for April 25, 2026. We plan to have tables sharing our programs and sending customers to our sale in the building next door.
- ❖ TICT Tuesday – Suseland shared the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce hosts workdays to remove invasives at different park from 10am to noon on Tuesdays.
- ❖ NRES Capstone Projects – Purdue's Natural Resources Environmental Sciences asks for capstone projects for Senior year. Suseland shared the submission of two projects. One for Wabash RiverFest on Fishes of Tippecanoe County. The other project was lawn care for water quality with signage.

### **Business Operations**

- ❖ Annual Financial Report – Gertz shared the Annual Financial Report. Clouser motion to accept the 2025 Annual Financial Report as presented, Grady-Ruth seconded. Motion passed
- ❖ NACD TA Grant – Gertz shared she submitted the 2025 on December 30, 2025. We will find out if the application was granted in February.
- ❖ IASWCD Business Meeting 12/19 – Eastman attended the meeting. The resolutions passed and failed according to the boards' wishes. Kenny Cain was honored with the President's award at the meeting.
- ❖ Fairgrounds Contract – Gertz shared the contract. She will fill out the contract and send it with payment in February.
- ❖ Winter Newsletter- The Winter Newsletter was released on December 30, 2025, and again to anyone who did not open it on January 6, 2026. The Spring Newsletter is set for April 1, 2026.
- ❖ Annual Meeting – The SWCD Annual Meeting is on February 11, at 9am in the Wright Forestry Center, Martell Forest. Speakers are confirmed, meal is planned, and location is set. Awards to be presented. Awardees will need to be personally invited.
- ❖ Work Study Students – The current work study students returned for Spring semester with different schedules. Welcome back!

- ❖ MOU-NRCS-SWCD-ISDA – Gertz shared the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). The current MOU expired in December of 2024. The board discussed the document. Gertz will plan on attending the information session on January 26. NRCS would like all MOUs by March.

**Other Reports/Announcements**

- ❖ NRCS Priorities – Vaughn shared the USDA NRCS Priorities for 2026.
- ❖ Cover Crop Premium – Tyler shared the cover crop premium funds have been spent.
- ❖ TrustIndiana – The SWCD will not participate in the investment.
- ❖ Legislature meeting – The board will not participate.
- ❖ Senate Bill 1 – Vernon shared we are still in the wait and see pattern.

**Upcoming Events**

- ❖ Annual Meeting

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:20 A.M. Clouser motioned; Grady-Ruth seconded; motioned carried.

*An Executive Session was held immediately following the board meeting at approximately 10:30 am in the same location as authorized under I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).*

Minutes recorded by Kris Gertz.

APPROVED: Meledy Clouser

APPROVED: B. D. [Signature]

APPROVED: Mark Eastman

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

