

## TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

### MINUTES

July 9, 2025, 7:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M.

#### SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Eastman, Chair  
Melody Clouser, Vice Chair  
Deb Grady Ruth, Supervisor  
Doug Osborn, Supervisor

#### STAFF PRESENT:

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

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Vaughn, NRCS  
Kenny Cain, State Soil Board

#### June 2025 Minutes

Upon a motion by Osborn, Clouser seconded: **"The June 2025 minutes accurately reflect reports made, actions taken and stands approved. Motion carried."**

**The July 2024 Financial Report, and July 2024 Accounts Payable Vouchers** were distributed.

Upon a motion by Clouser, Osborn seconded: **"The July 2024 Financial Report and July 2024**

**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 |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 06/24/25   | 469            | Comcast                     |                            | \$ 172.55         | 172.55         | 6692                  |
| 07/01/25   | 470            | IRS                         |                            | \$ 1.95           | 1.95           | EFT                   |
| 06/25/25   | 471            | Tippecanoe County Treasurer |                            | \$ 73,500.00      | 73,500.00      | 6693                  |
| 07/04/25   | 472            | Purdue University           |                            | \$ 358.19         | 358.19         | 6694                  |
| 07/04/25   | 473            | Kris Gertz                  |                            | \$ 177.84         | 177.84         | 6695                  |
| 07/04/25   | 474            | Michael Smith               |                            | \$ 192.32         | 192.32         | 6696                  |
| 07/04/25   | 484            | fees                        |                            | \$ 6.58           | 6.58           | EFT                   |
|            |                | Carried Forward             |                            | 74,409.43         | 74,409.43      |                       |

#### Soil Health

- ❖ Community Garden – Smith shared that he and Suseland were there last week. The cover crop has finally been established. He plans to buy a silage tarp for termination and plant alliums in the spring. The perennial plugs have been planted with plans for seeds to be added in the fall. The plot will be evaluated for research through Purdue on pollinators.
- ❖ The Urban Soil Health initiative will transition to a one director program offering assistance to district lead working groups.

#### Water Quality

- ❖ RCPP – Smith shared the cancelation of the current RCPP program. TNC will resubmit application for next round. We will continue to support the program at the previously discussed rate.

#### Invasive Species

- ❖ Invasive Swap – Eastman shared seeing the swap promotion in varies areas around the county. Suseland shared the SWAP program has funds available and would like everyone to share the program widely. The list of replacements is available on our website.

- ❖ Invasive Species Presentation at W.L. Library, August 1, 2025- The West Lafayette Library reached out for adult programming needs. The SWCD will offer educational programs throughout the year.
- ❖ TICT Table @ Fair – The SWCD will have a table at the fair. The staff will man the table Monday through Thursday evenings. Eastman suggested eating lunch there.
- ❖ TICT Potential Workdays – Suseland shared invasive removal projects at Tippecanoe, West Lafayette and Lafayette parks. He would appreciate the promotion of the workdays. The board discussed the noxious weed problems in the city.

### Wildlife Habitat

- ❖ Indiana Tree Species Selection Guide – Suseland shared the new Indiana Tree Species and Selection Guide. Eastman suggested meeting with Tree Lafayette.
- ❖ Helping Pollinators at Home – September 12 @ the West Lafayette Public Library to help landowners with promoting pollinators.

### Business Operations

- ❖ Remote work policy – The board discussed the pros and cons of a remote work policy. The board will continue discussions during an executive session.
- ❖ Fair Display – the display is almost complete and available for viewing.
- ❖ CNW Regional Meeting – August 21 @ 5pm – Cain shared his story of farming and many local SWCDs. He shared his concerns with loss of staff and funding. The Montgomery County SWCD is hosting a meeting at his farm. The events include a panel discussion and questions.
- ❖ Budget – Gertz shared the income and expenditures for the first half of the year.

### Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Harrison FFA – All plants are in the ground and weeds are being managed. Signage will come later.
- ❖ Extension ANR position – The ANR position is not planned to be filled anytime soon.
- ❖ Greenfest – The event had low attendance again this year. The presence of the SWCD will be reevaluated for next year.
- ❖ Local Working Group – Vaughn shared she and Gertz will work on the survey and marketing to obtain more responses. She also shared the funding of another 6 EQIP applications to fund projects in Tippecanoe County.

### Upcoming Events

- ❖ RiverFest – July 12
- ❖ Tippecanoe County Fair – July 18-26

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45 A.M. Grady Ruth motioned; Clouser seconded; motioned carried.

Minutes recorded by Kris Gertz.

APPROVED:



APPROVED:



APPROVED:



*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.*