

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

## MINUTES

August 13, 2025, 7:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 A.M.

### SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

### STAFF PRESENT:

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

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Vaughn, NRCS  
Kathy Vernon, Council  
Ryan Dobner, Surveyor  
Ethan Hershberger, RITA - IASWCD

### July 2025 Minutes

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

The August 2025 Financial Report, and August 2025 Accounts Payable Vouchers were distributed.

Upon a motion by Clouser, Osborn seconded: **"The August 2025 Financial Report and August 2025 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 |
|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 07/21/25   | 477            | Comcast          |                            | \$ 172.55         | 172.55         | 6997                  |
| 08/01/25   | 478            | IRS              |                            | \$ 112.57         | 112.57         | EFT                   |
| 8/8/2025   | 476            | Void             |                            | 0                 | 0              | 6998                  |
| 08/08/25   | 479            | Spence           |                            | \$ 93.30          | 93.30          | 6999                  |
| 08/08/25   | 480            | Robert Suseland  |                            | \$ 21.48          | 21.48          | 6700                  |
| 08/08/25   | 481            | Kris Gertz       |                            | \$ 308.16         | 308.16         | 6701                  |
| 08/08/25   | 482            | Michael Smith    |                            | \$ 168.25         | 168.25         | 6702                  |
| 08/08/25   | 483            | fees             |                            | \$ 81.76          | 81.76          | EFT                   |
|            |                | Carried Forward  |                            | 958.07            | 958.07         |                       |

### Soil Health

- ❖ Soil Health for Gardens 10/17 @ West Lafayette Library – Mike shared he will present at the West Lafayette Library from 3-5pm.
- ❖ Soil Health Garden tour – Smith shared tour with Grow Local is scheduled for 9/12.

### Water Quality

- ❖ 319 – 319 is the state water quality program. There are 5 watersheds in Tippecanoe County. The Great Bend of the Wabash is the largest area for us. We have around \$8,000 to allocate for the rest of the year. The only one of the 5 watersheds that have funds will be the Big Pine watershed for 2026.

### Invasive Species

- ❖ Invasive Swap – Suseland shared that 190 replacements have been requested. The application is still open until September 1. Orders are still coming in.
- ❖ Oak Savannah workday – Suseland shared the change in language to reflect a more positive spin. Invasive workdays will become restorations. The event went well.

- ❖ FFA – Eastman shared pictures from the project. The before pictures show many invasive species. The after pictures show a great start. Suseland and Eastman shared the education and value of the planting needs to be known by school leadership.

### Wildlife Habitat

- ❖ Helping Pollinators at Home – The program will be September 12 @ the West Lafayette Public Library to help landowners with promoting pollinators. Suseland shared the September installment of our education programs. Eastman shared Rice County SWCD in Minnesota promotion of “Plant a Pocket of Prairie.”

### Business Operations

- ❖ Remote work policy – Eastman shared history of remote work with the SWCD. Osborn made a motion to accept the remote work policy. Clouser seconded: motion passes.
- ❖ 4-H Fair – Eastman shared that he stopped by the booth several times. Suseland shared that the number of interactions was low. Discussion followed for ideas for next year’s fair.
- ❖ Resolutions – Eastman shared no resolutions from Tippecanoe SWCD.
- ❖ Newsletter Distribution – The Summer newsletter did not go out to many of the subscribers. The board discussed options. The item is tabled.
- ❖ Annual Meeting – Supervisors – Eastman will continue to be nominated for the 2026 election. Osborn, Clouser and Vaughn will be on the election committee. Grady-Ruth agreed to another 3 years by appointment. The annual meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026, at 9 am. Smith shared ideas for presenters from the Diverse Corn Belt project. The board suggested presentations from WREC and Forestry.

### Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Local Working Group – will follow the board meeting
- ❖ Strategic plan meeting will follow the Local Working Group
- ❖ Farmer of the Year – Rob DeFreese needs to be contacted.
- ❖ Outfest – 9/16 NRCS is not attending

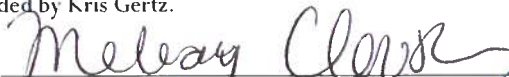
### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Women’s Conservation Learning Circle – September 16

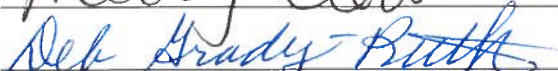
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45 A.M. Osborn motioned; Clouser seconded; motioned carried.

Minutes recorded by Kris Gertz.

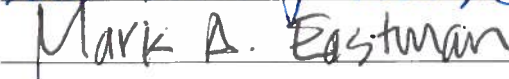
APPROVED:



APPROVED:



APPROVED:



*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.*