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

MINUTES
September 9, 2026, 8:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:
Mark Eastman, Chair - E29
Deb Grady-Ruth, Supervisor – A29
Melody Clouser, Vice Chair – A27
Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor – E27

STAFF PRESENT:
Kris Gertz, SWCD
Robert Suseland, SWCD
Mike Smith, SWCD

OTHERS PRESENT:
Haley Current, Farm Bureau
Kathy Vernon, TC Council
Olivia Razo, Surveyor

Supervisors Absent:
Doug Osborn, Supervisor – E28

August 2026 Minutes

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

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

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

- River Friendly Farmer August 18 1pm – Gertz shared that she represented the district at this year's presentation at the State Fair. Strassburger and his family were there.
- Purdue ME Project – Suseland discussed the meeting with the professor. The board tabled further involvement until November when we have numbers.
- Tree Sale Volunteers – Gertz shared trees for tree sale will arrive September 23 at 9 am. All are welcome to volunteer.
- Annual Meeting – Annual Meeting will be February 10 at 9 am at John S Wright Building in Martell Forest. Breakfast will be served.
- Annual Conference – Gertz shared the IASWCD Annual Conference will be from January 24 -26. The event costs include $405 conference fee and $154 room + 17% ($180). The Business meeting is on January 26. The District will need to appoint a supervisor and alternate at the next meeting.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- Funding septic repair through 319 grants – Smith shared the work on the 319 grant priorities. The addition of septic repair will be allowed under 319 funding. The board discussed the pros and cons. The district staff members have enough information to bring to the meeting.
- Ecdysis Foundation project – Smith shared that he helped with the project in Indiana. The project collects soil samples from a variety of farms to prove methodology for citizen collect.
- McCutcheon FFA students – Smith shared work with FFA teacher to schedule a visit to see a non-row crop operation.

Healthy Ecosystem

- CWI Grant – The staff shared an overview of the proposal and it's submittance. Clouser motioned to approve a cash match of 18,000 over 3 years; Grady-Ruth seconded; motion carried.
- Pond Management Workshop 10/9 – Flyer was sent out in the Fall Newsletter.

Business Operations

- Budget 2026 Gertz reported expenses and income to date. She reviewed upcoming expenditures. Clouser made a motion to pay upcoming expenses from plant sale and county position match; Grady Ruth seconded; motion carried.
- Budget 2027 – Gertz presented the draft budget and asked for approval of a budget deficit for 2027.
- Election Committee members – Due Nov. 1 The board confirmed members of the election committee with Doug Osborn as chair.
- Appointee Nomination – Due Nov.1 The District will propose Rob DeFreese to replace Melody Clouser once her term is concluded.
- Election Nomination – Due Dec. 1 Steve Kerkhove will seek re-election.
- November Board Meeting – Gertz reminded everyone that the October Board Meeting is canceled and the November board meeting is on the first Wednesday, November 4, due to Veterans' Day.
- DJ Case Survey – District capacity study staff is meeting with District Staff on August 27, from 1-3pm. The Supervisors' visit is scheduled on August 28, from 8-10am at the Purdue Extension Building– Registration for supervisors is requested.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ISDA Soil Sampling Program starts Monday September 14
- Razo updated board on work by the Surveyor's Office including a landowner meeting for Dismal Ditch.

Upcoming Events

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:54 A.M. Closer motioned; Grady-Ruth 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.