

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

MINUTES
February 11, 2026, 8:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 10:52 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Eastman, Chair - E29
Melody Clouser, Vice Chair – A27
Deb Grady-Ruth, Supervisor – A29
Doug Osborn, Supervisor – E28

Supervisors Absent:

Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor – E27

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

George Reger, ISDA
Geneva Tyler, ISDA
Grace Adams, IASWCD

January 2026 Minutes

Upon a motion by Clouser, Osborn seconded: "The January 2026 minutes accurately reflect reports made, actions taken and stands approved. Motion carried."

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

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

DATE FILED	VOUCHER NUMBER	NAME OF CLAIMANT	AMOUNT OF VOUCHER	AMOUNT ALLOWED	CHECK/ WARRANT NUMBER
02/02/26	506	Comcast	\$ 188.97	188.97	7029
02/03/26	507	IRS	\$ 33.77	33.77	EFT
02/06/26	508	MGATC	\$ 60.00	60.00	7030
02/06/26	509	MGATC	\$ 60.00	60.00	7031
02/06/26	510	Robert Suseland	\$ 14.64	14.64	7032
02/06/26	511	Kris Gertz	\$ 122.80	122.80	7033
02/06/26	512	Purdue University	\$ 2,500.00	2,500.00	7034
02/06/26	513	fees	\$ 57.61	57.61	EFT
		Carried Forward	3,037.79	3,037.79	

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- ❖ Spreader cart at the Tippecanoe 4-H Fair - Smith shared talks with 4-H Coordinator on location of the spreader cart. He is still planning PARP training during the fair. The board gave the go ahead to showcase the spreader at the fairgrounds and offer PARP Credits.
- ❖ Money for Soil Testing – Smith shared the changes in the Urban Soil Health Program, including the new name, Indiana Small Farms Conservation, and asked if we could pay for soil testing. The board decided to offer free Technical Assistance and let the homeowner pay for their own test.

Healthy Ecosystem

- ❖ TICT Tuesday – Suseland and Eastman shared TICT Tuesday successes.
- ❖ Native Plant Sale – The online sale is up and orders are coming in.
- ❖ Plant Fest Week is taking shape and filling up.
- ❖ Forestry Field Day – Eastman asked the district staff to revisit adding a forestry field day to the list of events.
- ❖ Mechanical Engineering Capstone Project – Eastman discussed meeting with the professor overseeing the project. The scope of the project may be 2 years across 2 groups.

Business Operations

- ❖ Emails on website – Supervisor emails were removed from the website due to questionable activity. Tyler agreed that there is no rule or law requiring them being posted.
- ❖ Supervisor Confirmation – Clouser motioned to accept the annual meeting vote to elect Mark Eastman as a supervisor on the Tiptecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Osborn seconded; motion carried. The board approved Eastman as chair, Osborn as vice chair.
- ❖ Chainsaw Usage – The board discussed the policy on district staff usage of chainsaws. The issue was tabled.
- ❖ Annual Meeting – Success and changes were discussed.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ ISDA Incentive Program – Reger reported that all funds were claimed and Tiptecanoe did not receive any.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Landscaping with Natives March 13
- ❖ TICT Tuesday
- ❖ Native Plant Sale – ends April 6
- ❖ Native Plant Fest – April 21-28
- ❖ Woodland Walk – April 27
- ❖ Soil Health and Pollinator Habitat for Productive Gardens – May 21

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:03 P.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: 

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The Tiptecanoe 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.