

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

MINUTES

June 10, 2026, 8:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Eastman, Chair - E29
Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor – E27
Doug Osborn, Supervisor – E28
Deb Grady-Ruth, Supervisor – A29

Supervisors Absent:

Melody Clouser, Vice Chair – A27

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Olivia Razo, Surveyor
Kathy Vernon, TC Council

April 2026 Minutes

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

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

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

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

- ❖ Water stakeholder input workshop – April 16 – Suseland and Gertz attend. Suseland emailed the slide deck to Eastman. The content of meeting included IDNR asking for input from stakeholders, including ideas on mapping water regions. Eastman shared his thoughts on the importance of water regulations and usage.
- ❖ ME Capstone Update –Suseland spoke about the Purdue Mechanical Engineering Students including a picture of the prototype. We watched a video of the prototype in use. Board discussed moving forward for next year.
- ❖ Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Capstone Update – Suseland shared updates on the projects. The Pond group has completed a flyer and webpage. The fish group also put together a flyer and website. The district will use the information to educate the public.
- ❖ 4 – H Fair Judging – Smith conveyed Extension's ask for both Suseland and Smith to judge projects. Suseland declined since felt this was a conflict of interest with his family participating. Eastman shared that the district historically held workshops to learn about Soil and Water Science. The spreader cart is approved at the fair. Adam Tyler plans to provide PARP training. The district will set up an unmanned table to provide information. Board discussed the validity of staff time at the fair.
- ❖ Summer Newsletter – The summer newsletter will release on or around June 17.
- ❖ IASWCD/DJ Case Visit – Gertz conveyed news about the consulting firm's scope and planned visit to the Tippecanoe SWCD.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- ❖ Tillage Transect – The Data Exchange – Eastman shared the data from the tillage transect. The trend is showing a decline in no till and cover crop usage. Smith shared the correlation of cover

crops with accessibility to cost share. Vaughn shared the increase in the use of vertical tillage. Smith shared a club of Purdue students who offered to complete a data project. Smith asked the board for their thoughts on the project.

- ❖ Grow Local May 7 – Smith shared that the event was canceled and rescheduled to May 21 to coincide with the Community Garden event. The Small Garden and Entomology Field Day had 5 attendees,
- ❖ Community Garden – Smith updated the board on the plot in the Master Garden Community Plots.
- ❖ Small Farm Field Day June 18 – has been cancelled and look to be rescheduled
- ❖ Farmers' Markets – Smith shared talking to many people at the Lafayette Market. West Lafayette Market had less people this year.
- ❖ No Till Conference – Smith shared a discount for District Staff and Supervisors. The conference is January 12-15. Grady Ruth motioned to pay the registration fee for Smith to attend the no till conference in Indianapolis, Osborn seconded; motion carried.
- ❖ Big Pine Creek Watershed – The group has extra money and decided to provide cover crop seed. Refer landowners in the Big Pine Watershed wanting to plant cover crops to Smith.

Healthy Ecosystem

- ❖ Native Plant Fest = Gertz shared the profit margins for the sale. Suseland shared the successes of the partner events that occurred. He stated the plan to move the events to occur a week earlier in the future.
- ❖ Native Tree Sale – Gertz shared numbers from the last 7 sales. She also shared the rise in the wholesale price of trees and shrubs, After discussion, the decision to increase the sale price of trees and shrubs was made.
- ❖ FFA Proficiency Award – Suseland shared:
 - Lilyann Peters has been named the Indiana state winner of the FFA Proficiency Award in Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources Management, a first for the Harrison FFA Chapter since 1929. Peters' award-winning Supervised Agricultural Experience project focused on revitalizing the Harrison High School courtyard using native Indiana plants to promote sustainability and biodiversity. She partnered with the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District to complete the project, which created a lasting environmental improvement on campus.
- ❖ Healthy Forest Webpage – The Webpage is live with great information. Check out our website and give feedback

Business Operations

- ❖ SB 230 – Gertz reported on supervisor training changes from the Senate Bill.
- ❖ Grant award edge feathering – Smith shared the application for the grant proposal with Corn and Soy. Smith received a call from the review committee.
- ❖ Policy drafts – Gertz shared the current policies and drafts of the updated policies. The board will review for recommendations.
- ❖ River Friendly Farmer Award – Smith shared the application has been submitted.
- ❖ Budget – Vernom shared Tippecanoe budget timeline. Gertz shared the current 2026 Quarter 1 and 2 income and expenditures as well as a ten-year trend in income. This information will inform future budget decisions.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Olivia shared a soil remediation project at Elliott Ditch and on McGloflin

Upcoming Events

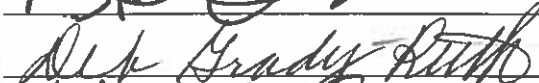
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:52 A.M. Osborn motioned; Kerkhove seconded; motioned carried.

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.

