

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

MINUTES

April 8, 2026, 8:30 AM

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

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Eastman, Chair - E29
Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor – E27
Doug Osborn, Supervisor – E28

STAFF PRESENT:

Kris Gertz, SWCD
Robert Suseland, SWCD

OTHERS PRESENT:

George Reger, ISDA
Kathy Vernon, TC Council

Supervisors Absent:

Deb Grady-Ruth, Supervisor – A29
Melody Clouser, Vice Chair – A27

March 2026 Minutes

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

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

Upon a motion by Osborn, Kerkhove seconded: **"The April 2026 Financial Report and April 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
03/27/26	522	Comcast	\$ 180.76	180.76	7041
04/01/26	523	IRS	\$ 386.13	386.13	EFT
04/03/26	524	IASWCD Dues	\$ 3,000.00	3,000.00	7042
04/03/26	525	A&L Labs	\$ 60.00	60.00	7043
04/03/26	526	Mike Smith	\$ 153.01	153.01	7044
04/03/26	527	Kris Gertz	\$ 847.54	847.54	7045
04/03/26	528	fees	\$ 249.63	249.63	EFT
		Carried Forward	4,877.07	4,877.07	

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

- ❖ Stakeholder input workshop – April 16 – Suseland, Gertz and Eastman are registered to attend.
- ❖ ISA/ICMC RFP – The Indiana Soy Alliance and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council have approved our proposal, and we will continue to the application phase.
- ❖ NACD TA Grant – Gertz shared that the National Association of Conservation District has delayed the announcement of funding until mid-summer.
- ❖ SICIM Annual Meeting - Suseland shared the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management meeting where the Tippecanoe County SWCD was recognized as Silver Donors and received an award for TICT’s efforts in removing invasives.
- ❖ ME Capstone Update – Release – Purdue sent a release form for the honeysuckle weed pulling prototype the Mechanical Engineering capstone students have built. Suseland shared an update from the students including a picture of the prototype.
- ❖ NRES Capstone Update – Both groups are finishing up their final projects. The Pond group has completed a flyer and webpage. Presentations are at 11:30 on April 28.

- ❖ 4 – H Fair Booth – The spreader cart will be on display. PARP credits will be offered.
- ❖ Spring Newsletter – Eastman shared he received the newsletter on April 1.
- ❖ IASWCD Input – Liz Rice from the IASWCD emailed asking for input on the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Coordination. The board discussed and staff will forward the email with the form link to endorse.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- ❖ Community Garden – Suseland updated the board on the plot in the Master Garden Community Plots. The SWCD will host a Small Garden and Entomology Field Day on May 21, 2026, at 5pm.
- ❖ Small Farm Field Day June 18 – The event will be at Atchley Farms discussing weed management, crop rotation, and other small farm issues.
- ❖ Wabash River RCPP – Suseland shared Harden’s email asking to attend training in conservation drainage plans.

Healthy Ecosystem

- ❖ Native Plant Sale – Gertz reported on the successful completion of the 2026 Native Plant Sale.
- ❖ Big Shawnee Creek Watershed – Smith and Suseland attended the meeting for the 319 Grant.
- ❖ Landscaping with Natives 201- March 13 – Suseland shared the success of the event at Lily Nature Center.
- ❖ Kudzu found in Tippecanoe County – Suseland shared that DNR shared found Kudzu and was treated. Eastman shared he had heard of the report and that species can cause many problems for landowners and the environment.

Business Operations

- ❖ SB 230 – A new Senate Bill outlined new requirements for Soil & Water Conservation Districts in affect July 1, 2026. The Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District already follows all guidelines except for supervisor training within one year. Moving forward, all supervisors will need to attend training upon election or appointment.
- ❖ May Invoices – Gertz requested to pay the Woody Warehouse invoice around \$5,000 and Spence Invoice of around \$10,000 before the June board meeting. Osborn made a motion to pay both invoices, Kerkhove seconded; motion carried.
- ❖ MOU-NRCS-SWCD-ISDA – Vaughn shared that the new MOU agreement is on hold District will present to the board once we receive it.
- ❖ Policy drafts – Gertz shared the drafts of the Materiality and chainsaw policy and asked for any suggestions. Osborn motioned to accept the chainsaw policy as written, Kerkhove seconded. Osborn motioned to accept the chainsaw policy as written, Kerkhove seconded.
- ❖ River Friendly Farmer Award – The board discussed candidates for the award.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Vernon reported that the county will have a challenging budget year for 2027.
- ❖ Dobson reported work on CRP ground and wanted to coordinate on seeding requirements. Timeline for two stage ditches on old Brady Lane was discussed. Dobson shared the work on the south side of the county to help John McLoughlin drain.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ TICT Tuesday
- ❖ Native Plant Fest – April 21-28
- ❖ Woodland Walk – April 27
- ❖ Grow Local May 7
- ❖ Soil Health and Pollinator Habitat for Productive Gardens – May 21
- ❖ Small Farm Field Day June 18



THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:46 A.M. Osborn motioned; Kerkhove seconded; motioned carried.

Minutes recorded by Kris Gertz

APPROVED: B D Os

APPROVED: J Love & K K

APPROVED: Det Grady - B

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.

