

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

MINUTES
 November 12, 2025, 7:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Eastman, Chair; 2026
 Melody Clouser, Vice Chair; 2027
 Doug Osborn, Supervisor; 2028

Supervisors Absent:

Deb Grady-Ruth; 2026
 Steve Kerkhove; 2027

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Simon Zhou
 Issac Grossman
 Peter Timpane
 Devon Salgado
 Bella Reid
 Leon Riba

September 2025 Minutes

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

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

Upon a motion by Clouser, Osborn seconded: "The November 2025 Financial Report and November 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
09/17/25	490	Indiana Woodland Steward		\$ 189.84	\$ 189.84	7010
09/17/25	491	Comcast		\$ 172.55	172.55	7007
09/18/25	492	Bundy-McNear Insurance		\$ 350.00	350.00	7008
09/18/25	493	Woody Warehouse		\$ 10,844.00	10,844.00	7009
10/03/25	494	IRS		\$ 108.39	108.39	EFT
11/06/25	495	IRS		\$ 2.87	2.87	EFT
11/07/25	496	Michael Smith		\$ 138.13	138.13	7011
11/07/25	497	David Jones		\$ 32.10	32.10	7012
11/07/25	498	Karen Butler		\$ 160.50	160.50	7013
11/07/25	499	DNR		\$ 50.00	50.00	7014
11/07/25	500	Kris Gertz		\$ 385.88	385.88	7015
11/07/25	501	Indiana Farmers Insurance		\$ 3,005.00	3,005.00	7016
11/07/25	502	fees		\$ 39.96	39.96	EFT
		Carried Forward		15,479.22	15,479.22	

Soil Health

- ❖ Soil Health Garden Tour 9/17 – Smith shared the tour of 3 GrowLocal Gardens that have different management systems. 17 people attended with several follow ups.
- ❖ PARP Meeting– 12/16 – 9am – 11 am: Smith has been asked to share some district news during the meeting. He asked if the board had ideas to share.
- ❖ Pheromone trap for community garden – Smith shared the progress of the community garden. Laura Ingwell is running a trial for insect traps. These trials would inform growers to treat insects only when present. Eastman said to continue if approval is given from Master Gardeners.

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. Smith shared that WREC was approved for 2027 319 Grant for this watershed.
- ❖ WREC Cost Share – Smith shared WRECs 2026 proposal for cost share. The SWCD has been asked to continue to provide technical support. In the past, all practices met NRCS standards. Board discussed standards to use for this technical support.

Invasive Species

- ❖ Purdue Senior Design Project – Purdue Students in Mechanical Engineering shared their project proposal for a Honeysuckle Removal Project.
- ❖ TICT Tuesdays – Suseland shared the TICT steering committee plan to be more intentional on invasive removal. Tuesday, November 4 was the first TICT Tuesday. They will take December off and resume in January.

Wildlife Habitat

Business Operations

- ❖ IASWCD Business Meeting 12/19 – Eastman will attend the meeting and Clouser will be the alternate.
- ❖ Government shutdown – Board discussed the increased difficulty this imposes on the operations of the SWCD.
- ❖ Resolutions – The board and staff discussed resolutions presented for vote on December 19. The consensus was Resolution 1 – No; Resolution 2 – yes; Resolution 3-No; Resolution 4 – no; Resolution 5 – yes. Eastman will vote for the district and use best judgement on changes of voting.
- ❖ Clean Water Indiana Grant – The TCSWCD did not receive the 2026 CWI Grant for a part time small scale technical support specialist.
- ❖ Newsletter email distribution – The board discussed the improved distribution of the newsletter through Constant Contact.
- ❖ NACD ask – Clouser motioned to allocate \$501 for dues to NACD for a silver level investment; Osborn seconded; motion carried.
- ❖ Strategic Plan – Board approved the Mission in the strategic plan. The vision statement has been updated to include science based natural resource stewardship and planning.
- ❖ Budget – Gertz shared the year-to-date expenditures and income. Our income is still lower than expected and will affect the budget for 2026.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ STAR – Smith shared meeting with leaders. There is currently no real financial benefit.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Annual Meeting
- ❖ 2026 Board Meeting start time 8:30am

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 A.M. Clouser motioned; Osborn 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.