



August 2026 Board Meeting Agenda

August 12, 2026 @ 8:30 AM

1812 Troxel Drive, Lafayette, IN 47909

(765) 474-9992 Ext. 3

www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org

<https://www.youtube.com/@TippecanoeCountySWCD>

Supervisors:

Mark Eastman – Chairman 2/2029

Melody Clouser – Vice 2/2027

Deb Grady-Ruth Supervisor 2/2029

Steve Kerkhove – Supervisor 2/2027

Doug Osborn – Supervisor 2/2028

Call to Order

Last Month's Meeting Minutes

Financial Report & Claims

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

- ❖ 4 – H Fair
- ❖ RiverFest
- ❖ River Friendly Farmer August 18 1pm
- ❖ Purdue ME Project
- ❖ SICIM ask
- ❖ Farm Bureau Thank You

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- ❖ Bushels and Bobwhites Grant
- ❖ WREC Cost Share Summary
- ❖ Next Generation Farmers
- ❖ PARP Event

Healthy Ecosystem

- ❖ WRE Promotion
- ❖ CWI Grant

Business Operations

- ❖ Policy
- ❖ Election Committee
- ❖ Resolution
- ❖ October Board Meeting – IDEA Conference
- ❖ Work Study
- ❖ DJ Case – Staff 27, 1-3pm Supervisor 28, 8-10am – Registration requested

Other Reports/Announcements

Adjourn

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

MINUTES

July 8, 2026, 8:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

Supervisors Absent:

Melody Clouser, Vice Chair – A27
Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor – E27

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

AC, Surveyor
Kathy Vernon, TC Council

June 2026 Minutes

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

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

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

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

- ❖ 4 – H Fair – Smith shared the district will have an unmanned booth, spreader cart with sign. There is no news on PARP from Adam Tyler. Smith will be judging the soil conservation projects.
- ❖ Summer Newsletter – Eastman shared he received the newsletter in June. Next addition of the newsletter is planned for September 4.
- ❖ Community Garden – Smith shared the vegetative cover on the garden is doing a great job suppressing the thistles. Other plants are growing.
- ❖ Annual Meeting – Gertz shared the annual meeting will be February 10 at 9 am. The same format of breakfast and 2 speakers will be used. Smith shared the idea of Winkler speaking on a cover crop program. Vaughn shared the idea of bats and the Bat Safe program. We plan on having all details by December 1.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- ❖ Tillage Transect – The Data Exchange – The group of Purdue students are working on sorting tillage transect to reference points in a meaningful way. The group would like to upload the location points onto the hub which is publicly available. The board discussed and will move forward to allow the location point sharing.
- ❖ Small Farm Field Day June 18 – Smith shared the event was cancelled.
- ❖ RCPP Letter of Support – The Nature Conservancy is reapplying for the rescinded grant. They would like a new Letter of support for the same 5 % of a full-time position. The focus is still edge of field practices. The caps maximums have changed. Board discussed the pros and cons of the program and Mark will sign the letter.

Healthy Ecosystem

- ❖ The Data Exchange – The TICT data compilation is up and tracking the following items: location, hours, number of volunteers and monetary evaluation.
- ❖ Invasive Swap Program – Suseland shared the codes have been sent out and recipients are ordering their replacements.
- ❖ Native Tree Sale – The site is taking orders.
- ❖ Sprayer Equipment – WREC had a project on the river that needed to be managed. They purchased a sprayer that was used with the district's UTV. The shared equipment is creating a more efficient use of resources on public lands.

Business Operations

- ❖ Grant - West Lafayette is asking for a letter of support for the IDNR Forestry grant to work on a Tree Invasive to Native Replacement Project.
- ❖ Work Study – Gertz disclosed past students final summary of hours and funding.
- ❖ Policy Draft – Gertz asked for any revisions to the policy manual.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Reger shared the tech team is staying busy. Volunteers needed for Pathways to Water Quality at the State Fair.
- ❖ Eastman shared the ask for the Farm Bureau Scavenger Hunt. He is asking for money or items for the Grand Prize drawing. Osborn motioned to provide a tree coupon and a \$25 Gift Card to Igloo, Grady-Ruth seconded; motion carried.

Upcoming Events

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:48 A.M. Grady-Ruth motioned; Osborn seconded; motioned carried. Local Working Group meeting was held.

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.

Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District

Profit and Loss
July 4-August 7, 2026

	Total
Income	
2 - Service Income	
Equipment Rental	200.00
Total for 2 - Service Income	\$200.00
3 - Misc. Income	
Interest	0.42
Sales Income	
2 - Native Tree Sales	1,689.44
4 - Other Sales	20.00
Total for Sales Income	\$1,709.44
Sales Tax Collected	118.28
Total for 3 - Misc. Income	\$1,828.14
Sales of Product Income	35.00
Total for Income	\$2,063.14
Gross Profit	\$2,063.14
Expenses	
41 - Education Programs	
Conservation Education	173.30
Total for 41 - Education Programs	\$173.30
48 - Office supplies	5.98
51 - Printing & photocopying	19.50
53 - Equipment repair	86.70
54 - Sales Tax Paid to IRS	100.60
57 - Utilities	
Internet	180.76
Total for 57 - Utilities	\$180.76
58 - Travel. mileage, Registration, Meals	
Mileage	254.22
Parking & tolls	2.50
Total for 58 - Travel. mileage, Registration, Meals	\$256.72
60 - Fees	
Credit card processing fees	64.07
Total for 60 - Fees	\$64.07
61 - Vehicle	
Vehicle gas & fuel	134.27
Total for 61 - Vehicle	\$134.27
Cost Share	
45 - Cost Share State - CREP	880.00
Total for Cost Share	\$880.00
Square Fees	1.32
Total for Expenses	\$1,903.22
Net Operating Income	\$159.92
Net Income	\$159.92

Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District
Checking (0364) - 1, Period Ending 07/31/2026

RECONCILIATION REPORT

Reconciled on: 08/03/2026

Reconciled by: Kris Gertz

Any changes made to transactions after this date aren't included in this report.

Summary	USD
Statement beginning balance.....	133,988.20
Checks and payments cleared (6).....	-2,445.45
Deposits and other credits cleared (17).....	1,692.68
Statement ending balance.....	<u>133,235.43</u>
Uncleared transactions as of 07/31/2026.....	-1,124.96
Register balance as of 07/31/2026.....	132,110.47

Details

Checks and payments cleared (6)

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
06/05/2026	Check	7059	ProQuo Services Canada, LTD	-384.98
07/03/2026	Check	7063	Kris Gertz (V)	-589.91
07/03/2026	Check	7061	USA TODAY Media Corp.	-13.78
07/03/2026	Check	7060	Purdue University	-1,267.80
07/03/2026	Check	7062	Mike Smith (V)	-157.77
07/03/2026	Check	EFT	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ...	-31.21
Total				-2,445.45

Deposits and other credits cleared (17)

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
05/19/2026	Deposit		Marshal White	0.00
07/06/2026	Deposit			67.67
07/06/2026	Deposit		Chuck Brettnacher	100.00
07/07/2026	Deposit			192.18
07/07/2026	Deposit			305.26
07/07/2026	Deposit		MAPPING SOLUTIONS- C	20.00
07/09/2026	Deposit			101.65
07/10/2026	Deposit			169.62
07/10/2026	Deposit			135.34
07/14/2026	Deposit			32.59
07/15/2026	Deposit			67.67
07/16/2026	Deposit			101.65
07/20/2026	Deposit			94.70
07/21/2026	Deposit			67.67
07/22/2026	Deposit			101.65
07/27/2026	Deposit			67.67
07/28/2026	Deposit			67.36
Total				1,692.68

Additional Information

Uncleared checks and payments as of 07/31/2026

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
11/07/2025	Check	7012	David Jones (V)	-32.10
05/01/2026	Check	7049	Jacob Ohlemiller	-32.10
07/24/2026	Check	7064	MJMS LLC	-880.00
07/24/2026	Check	7065	COMCAST CABLE	-180.76

Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District

Money market savings (7405) - 1, Period Ending 07/31/2026

RECONCILIATION REPORT

Reconciled on: 08/03/2026

Reconciled by: Kris Gertz

Any changes made to transactions after this date aren't included in this report.

Summary	USD
Statement beginning balance	50,005.19
Checks and payments cleared (0)	0.00
Deposits and other credits cleared (1)	0.42
Statement ending balance	50,005.61
Register balance as of 07/31/2026	50,005.61

Details				
Deposits and other credits cleared (1)				
DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
07/31/2026	Deposit		FIRST MERCHANTS BANK	0.42
Total				0.42

2026 Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
Ag Cost-Share Program

11 applications received representing request of \$163,936
7 applications funded totaling \$29,187.

Practice	Area
Reduced Till	454.5 acres
Cover Crop (3 first time users)	515.24 acres
Irrigation Water Management	221.19 acres
Access Control	2,536 feet
Nutrient Management	49.5 acres

INDIANA SWCD DISTRICT CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

After the first week of Supervisor Listening Sessions and District Staff Visits, we wanted to share answers to some of the questions we've been hearing:

General Questions

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

ISDA and the SSCB are conducting a statewide district capacity assessment to better understand what Indiana SWCDs need to serve their communities well. The goal is to identify strengths, gaps, and what support districts need most, then use those findings to inform strategic planning and future resource allocation. ISDA has engaged DJ Case + Associates to lead the assessment and gather input from across the state.

WHAT ARE OTHER DISTRICTS SAYING?

Staff and supervisors who've had their district visit describe the experience as relaxed and conversational rather than formal. Knowing the discussion questions ahead of time helped them know what to expect, and many said they felt comfortable sharing everything they wanted to. The DJ Case team member leading the conversation has consistently been described as kind, welcoming, and a genuinely good listener.

Staff also say the team quickly picked up on the nuances of how their county's SWCD operates day to day, details that don't always come through in formal reports and can vary even within a single region, and understood the need for more support to build capacity and better communicate what SWCDs do and their relevance going forward.

HOW WILL THE FEEDBACK AND CONVERSATIONS BE USED?

The feedback and conversations will be used to identify pathways for the ISDA, the SSCB, and other conservation partners to inform decisions on future resource allocations and better support Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

WHO WILL RECEIVE THE RESULTS, AND WHEN?

Initial findings will be presented at the IASWCD Annual Conference in January 2027. It is anticipated that the final report will be made publicly available in March/April 2027.

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

- Week 2: Additional district staff visits and supervisor listening sessions (August 24-28, 2026)
- Late summer: Survey fielded to districts

Reach out to the DJ Case project team directly:

Rachel Menale (rachel.menale@djcase.com), (317) 965-0197 or Rick Clawson (rick.clawson@djcase.com).

District Supervisor Listening Sessions

WHO ARE THESE FOR? CAN I ATTEND?

The Supervisor Listening Sessions are open to any Board Supervisor from any district. Each region will host an in-person session in July and again in late August, plus one virtual session in early September. Attend whichever session fits your schedule best. We want to hear from as many voices and perspectives as possible. **Please scan or click the QR code to register.**



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE?

Review the Supervisor Listening Session handout, then pick a session you can attend and sign up using the online registration form. It helps us plan logistics and refreshments for the right group size.

WILL THERE BE REFRESHMENTS?

Yes! The sessions are being held from 8-10 AM and we'll have coffee, juice and doughnuts on hand. Please be sure to register so we know how many supervisors to plan for.

SUPERVISOR LISTENING SESSIONS: DISCUSSION TOPICS

- How the board runs: meetings, decisions, bylaws, deadlines, budget oversight
- People and roles: recruiting and keeping supervisors and staff, who does what
- Training: what's helped, what's missing, best ways to learn
- Support and the future: help from county and NRCS, funding, what's ahead

District Staff Visits

WHO ARE THESE FOR?

DJ Case is visiting a representative set of districts and staff from across the state. We can't visit every district, but we're talking with as many as we can. These are casual conversations about the work you do and what would help support you better. You're welcome to invite key partners or staff from a neighboring district if you'd like.

DO I NEED TO PREPARE ANYTHING?

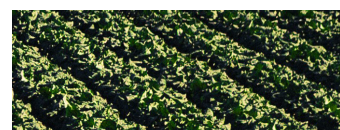
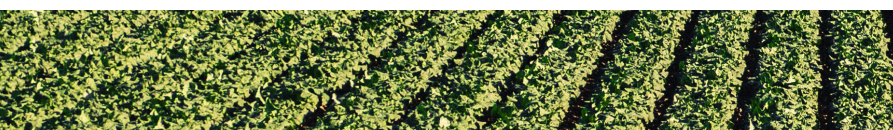
No, these are casual conversations, so there's nothing you need to prepare.

CAN I INVITE OTHERS TO MY DISTRICT STAFF VISIT?

Yes. Each visit is meant to hear from your district's staff, but you're welcome to invite key partners or staff from a neighboring district if you'd like.

DISTRICT STAFF VISIT: DISCUSSION TOPICS

- A day in the district: workload, deadlines, office tools
- Staffing and the board: turnover, hiring, board involvement, reviews
- Training and state support: staying current, biggest needs
- Associate supervisors: involvement and recruiting
- Community ties: visibility, partnerships, working with other districts
- Solo staff districts: juggling everything, backup planning
- Wrap-up: one change that would help most



INDIANA SWCD LISTENING SESSION

Share Your Perspective

As part of a statewide Indiana SWCD Capacity Assessment, DJ Case is hosting a series of regional listening sessions for district supervisors.

These sessions are a chance to share what's working well in your district, where you see gaps, and what support would make the biggest difference going forward. Your input will directly shape recommendations for the future of SWCD programs and services in Indiana.

Who should attend: Conservation district supervisors across the state. All supervisors are welcome, **but please register in advance to help with logistics and planning**; you can attend whatever session is most convenient for you. Sessions should last about 2 hours. A virtual option will be available if you are unable to attend in person:

Tuesday, July 21, 8-10 AM Eastern

ParGil Natural Resources Learning Center (LaGrange Co), LaGrange, IN

Thursday, July 23, 8-10 AM Eastern

Ball State Environmental Education Center (Delaware Co), Muncie, IN

Tuesday, August 25, 8-10 AM Eastern

Purdue Extension Center (Washington Co), Salem, IN

Thursday, August 27, 8-10 AM Eastern

Purdue Extension Center (Greene Co), Bloomfield, IN

Friday, August 28, 8-10 AM Eastern

Purdue Extension Center (Tippecanoe Co), Lafayette, IN

VIRTUAL/ONLINE

September 1, 6 - 8 PM Eastern (connection details to follow)

SIGN UP

To register for an in-person or online session, please click or scan the QR code below:



NOTE: District Supervisors who attend these listening sessions will receive Board Leadership Program (BLP) points contributing to total district points for potential recognition at a future State Soil Conservation Board meeting.

Your Input Is Confidential

What you share stays with the project team. DJ Case will not attribute specific comments to you or your district by name in any reports or findings. Responses will be used to identify patterns and themes across the state. There are no right or wrong answers. Candid input, including honest feedback about challenges, is exactly what makes the assessment useful.

Conversations with local partners may be held jointly with district staff or separately based on the District's working relationship and preference.

How to Prepare

No preparation is required. If it helps to reflect ahead of time, consider what you find most rewarding about your work, what challenges come up most often, and what you wish you had more support with. The DJ Case team will guide the conversation. Participation is voluntary.

Questions?

If you have questions before the visit, please reach out to the DJ Case project team (Rachel Menale and Rick Clawson) directly at rachel.menale@djcase.com or rick.clawson@djcase.com.

