

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

MINUTES

December 10, 2025, 7:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Eastman, Chair
Deb Grady-Ruth, Supervisor
Doug Osborn, Supervisor
Steve Kerkhove, Supervisor

Supervisors Absent:

Melody Clouser

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathy Vernon, Council
George Reger, ISDA

November 2025 Minutes

Upon a motion by Osborn, Grady-Ruth seconded: **"The November 2025 minutes accurately reflect reports made, actions taken and stands approved. Motion carried."**

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

Upon a motion by Grady-Ruth, Osborn seconded: **"The December 2025 Financial Report and December 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
11/24/25	491	Comcast		\$ 172.55	172.55	7017
12/05/25	492	Osborn Farms Partnership		\$ 875.00	875.00	7018
12/05/25	493	NACD		\$ 501.00	501.00	7019
12/05/25	496	Robert Suseland		\$ 42.90	42.90	7020
12/05/25	497	Kris Gertz		\$ 143.87	143.87	7021
12/05/25	498	Comcast		\$ 172.55	172.55	7022
12/05/25	499	fees		\$ 12.80	12.80	EFT
		Carried Forward		1,920.67	1,920.67	

Soil Health

- ❖ University of Scouting – 12/6– Smith shared the boy scout badge presentation at Purdue University. 3,000 Scouts attended the event. Smith had 10 scouts attend and complete the requirements.
- ❖ PARP Meeting– 12/16 – 9am – 11 am Smith shared the SWCD and NRCS are on the agenda and will discuss who we are and what we do. With Extension not filling the Tippecanoe ANR position, the SWCD will stay in contact with the 2 regional ANR positions.
- ❖ Community garden – Smith shared the progress of the community garden. He plans on having an event. The pheromone traps for tomatoes pinworm will be set at the garden. The Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist was interested in the field day to learn more about insectary strips. Eastman suggested educational signs by all the practice at the garden.
- ❖ Small Farm Conference 3/3-3/5/2026 – Smith shared his plans to attend the Small Farm Conference. Purdue has added a day to the conference this year with more technical research. Eastman also shared the bi-state crop conference at the beef house on December 12 from 10am-3pm. Smith shared he placed a request for the cover crop seeds from Urban Soil Health for 2026.

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. Deer Creek Sugar Creek is still taking applications for the small remainder of money.
- ❖ WREC Cost Share – Smith shared 2026 proposal for cost share for \$50,000. Krzton-Presson is planning meetings in January. She has shared ideas with Smith on funding larger projects. Suseland shared US Fish has equipment for Oxbow restoration. Board discussed some ideas for projects.
- ❖ Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission – The WRHCC is made up of representatives from the 19 counties that contain or boarder the Wabash River and a DNR representative. The commission receives royalties from below the Wabash River. The funds are awarded to chosen applications for historical, cultural, or outdoor recreation projects.
- ❖ Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Smith shared The Nature Conservancy's RCPP grant updates. The grant was for \$15 million in funding for edge of field practices. It covers much of Indiana and part of Illinois. TNC uses a batch and build process that makes the process more efficient.

Invasive Species

- ❖ NACD Friends Grant – The grant for the invasive removal device was submitted for \$2500. We will find out in February whether we get the grant or not.
- ❖ Purdue Senior Design Project – paused to discuss budget.

Wildlife Habitat

- ❖ Native Plant Fest – Suseland shared moving the Plant Sale to fairgrounds the week of April 22-25. Native Plant Fest spirit will be extended through partners and activities.
- ❖ NRES project – Suseland shared that the NRES Capstone coordinator reached out looking for another project. Ideas about creating lawn management, pond maintenance, and retention basins were discussed.

Business Operations

- ❖ IASWCD Business Meeting 12/19 – Eastman will attend the meeting and Clouser will be the alternate.
- ❖ Resolutions – Kris shared that Resolutions 2 & 3 have been rescinded by the submitting district.
- ❖ Budget – Gertz shared the year-to-date expenditures and income. Grady-Ruth motioned to approve \$7,500 for the Capstone Project contingent on receiving the NACD Friends Grant. If the grant is not obtained, the district will fund \$5000. Osborn motioned to approve the 2026 budget, Kerkove seconded; motion carried.
- ❖ TrustIndiana – Gertz shared information on TrustIndiana. The board tabled the discussion.
- ❖ Strategic Plan – The strategic plan for 2026-2030 was shared. Osborn motioned to approve the plan, Kerkove seconded: motion carried.
- ❖ Approved Depository – Grady- Ruth motioned to approve deposits into First Merchant Bank, Osborn seconded; motion carried.
- ❖ Winter Newsletter- The Winter Newsletter is set to release on January 1. The staff is working on the current issue.
- ❖ Annual Meeting – The SWCD Annual Meeting is on February 11, at 9am Martell Forest. Speakers are confirmed, meal is planned, and location is set.
- ❖ Employee Evaluations – Employee evaluations are scheduled for January 14 after the board meeting. Staff have been asked to provide an accomplishment report by January 7.

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Reger shared updates from ISDA. The ISDA has a program for soil sampling.

Upcoming Events

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

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 A.M. Osborn motioned; Kerkove seconded; motioned carried.

Minutes recorded by Kris Gertz.

APPROVED: Melody Clouse

APPROVED: Steve Kerkove

APPROVED: Mark A. Eastman

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.

