

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette IN 47909

MINUTES

August 12, 2026, 8:30 AM

The regular monthly meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in person. Board Chair, Mark Eastman, called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Haley Current, Farm Bureau
Kathy Vernon, TC Council
Olivia Razo, Surveyor
Geneva Tyler, ISDA (Online)

Supervisors Absent:

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

July 2026 Minutes

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

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

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

Organizational Development and Community Outreach

- ❖ 4 – H Fair – Suseland shared the spreader cart with sign and booth were at the fair. Board discussed this year's fair successes and challenges. Eastman asked about the PARP training. Smith discussed that it did not happen and is rescheduled for the fall.
- ❖ RiverFest – Suseland informed the board of 266 visitors to the SWCD's booth. The booth informed people about water quality. They loved the fish.
- ❖ River Friendly Farmer August 18 1pm – Gertz shared that she will represent the district at this year's presentation at the State Fair.
- ❖ Purdue ME Project – Suseland read the email from the professor to the board. The board discussed the attendance of a meeting to discuss project and budget.
- ❖ SICIM ask – SICIM is asking for support again this year. The board decided not to support SICIM financially this year however, we will continue to support them with our work.
- ❖ Farm Bureau Thank You – Gertz shared the thank you note the district received from the Tippecanoe Farm Bureau. Eastman discussed his conversation with the winner. The "Agricultural Facts" were located around the fair.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water

- ❖ Bushels and Bobwhites Grant – Smith reported that the district was awarded the grant from Indiana Corn and Soy. The grant funded events will occur in the Spring and Fall of 2027. Smith asked if anyone knew of a good location for edge feathering, please let him know.
- ❖ WREC Cost Share Summary - Smith informed the board of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Agriculture Cost-Share Program summary. The overall program was positive. Funds for the 319 have not been released but have received approval.
- ❖ Next Generation Farmers – Eastman posed the question on how to keep all generations of farmers involved with us, so the relationship is not broken with a farm management change. The board discussed ideas.

- ❖ PARP Event – Rescheduled for the fall.

Healthy Ecosystem

- ❖ WRE Promotion – The district would like to see some Wetland Reserve Easements. The district will promote easements to landowners along the Wabash River that has at least 25% hydric soils. Other landowners will receive a letter for other programs.
- ❖ CWI Grant – The staff shared a brief overview of the proposal. Eastman motioned to proceed with the application for the 2027- 2029 CWI Grant funding and match, Grady-Ruth seconded. Motion carried.

Business Operations

- ❖ Policy – Gertz presented the policy updates from past meetings. Osborn moved to accept the policy manual and updates, Grady-Ruth seconded; motioned passed.
- ❖ Election Committee – Gertz informed the board that Kerkhove is up for reelection and Clouser is up for appointment. The election committees are due November 1 and must contain a supervisor as chairman and two interested citizens. Recommendations for appointment are due Nov 1. Nominees are due December 1. Osborn agreed to head up the election and create the committee.
- ❖ Resolution – Gertz communicated the September 25 due date for any resolutions.
- ❖ October Board Meeting – IDEA Conference – Osborn motion to pay for Gertz to attend the Fall 2026 IDEA Conference in Angola, IN, Grady- Ruth seconded; motion carried.
- ❖ Work Study – Gertz discussed the challenges with hosting work study students in the federal space. Due to the current constraints, the District will not participate in the federal work study program this year.
- ❖ DJ Case – District capacity study staff is meeting with District Staff on August 27, from 1-3pm. The Supervisors' visit is scheduled on August 28, from 8-10am at the Purdue Extension Building– Registration for supervisors is requested

Other Reports/Announcements

- ❖ Suseland is requesting to purchase 1 half acre of seed for purchase. Not to exceed \$1400. The board discussed and agreed to the expenditure.
- ❖ Razo shared the surveyors' work on Dismal Creek project and an upcoming audit.
- ❖ Current shared Farm Bureau continuing its summer webinars. The Farm Bureau is hosting an event for farmers and

Upcoming Events

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:19 A.M. Osborn motioned; Grady-Ruth 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.