

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:

Akshitha Chittineni, 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- ❖ RCPP Letter of Support – The Nature Conservancy is reapplying for the rescinded grant.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.