

Vermillion County Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting Minutes
May 12th, 2026

The Vermillion County SWCD Board of Supervisors met on May 12th, 2026 at the Vermillion County SWCD Board Room.

The following supervisors were present: Josh Bishop, Connie Warner, Lee Ann Larrance, David Bishop, Carter Morgan.

Staff members present: Eric Shideler, Chris Booe

Via Zoom: Steven McGhee, Holden Abrell

Guests: Hanna Garriott, Rhonda Arrasmith, Nolan Mihail

Call to order

Connie Warner, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Lee Ann Larrance moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Carter Morgan seconded. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable Register and Treasurer's Report

A printed financial report was provided by Eric. Carter Morgan moved to accept the financial report and all outstanding claims subject to audit. Josh Bishop seconded. Motion carried.

A claims report was provided to the Board. Josh Bishop moved to accept the claims report. David Bishop seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

NRCS- None

ISDA- Holden reported that the Tillage Transect for Vermillion County has been completed and that a significant amount of valuable information was collected. He informed the Board that the Tillage Transect is conducted annually each spring.

Holden informed the Board that the Spring Soil Sampling program has been completed, with samples collected from three locations. He also noted that the program is expected to resume in the fall, likely in September.

Holden reported that he has been working on a new program for nearly a year. The program is a State-funded Cost Share Program through ISDA and is set to launch on July 1, 2026, which will begin the first application period. He informed the Board that the program is currently focused on the southwest quadrant of Indiana, which includes 23 counties. Holden stated that there is a lot of potential with this program and that there are many Resource Specialists working directly with counties and landowners to help support the effort.

FSA – None

Purdue- None

IASWCD- Hanna informed the Board that RITA is now fully staffed, with two new team members scheduled to begin on June 1, 2026. She also reported that RITA is currently halfway through its funded grant period, which is set to end on September 30, 2028, unless additional funding is secured. Hanna noted that there is currently an anonymous survey being distributed to districts, supervisors, partners, and others who have worked with or are familiar with the Resilient Indiana Technician Assistance program and its work within their districts.

Hanna and another district staff member will be conducting a Canva training webinar focused on creating flyers, social media posts, newsletters, and annual booklets. The training will be open to anyone interested, with four sessions scheduled to begin in June.

CRT- Submitted written report.

Director- Submitted written report.

Eric mentioned that the poster judging contest took place with the assistance of Hanna and Hayden, technicians with RITA serving as judges. He noted that he will present the awards to the winners at their school award programs. This year's theme was "Soil: Where It All Begins." The theme for 2027 will be "Source to Sea."

Eric also mentioned that the water testing kits will begin being handed out to participants starting June 1st, with collection day scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th during regular office hours or at the County Fair.

Old Business- None

New business-

The Director presented a Records Retention Policy, noting that VCSWCD does not currently have one in place. He explained that, as a special district, VCSWCD does not fall under county records retention rules and that there are no standard retention requirements specifically for soil and water districts. He stated that the proposed Records Retention Policy has been developed to be similar to the State's policy. The policy outlines the responsibilities of the office, general categories of records, how long records must be retained, and how they may be properly disposed of. He also noted that certain records cannot be destroyed.

A motion was made by David Bishop to adopt the Records Retention Policy as presented to the Board. Carter Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board was presented with a document of records eligible for destruction, including the required retention periods. A motion was made by David Bishop to approve the roster of documents for destruction. Lee Ann Larrance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Director presented to the Board the idea of establishing a Pollinator Project at the new Herman White Kayak and Canoe Landing. He noted that he met with Commissioner RJ Dunavan to discuss the project, which the SWCD could potentially take on. He also stated that the SWCD can share some of the costs through the Blue Ways Grant.

Motion was made by David Bishop to approve the Pollinator Project at the Herman White Kayak and Canoe Landing. Josh Bishop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed two applications for the 319 Watershed Grant. A motion to approve the applications was made by David Bishop and seconded by Carter Morgan. Motion carried.

Director informed the board it is now time to start another Watershed Grant. David Bishop motion to approve Notice to File for Jordan Creek Watershed. Lee Ann Larrance seconded. Motion carried

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming 4-H Fair during the week of June 15, 2026. The SWCD building will be open Monday through Thursday evenings. A suggestion was made to purchase promotional items with the SWCD logo to distribute to visitors who visit the SWCD building. A motion was made by David Bishop to approve the purchase of the promotional items, not to exceed \$1,000. Josh Bishop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Director informed the Board that the IDEA 2027 Conference will be held in Terre Haute at the Convention Center on September 28, 29, and 30, 2027. Fundraising efforts have begun to support the conference.

The Board asked the Director to bring back additional information closer to the conference date to determine what support may still be needed. Carter Morgan made a motion to determine at a later date what type of support the Board will provide for the conference. David Bishop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Director presented the preliminary 2027 budget to the Board that will be submitted to the Vermillion County Auditor's Office. The proposed 2027 budget is similar to the 2026 budget.

A motion to approve the proposed 2027 budget was made by Josh Bishop and seconded by David Bishop. Motion carried.

Other New Business: The Soil & Water Conservation Society membership is set to expire on June 18, 2026. Josh Bishop made a motion to renew the Not-for-Profit Organizational membership in the amount of \$275.00. Lee Ann Larrance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Currently, two (2) signatures are required on all checks. The Board discussed changing the requirement from two (2) signatures to one (1) signature on checks. The change will go into effect when a reorder of checks is necessary.


David Bishop made a motion to approve changing the check signature requirement from two (2) signatures to one (1) signature. Carter Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment- Rhonda Arrasmith and Nolan Mihal attended the meeting to discuss data centers.

Carter Morgan moved to adjourn. David Bishop seconded. Motion carried.

With no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved on the 9th day of June, 2026.

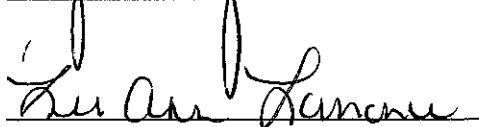
Carter Morgan



Josh Bishop



LeeAnn Larrance



David Bishop

Connie Warner

