

Vermillion County Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2025

The Vermillion County SWCD Board of Supervisors met on November 12th 2025 at the Vermillion County SWCD Board Room. The following supervisors were present: Josh Bishop, Connie Warner, David Bishop, Lee Ann Larrance

Associate Supervisors: Doug Larrance

Absent: Darrell Morgan,

Staff members present: Eric Shideler, Chris Booe, Steven McGhee

Guests: Phil Cox; Purdue Extension, Hanna Garriott; RITA

Call to order

Connie Warner, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed. David moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Lee Ann seconded. motion passed.

Accounts Payable Register and Treasurer's Report

A printed financial report was provided by Eric. Josh moved to accept the financial report and all outstanding claims subject to audit. David seconded. motion passed.

A claims report was provided to the Board. David moved to accept the claims report. Lee Ann seconded. motion passed.

Staff Reports

NRCS- None (shutdown)

FSA – Shannon provided an update via email stating that the Rockville Office is open Monday–Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She noted that it is recommended to call before visiting to ensure someone is available in the office. Due to the shutdown, they are operating with minimal staff.

ISDA- Written report was submitted by Nathan Stoelting

Purdue- Phil Cox

December 2 Vermillion County Ag Breakfast at the Vermillion County Fairgrounds Community Building in Cayuga Park. Please call either the Extension Office or Phil to register.

IASWCD- Hanna Garriott

Hanna informed the board that there is only one (1) open position remaining to fill, which will bring the total number of employees to thirteen (13) serving the State of Indiana.

She also reported that the Urban Soil Health program has downsized due to a loss of funding, reducing the staff from five (5) employees to three (3). These three staff members will now divide the State into three service regions. In addition, the program is transitioning from “Urban Soil” to “Farm and Urban Soil,” reflecting broader program changes.

CRT-

Submitted written report.

Director-

Submitted written report

The Director informed the board that Steven has applied for the pilot training program, which is the next step toward becoming a certified conservation planner.

Old Business-

The 2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026, at the Community Building at the Vermillion County Fairgrounds. The South Vermillion Choir will provide entertainment for the evening.

The 2025 Election Committee consists of Josh Bishop, Chair, and citizen members Tim Bell and Karen Maxson. Darryl Morgan is not seeking reelection, and Carter Morgan has expressed interest in running for his seat. The IASWCD business meeting is scheduled for December 19 at the Farm Bureau Building in Indianapolis. It is a one-day meeting.

David moved to nominate Connie as the delegate. Josh Bishop seconded. Motion passed. Lee Ann will serve as the alternate.

New business-

The Indiana Woodland Stewardship program is seeking sponsors to help fund the mailing of their newsletter.

David moved to donate \$250.00 to support the Indiana Woodland newsletter. Josh seconded. Motion approved.

The Director reported speaking with Mapping Solutions regarding the potential start of the 2026–2028 plat book project. The estimated cost is \$1,900.00 for 100 books. Large plat maps are approximately \$45.00 each, and Mapping Solutions typically provides one large map to Soil & Water at no cost. The expected turnaround time is approximately three months once the order is placed.

Josh moved to begin the plat book process for 2026–2028. Lee Ann seconded. Motion passed.

David moved to order 200 books for the first order. Josh seconded. Motion passed.

The Director discussed the possibility of purchasing a toolbox for the work truck. The board requested that the Director gather pricing options and present an estimate at the December meeting.

The Director presented the 2026 Annual Plan for the board's review and requested any corrections or changes be submitted at the December meeting.

The last discussion on the Long-Range Plan took place in 2023 at the Clinton Public Library. The Director asked board members to review their schedules to determine availability for this one-day event. A vote will be taken at the December meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the Wabash River Raft initiative, which currently includes Vigo, Parke, and Vermillion Counties, and now incorporates Warren and Fountain Counties. The

proposal involves a raft trip down the Wabash River with up to four rafts, each carrying ten youth and one to two adults. The launch would occur from a public access site, with educational stops planned along the route. Vigo County Soil & Water Conservation has offered to purchase the rafts and will serve as the primary holder and storage provider. The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission will make a funding decision in March.

The Director informed the board that the 319 Grant was awarded in the amount of \$385,000 for a three-year implementation project in the Mill Creek–Wabash River Watershed. The agreement will be sent electronically for signature.

David moved to authorize the Director to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the board. Josh seconded. Motion passed.

Other New Business

Director informed the board that the third quarter NRCS contribution agreement for reimbursement has been submitted. This will be their 4th quarter due to their fiscal year ending September 30th. Due to the government shutdown no time frame is set on receiving funds.

Director informed the board that a Landowners & Producers summit is being held on December 10th at the Virgo County History Center, for any landowners or producers this is a free summit.

Public Comment- None

Josh moved to adjourn. Lee Ann seconded. motion passed

With no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved on the 9th day of December, 2025.

wDarrell Morgan

Josh Bishop

LeeAnn Larrance

David Bishop

Connie Warner
