

Greater Wabash River Resource Conservation & Development Area

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

January 10th, 2006

Delegates Present:

Rhonda Hicks, Carroll Co. SWCD
Dawn Boston, Tippecanoe Co. Comm.
Lorraine Rund, Tippecanoe Co. SWCD
Leah Harden, Clinton Co. SWCD
Curt Emanuel, Clinton Co. CES
Calvin Hartman, Howard Co. SWCD
Chris Turpin, Tippecanoe Co. CES

Delegates Absent:

Roger McClellan, Benton Co. SWCD
Charles Calvert, Clinton Co. Comm.
Joanne Lytton, Carroll Co. CES
Bradley Bagwell, Howard Co. Comm.
Allen Ullom, Howard Co. CES

Others Present:

Lenny Farlee, DNR, District Forester
Brian Tunis, West Lafayette Parks Dept.
Joe O'Donnell, USDA-NRCS
Jeff Philips, Tippecanoe Co. CES

Curt called the meeting to order. Dawn moved to accept the minutes of the November 17th, 2005 meeting, seconded by Leah and carried unanimously.

The financial report was submitted with a balance on hand of \$6183.71. Calvin moved to accept financial report as submitted, seconded by Rhonda and carried unanimously.

The RC&D has not been billed regarding Insurance from Auto Owners. Rhonda will make a contact to find out where the bill is. The official insurance policy will be held by the Secretary in the Sec. book.

The RC&D has received official notice of release to use the RC&D logo. The signed statement will be held in the Secretaries book. Rhonda will send a thank you from the Council to Mr. Blackman for his work. Lorraine moved that the Council accept this logo for the RC&D use, seconded by Leah and carried unanimously.

Leah will make contact with the National RC&D office to find out if there is still the availability for this grant research.

Bill Beard, Sycamore Trails RC&D recommended to all members of our RC&D to be a subscriber on the “list serve”. You can access this by send a blank note to subscribe@yahogroups.com Also note, that you can post messages at NARCDC@yahogroups.com and information at www.RCDnet.org.

Rhonda will send Jamie Sluder from Digital Motion a logo to use with the digital video that he took for our RC&D.

Curt will compose a presentation regarding web pages for the next council meeting. Dawn will be asking Dave’s Computer World for midsize space for a not-for-profit.

The RC&D discussed entering into Land Trusts and Easements. We have the possibility of entering into an easement with a landowner in Benton Co. that contacted Woodland Lakes RC&D about doing this. It would involve 750 acres for now with the possibility of adding acres later. This would have a farmland preservation interest. Leah is going to arrange a farm walk for this property with Kathy Latz (Woodland Lakes RC&D) and the landowner for assessment. We are eligible to do these easements since we have 501c3 status. We would need to address this within our bylaws. We already allow for this kind of mind set in our plan of work. We would have to access a lawyer to do the legal work of changing the bylaws. A “Land Trust” Committee has been formed to investigate this activity. It will include: Brian, Curt, Leah, Calvin and Joe. We will ask Jimmy Bricker, Roger McClellan, Jerry Risk, Dan McCain and Susan Ulrich if they would be interested in assisting on the committee also. Leah will arrange for a “walk” of the property and meeting with Kathy Latz and the landowner for February. The committee will report at the March meeting.

Through the SARE grant, the RC&D has been asked to obtain agribusiness information for a resource guide that is planned for print. We would be reimbursed \$50 for each county that provides the information. We have been asked to sign into a memorandum of understanding to do this project. Jeff and Curt will look into the fine details and give a recommendation for action on this.

We will re-evaluate the meeting date and time for Council meetings. An email will be sent out to get response regarding the best meeting times for all involved in the Council. We currently plan to meet bi-monthly on the second Tues. Please respond to this email when requested. We will still plan to meet on March 14th. Curt will be contacting Dan McCain regarding using the Canal Center in Delphi as a meeting place. Dan could give a talk on Land Trusts/Easements. Curt will try for 2 p.m. to allow for some travel time to get there from Lafayette. Brian will notify and invite Susan Ulrich and Leah will notify and invite Kathy Latz to this meeting.

The Council approached the possibility of subcontracting and/or administering grant requests through our 501 c 3. Rhonda and Lorraine agreed to work on a policy for this. They will try to recruit assistance from the other SWCD’s.

The Indiana League of RC&D's will be hosting their annual meeting on March 6th, 2006 at the NRCS State Office in Indianapolis. It will be from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Curt is planning to attend. Anyone interested in attending this or other meetings by the Indiana League should contact Curt.

The Indiana League will also be holding a conference call meeting on February 6th, 2006. Rhonda volunteered to listen to this. Curt is to forward information to her.

The National League of RC&D's Forum will be held February 6th – 8th in Washington DC at the Hyatt Regency. The National League of RC&D's is also hosting a conference in Savanna, GA, June 18-21. If anyone is interested, they need to contact Curt. Curt stressed that our participation in these meetings will become increasingly important and useful to our RC&D as we grow. If you have any interest in pursuing ANY state, regional or national meetings let Curt know.

Jeff informed the Council he and Jack Rhoda, of the Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance, are hosting a regional water quality meeting at the Rossville Bennett Center (Room) on January 25th at 6:30 p.m. This is to gather information on activities that are taking place on the Wildcat and what other activity options there might be.

Lorraine moved for adjournment at 3:00 p.m., seconded by Dawn and carried unanimously.