



**FLOYD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, December 4, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Present: The Board**

Tom King  
Ron Wathen  
Melanie Palaisa  
Matt Payne  
Laura Lewis

**Office Staff:**

Angel Jackson, Director / Educator

**Guests:**

Cara Bezuska / Assoc. Supervisor  
Cole Flatt / R.I.T.A.  
Drew McCutchan / NRCS  
Eliza Hudson / NRCS

Chairman, Tom King, called the regular meeting to order at 3:03 pm. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room.

Ron Wathen motioned to approve the November meeting minutes. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was given: Savings Account: General Savings - \$17,237.49. Checking Account: General Checking - \$69,556.41.

Matt Payne motioned to approve the financial report. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the financial report approved.

Guest reports started with Drew sharing his NRCS report highlighting program updates. He talked about the importance of leaving your flower's dead heads and leaf residue over winter to benefit pollinators and the soil. Drew also shared that there are about 52 reported cases of avian influenza in the state. Eliza gave the board an update on the RCPP Farmer's Helping Hellbenders partner meeting. There is talk of new RCPP funding through NRCS, the project received funding from Clean Water Indiana, and a small technical committee headed by Mike Johnson (ISDA) will represent our area. Of the hellbenders released during 2025, the survival rate has been good so far. There are plans to release about 200 adults in Blue River and 40 or so in Indian Creek during 2026. Cole reported that he would like to help with updating the district's Annual Plan of Work. The DSS report had not been received prior to the meeting.

Under Old Business there were a couple of items to address. The first was a picture of the board as they were all present. The board revisited the issue of who to recognize with a forestry award. It was decided that the board would recognize 2 Conservation Stewards (Tim Moberly, and Brother Don of Mt. St. Francis). The last item of old business was to distribute per diem checks to the supervisors.

New Business started with an update from Angel on reporting. The Capacity Report was completed and entered into GMS, the final CWI report is in progress as well as the annual financial report. The same two board supervisors who completed the audit last year (Matt and Melanie) will comprise the Audit Committee and will conduct it on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



**SWCD**

SOIL and WATER  
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Floyd County, Indiana

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Angel advised the board that the annual report would not be printed in-house as it was last year, and asked for permission to have it outsourced.

Matt Payne made a motion to pay for printing of the annual report up to \$250. Melanie Palaisa 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

Angel passed out copies of the 2025 Annual Plan of Work and asked supervisors to look it over and be ready to make suggestions at the January meeting. Supervisors Melanie and Laura suggested updating the plan with a column for completion dates. This would make it easier to assess accomplishments.

Under Other Business there was discussion among the supervisors about Trust Indiana. Before making a motion to designate Trust Indiana as a depository, several supervisors would like for a representative of TI to come to a board meeting. Supervisors have questions about minimums, fees, and accessibility that were not addressed in their information packet.

Other Business included Angel giving the board updates on the annual meeting as well as planned events for 2026. The Annual Meeting speaker will be Matt Kraushar of INDOT, speaking about the state's maintenance of Right Of Ways.

Annual Meeting is set for Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> with a snow make-up date of Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.

Ag. Community Breakfast – March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Community Garden Renovation – March

Pollinator Day – April 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 - 3:00

Bat House Building – May 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Pollinator Pocket Project installation - June

Claims presented to the board: Claims paid by District: -\$0. Claims sent directly to County for payment: - \$0. Claims paid by the District reimbursed by the County: -\$131.23 – Angel Jackson – Reimburse Bat house building materials (\$92.13) and Envelopes for seeds (\$39.10). Grant: -\$915.00 – Treasurer Floyd County – Supervisor Per Diem. CWI Invasive: -\$730.80 – Indiana Media Group – Final invasive advertisement.

With no other business to discuss, the board moved to end the meeting.

Matt Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully,

Angel Jackson  
Director / Educator

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