***Minutes Of June 24, 2025, LaGrange County SWCD Board of Supervisors Public Meeting***

*The LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District held a board meeting on June 24, 2025, at ParGil Natural Resources Learning Center, 2335 N State Road 9, LaGrange, IN 46761. The meeting was called to order by R.D. Wolheter, (Chairman) at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Scott Beecher, (Vice Chairman); Aaron Fugate and Monroe Raber, Ron Vaughn; (Board Supervisors); Martin Franke, (District Manager); Amy Renkenberger, (Office Coordinator),Steve Weideman; (Associate Supervisor); Randy Bixler, (representative, Fish/Royer Lake Association); Erica Wyss, (NRCS-D.C.);Heath Hurst, (ISDA Resource Specialist); Pat Wiltshire,(Associate Supervisor/ Water Quality Volunteer); Jeff Burbrink, (Natural Resources Educator/Purdue Extension); Kevin Myers,(LaGrange County Commissioner); Karen Eagleson,(LaGrange County Council Member),and Camille Sczerbowicz,(Technical Support Resilient Indiana.)*

***Minutes:*** *Minutes of May27, 2025: The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Monroe mentioned that on page (1) The last paragraph should read (American Forage Council instead of (Forge). Kevin Mentioned that on page (2) under the commissioner’s report, it stated that Dairy Queen would be going up on the (SE) corner, it should read the (NE) corner.* ***Monroe moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Aaron, and passed by the unanimous voice vote of the Board.***

***Financial Report:*** *Amy presented the Financial Report and asked about paying the 2025 (NACD DUES) and at what level the board would like to pay this year.* ***Scott then made a motion to approve paying the NACD dues at the gold level in the amount of $775.00, seconded by Monroe. Motion by Scott to approve the financial report as presented by Amy, seconded by Aaron, approved by unanimous voice vote of the Board***

***Agency Reports:*** *Erica reported that there**would be a revised version of the locally led during an executive session held at 5:30 before the start of the next Board meeting. IRA funds are still on hold; she had no updates. She said that she had gotten eighteen applications already for next year. Erica mentioned that a (Veterans IN Farming) group would be hosting an event at the Farmstead INN located in Shipshewana on July 11th & 12th.*

***Purdue Extension:*** *Jeff* ***ABSENT****- Aaron mentioned that his staff had sprayed and killed the poison Hemlock that was located at the old Shipshewana Lake access site.*

***County Council Report:*** *Karen Eagleson reported that “NO news” is good news, and that she would hopefully have more to report in the fall concerning the budget.*

***County Commissioners Report:*** *Kevin mentioned that Aaron and himself were continuing to work on the composite site.*

***ISDA****: Heath mentioned that an AG survey was available to fill out as to what information that you would like to see available on online portal.*

***OLD BUSINESS:***

***Pretty Lake****: Ron commented that he hadn’t really received any feedback from Dr. Conway lately about the water testing being done on Pretty Lake.*

 ***E Coli Concerns: Fish/ Royer Lake:*** *Randy Bixler commented that he had seen the water testing being done earlier today and was asking if Alf Garcia had mentioned anything about the water sample results. Martin told him that he thought Alf had spoken with Geoff Wedwaldt, and that he should contact him.*

***Water Testing Program:*** *Pat**mentioned that**the Water Quality Monitoring program was going well, and that he was hoping that Dr. Kate Barrett would have the information compiled for the SWQMP back to him to share with the board in July.*

***Erosion Control:******Kyle Absent-*** *Martin**reported that Kyle had three more erosion control plans turned in before he left for vacation.*

***New Business/Plan of Work/ Educational Programs:*** *Amy asked the board for approval to order new Plat books for 2026, being that she had such great luck from Mapping Solutions. The board agreed and gave her permission to order 150 books. Amy also mentioned that the district had been busy taking pictures for the NIGC*

*Farmer Panel Speakers.*

*Martin mentioned that the Lagrange County Youth Council would be hosting a camp at ParGil on July 17th & 18th, that he and Kyle will be assisting with. Martin discussed that the Combined County Summer Camp would be held at the Mongo Trading post on July 29th. The Canoe trip will start at the Trading Post and end up at Curtis Creek, each County will pay $15.00 per child for this activity.*

***Review of New Requirements for Public Meeting Records:*** *Martin mentioned that the new Public meeting requirements we have now added to the end of our board meeting notes. There were no questions.*

***Pigeon River Update****: Martin mentioned that Kyle, Steve Vaughn, Neal Yoder, and himself floated the Pigeon River in kayaks to check for more log jams. Martin said they floated from the bridge in Howe, going West towards Pigeon Lake. He also commented that Neal would be taking a crew out sometime within the next month to work on the log jam removal.*

***Olive B. Cole Foundation 4 County Grant Application:*** *Martin mentioned that he had spoken with the counties involved with the grant and due to the cost of the signs they were considering having each county be responsible for getting 24 signs each. Martin said he would go over some things with Aaron at the Highway Department and figure out which crossings would be most suitable for LaGrange. The members discussed the size of the signs and came to an agreement that the signs would need to be resized so that they could be held up with only one post. This would help keep costs down.*

***Staff and Board Sexual Harassment Training Video:*** *Martin set up the projector and the board and staff watched the video.*

***Items from the Floor:*** *Steve Weideman stated that he had been newly elected on the Shipshewana Lake Council. Steve also mentioned that only four lake house owners had helped treat weeds on the lake.*

***Meeting adjourned: By*** *R.D. Wolheter, 7:35 pm*

***Minutes written and typed by Amy Renkenberger***

*\_\_\_\_\_as submitted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as revised.*

*R.D. Wolheter, SWCD Board Chairman*

*Scott Beecher, SWCD Vice Chairman*

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*Ron Vaughn, SWCD Board Supervisor*

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*Monroe Raber, SWCD Board Supervisor*

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*Aaron Fugate, SWCD Board Supervisor*

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*R.D. Wolheter: Supervisor Since Re- Elected Annual Meeting March 6, 2025/Currently Serving as Board Chairman, elected March 25,2025. Term as Supervisor ends March 9,2028/ Term as Chairman Expires March 5,2026*

*Amy Renkenberger (SWCD Staff) Appointed by SWCD Board as District Fiscal Officer March 25,2025/ Term as Fiscal Offer ends March 24,2026.*