

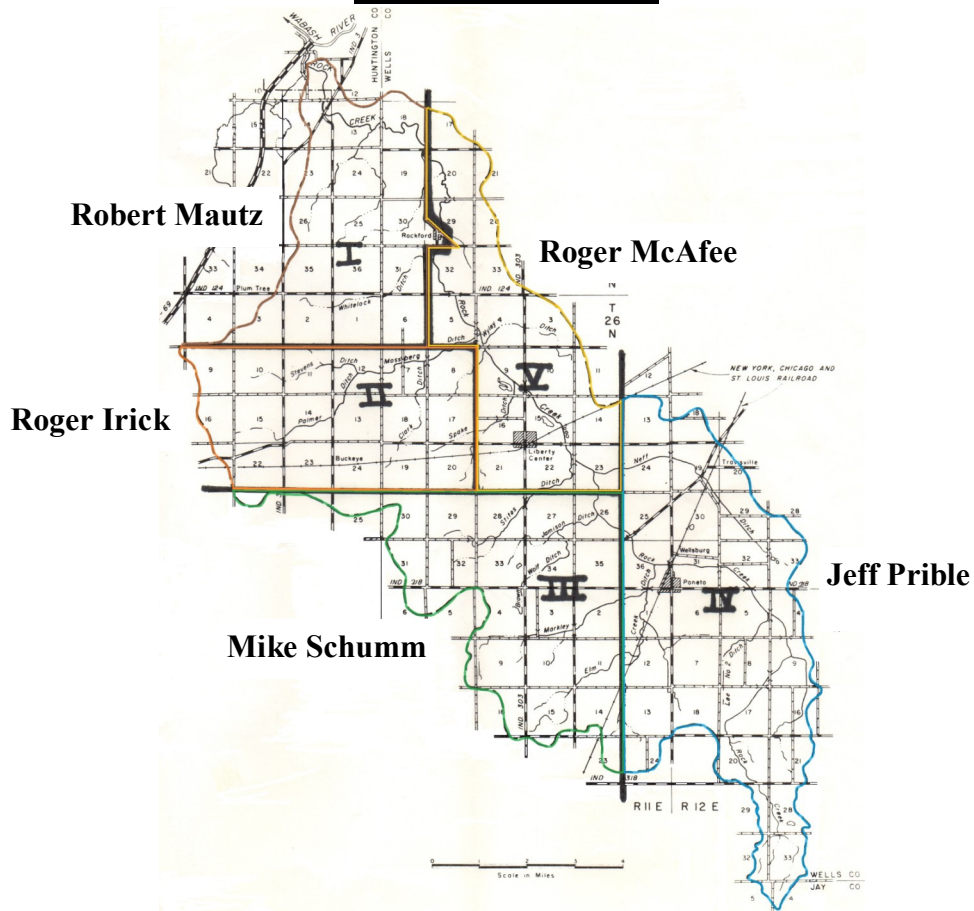
# Rock Creek Conservancy District

## 48th Annual Meeting Report

The Rock Creek Conservancy District (RCCD) was established in 1966 to manage the Rock Creek re-construction project (1969-1975); and to maintain the works of improvements. The tree plantings, fish pools, filter strips and right of way markers were just as much a part of the project as the constructed channel. Landowners are not permitted to farm the area between the channel and line of right of way markers or block access to these areas. The Rock Creek Conservancy District Directors have the powers to act, and to construct, and to maintain the works of improvements within the district. Maintenance continues to be done as needed. Any damage caused while performing maintenance activities to crops or other obstructions that are within the easement and right of ways are not recoverable from the District.

*The district is managed by five Directors who are residents within the Rock Creek watershed and are acquainted with drainage matters.*

### RCCD Directors



### RCCD MEETINGS

The Rock Creek Conservancy District meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the RCCD office, at 117 West Harvest Road, Bluffton. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted at the meeting location.

# Report to the Public of 2014 Activities

## Maintenance

The Rock Creek Conservancy District performed a variety of maintenance measures on the Rock Creek channel and tributaries in 2014.

- Brush was removed from the Liberty Center railroad trestle. (*Ron's Bulldozing*)
- The annual spray program was completed on Unit 1 of the Rock Creek channel, from State Road 3 in Huntington County to CR 100 S in Wells County. (*The Dalton's, Inc.*)
- Three tile outlet pipes were replaced on the Whitelock Ditch. (*Earth Services, LLC*)
- A 10" tile pipe was replaced on the Rock Creek channel near CR 200 S and CR 300 W. (*Earth Services, LLC*)
- Two surface inlet pipes were repaired south of Hoosier Highway. (*Earth Services, LLC*)
- Rip-rap was added to stabilize a crossing area near CR 200 N. (*Earth Services, LLC*)
- The removal of sediment from the Rock Creek channel began at CR 200 E south of State Road 218 and continued downstream through Poneto. (*Enyeart Excavating*)
- The Contracting Officer met with several landowners along the Rock Creek regarding right of way access and to discuss maintenance activities.

Maintenance activities planned for 2015 include: continuing the removal of sediment on the Rock Creek channel, cutting brush and removing downed trees, addressing areas of stream bank erosion, and the annual spray program on Unit 2 (Mossburg Ditch and the Rock Creek channel, from CR 100 S to CR 1000 S) in Wells County.

**Landowners are encouraged to report maintenance needs to:  
Contracting Officer - Kevin Brubaker (cell) 260/820-2322.**

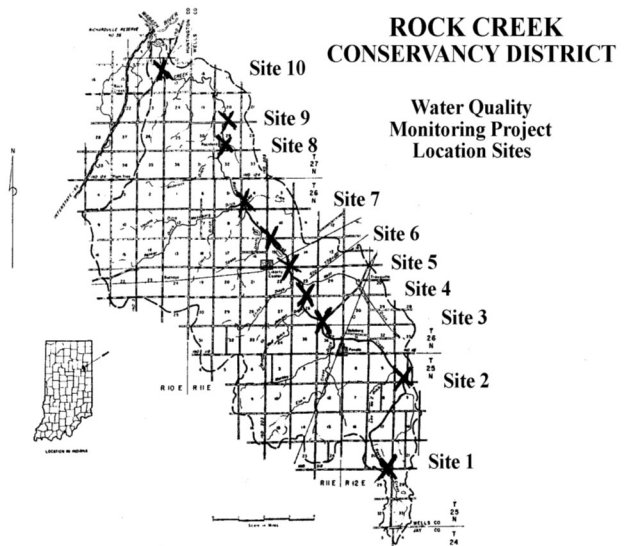
## Water Quality Monitoring Program

Water quality monitoring was conducted at the 10 monitoring sites on two occasions in 2014. Seven student volunteers and three adults collected the monitoring data on May 10th. Total nitrogen results were high overall but other test results were considered to be better than on previous events. Macro-invertebrate collection counts are showing positive results, and live fresh water mussels have been found at several sites; which is a very good sign.

The second monitoring event was held November 28th. Only three student volunteers and two adults were available for this monitoring event. Total phosphorous results were higher than at previous times, and the *E. coli* results had greater variability between the sites.

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission has also been conducting monitoring at three locations on the Rock Creek. The results indicate that water quality targets are exceeded for total nitrogen, total phosphorous, and *E. coli* during high flow and moist weather conditions. *E. coli* is also a concern during low flow conditions.

**For more information or to volunteer for the water quality monitoring program, contact the Coordinator, Neil Ainslie at 260/273-0089 or the Financial Clerk, Stacia Henderson at 260/273-0972.**



**Rock Creek Conservancy District**  
**Financial Report January 1 – December 31, 2014**

<b><u>CHECKING</u> - BALANCE January 1, 2014</b>	<b>\$17,992.15</b>	
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>		
Huntington County Tax Income	3,269.00	
Wells County Tax Income	17,533.04	
Interest Income - Checking	5.07	
Miscellaneous Income (voided check over 2 yrs.)	50.00	
Payroll Fund (2014 W/H to be paid in 2015)	157.57	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$21,014.68</b>	
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>		
Directors	1,000.00	
Financial Clerk	2,500.00	
Contracting Officer	2,500.00	
Legal Services	120.00	
Postage	0.00	
Travel	208.50	
Legal Notices/Advertising	364.62	
Bond	138.00	
Liability Insurance	600.00	
Maintenance	16,249.07	
Contingency	1,428.59	
Payroll Fund (2013 W/H paid in 2014)	154.63	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$25,263.41</b>	
<b>CHECKING - BALANCE December 31, 2014</b>		<b>\$13,743.42</b>
<b><u>SAVINGS</u> - BALANCE January 1, 2014</b>	<b>\$110,124.23</b>	
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>		
Interest Income - Savings	219.83	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$219.83</b>	
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>		
None	0.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>SAVINGS - BALANCE December 31, 2014</b>		<b>\$110,344.06</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2014</b>		<b>\$124,087.48</b>

This Financial Report is true to the best of my knowledge.  
Stacia L. Henderson, Financial Clerk  
ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The special benefits tax rate for 2014 was \$0.0004 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which resulted in a \$10.00 minimum tax statement for the majority of landowners within the District. The tax rate for 2015 will remain at \$0.0004 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The Rock Creek Conservancy District has no outstanding debts.

## **Easements and Right-of-Ways**

The Rock Creek Conservancy District has a permanent easement and right-of-way of 75 to 125 feet on each side of the Rock Creek, measured from the center of the main channel; and on some of its tributaries. This easement and right-of-way is for the purpose of construction and maintenance by contractors of the Rock Creek Conservancy District. The easement and right-of-way area is private property and landowners retain possession and control of their land. Anyone other than contractors of the Rock Creek Conservancy District entering the right-of-way must contact the Landowner for permission to use the area.

## **Historical Information**

Poor drainage outlets and flooding had long been a problem in the Rock Creek watershed. The Rock Creek Conservancy District was established through court proceedings in 1966, with more than 60% of the landowners signing the petition. The work plan for the improvements was completed by the Soil Conservation Service and accepted by the local people, and construction began March 10, 1969.

The National Environmental Act of 1969 necessitated a new study and revised plan. The revised work plan was approved in May 1972, and included limiting construction to one sided clearing, replanting approximately 52 acres of trees and woody plants for wildlife habitat, construction of silt traps, deflectors and fish pools, stream bank stabilization, and less steep side slopes to improve the overall quality of the project.

Construction was completed on September 16, 1975, and the final project included open drain reconstruction on 24.3 miles of the Rock Creek, as well as minor clearing and log jam removal on the Mossburg Ditch.

## **Funding**

Since 1970, the Rock Creek Conservancy District has received funding from a special benefits tax that is assessed through the local tax structure, similar to property taxes. Landowners are taxed according to the assessed valuation of their holdings located within the Rock Creek watershed. From 1970 through 1976 the tax rate was \$0.42 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The rate has fluctuated over the years, and was lowered as the loan obligations from the construction project were retired. However, major maintenance needs in 1986 required the District to obtain a loan and the tax rate was increased to pay for the maintenance work. Since that time, the tax rate has gradually been reduced. All loan obligations of the Rock Creek Conservancy District were paid in full at the end of 1991, and the District relies on the yearly tax collections to fund maintenance projects.

## **RCCD Directors and Staff**

Roger Irick (*Huntington Co.*), Chairman

Robert Mautz (*Huntington Co.*), Vice Chairman

Jeff Prible (*Wells Co.*), Member

Mike Schumm (*Wells Co.*), Member

Roger McAfee (*Wells Co.*), Member

Contracting Officer: Kevin Brubaker 260/820-2322

Water Quality Program Coordinator: Neil Ainslie 260/273-0089

Financial Clerk: Stacia L. Henderson 260/273-0972