



**Rock Creek  
Conservancy District  
Huntington & Wells Counties**

***54th Annual Meeting*  
Report to the Public  
of 2020 Activities**

**~March 9, 2021~  
6:00 p.m.  
“Virtual Zoom Meeting”**

# Rock Creek Conservancy District

The Rock Creek Conservancy District (RCCD) was established in 1966 to manage reconstruction activities and to maintain the Rock Creek to reduce flooding, and provide an adequate outlet for the watershed area. The District is managed by five Directors who are residents of the watershed and are acquainted with drainage matters.



## RCCD MEETINGS

The Rock Creek Conservancy District meets quarterly; in March, June, September and December. Meetings are held on the second (2nd) Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Due to Covid-19 complications, the 2020 meeting dates and locations have varied. Meetings are advertised and are open to the public.

To sign up for meeting notices by email, send request to:  
**shenderson@adamswells.com**  
with subject line: Meeting Notices

## ~Director Election~

At each annual meeting, Directors shall be elected to fill vacancies on the board following the Indiana Conservancy District Act, Sec. 5 (IC 14-33-5). If there is only one (1) nominee for election to the board for each area for which a director is to be elected, then the election is not required to be held, and the nominee is considered elected. Directors serve a term of 4 years.

Nominations for Area I and Area III were advertised and accepted through December 1, 2020 for the 2021 annual meeting election due to the expiration of terms.

The only nomination that was received for Area III was from **Mike Schumm**, he is therefore considered elected. Mike has served as the Area III Director for 22 years.

No nominations were received for Area I. The Rock Creek Conservancy District petitioned the Wells County Commissioners to appoint **Robert Mautz** to serve another 4 year term for Area I. Robert has served as the Area I Director for 28 years.

No election will be held. The Directors will take the oath of office at the annual meeting.

# Rock Creek Conservancy District General Fund Financial Report

**January 1 – December 31, 2020**

## **CHECKING**

<b>BALANCE January 1, 2020</b>		<b>\$67,732.55</b>
<i>RECEIPTS</i>		
Huntington Co. Tax Income	11,425.33	
Wells Co. Tax Income	90,671.42	
Interest Income - Checking	12.88	
Reimbursements and Refunds	3.17	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$102,112.80</b>
<i>DISBURSEMENTS</i>		
Salaries & Wages	10,500.00	
Legal Services	90.00	
Postage & Office Supplies	194.49	
Travel	267.50	
Legal Notices/Advertising	278.43	
Insurance	1,008.00	
Maintenance	14,175.00	
Contingency	892.94	
Payroll Liabilities	975.53	
Refund-Wells Co. Tax Overpaid	46,151.83	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$74,533.72</b>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE December 31, 2020</b>		<b>\$95,311.63</b>

## **SAVINGS**

<b>BALANCE January 1, 2020</b>		<b>\$55,044.70</b>
<i>RECEIPTS</i>		
Interest Income - Savings	\$ 8.26	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$ 8.26</b>
<i>DISBURSEMENTS</i>		
None	\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>SAVINGS BALANCE December 31, 2020</b>		<b>\$55,052.96</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS December 31, 2020</b>		<b>\$150,364.59</b>

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

## ~Report to the Public of 2020 Activities~

- Held joint annual meeting with the Wells Co. SWCD and Purdue Extension Service on Feb. 20, 2020 at the Wells Co. Community Building. Roger McAfee was the only nominee for the Area V Director position and was considered elected and took the oath of office.
- The annual spray program was completed on Unit 1 of the Rock Creek channel, from SR 3 in Huntington County to CR 100 S/ Mossburg Ditch in Wells County. The Mossburg Ditch from the Rock Creek channel to CR 500 W was also treated.
- Worked with landowners to remove material from the Rock Creek channel easement and approved site plan changes within the RCCD easement on the Whitelock drain.
- After a pause in the water monitoring program, Steve Stauffer was hired as the coordinator to revise the program for 2021.
- Removed downed trees from the Rock Creek channel east of CR 200 W, Wells County.
- The RCCD Directors and Contracting Officer met with land owners regarding right-of way access, flooding concerns, and to discuss future maintenance activities.

## Funding

The Rock Creek Conservancy District budget for 2020 was advertised and adopted by the Wells County Council and certified by the Department of Local Government Finance in the amount of \$83,600. This was the same amount as the 2019 budget.

The **2020 special benefits tax rate** for the Rock Creek Conservancy District was **\$0.0212** per \$100 of assessed valuation of land and improvements, resulting in a certified levy of \$49,806. All parcels are subject to a minimum \$10.00 assessment. This tax rate was a reduction from the 2019 rate of \$0.0270.

The Rock Creek Conservancy District has no outstanding debts.

## **~Water Quality Monitoring Program~**

Water quality monitoring was not conducted during 2020 due to Covid-19, lack of student monitoring staff and other complications. The RCCD has hired Steve Stauffer as the new monitoring program coordinator. He will be revising the monitoring protocols, and the student program for 2021.

Interested students and adult volunteers are welcome and asked to contact the RCCD by email: [shenderson@adamswells.com](mailto:shenderson@adamswells.com).

Over the last several years, the monitoring results have indicated that the Rock Creek has been improving and appears to be in good health at this time.

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

The Rock Creek Conservancy District has a permanent easement and right-of-way on the Rock Creek main channel, Whitelock Ditch, Mossburg Ditch and many of its tributaries/laterals. The right-of-ways vary from 75 to 125 feet on each side, measured from the center of the channel.

Tree plantings, filter strips, and right-of-way markers were established as a part of the reconstruction project. Landowners are not permitted to farm the area between the channel and right-of-way markers or block access to these areas. 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 easement and right-of-way is for the purpose of maintenance by RCCD contractors. This area is private property and landowners retain possession and control of their land. Anyone other than RCCD staff or contractors entering the right-of-way must contact the landowner for permission to use the area.



*Downed tree removal east of CR 200 W - Wells Co.*

## Historical Information

Poor drainage outlets and flooding had long been a problem in the Rock Creek watershed. In 1962, the Wells and Huntington Co. SWCDs and Co. Commissioners applied to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for assistance. The request was approved and SCS made a preliminary study and presented a favorable report in 1964.

The Rock Creek Conservancy District was then established through court proceedings under the Indiana Conservancy Act in 1966, with more than 60% of the landowners signing the petition. The final work plan for the Rock Creek was completed by SCS and accepted by the local people. A total of 24.3 miles of open drain reconstruction was planned for the project. Construction began March 10, 1969 and was completed in 1975.

The cost for the reconstruction work on the Rock Creek was \$1,980,487.34. Of this amount, \$1,701,679.34 was federal funding, and the remaining \$279,807.97 was local funding.

From 1970-1976 the special benefits tax rate paid by landowners within the watershed was \$0.42 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The rate was lowered as loan obligations were retired. All loans were paid in full at the end of 1991. Since then, the District has relied on the yearly tax collections to fund maintenance projects.

# **RCCD Directors**

**Roger Irick, Chairman**

*Huntington Co. - Area II*

**Robert Mautz, Vice Chairman**

*Huntington Co. - Area I*

**Mike Schumm**

*Wells Co. - Area III*

**Jeff Prible**

*Wells Co. - Area IV*

**Roger McAfee**

*Wells Co. - Area V*

## **Contracting Officer**

Kevin Brubaker      260/820-2322

## **Financial Clerk**

Stacia Henderson      260/273-0972

## **Water Monitoring Coordinator**

Steve Stauffer      260/307-6151

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**ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**117 WEST HARVEST ROAD**

**BLUFFTON, IN 46714**

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**[www.rockcreekcd.org](http://www.rockcreekcd.org)**