

# **Rock Creek Conservancy District**

**Huntington & Wells Counties**

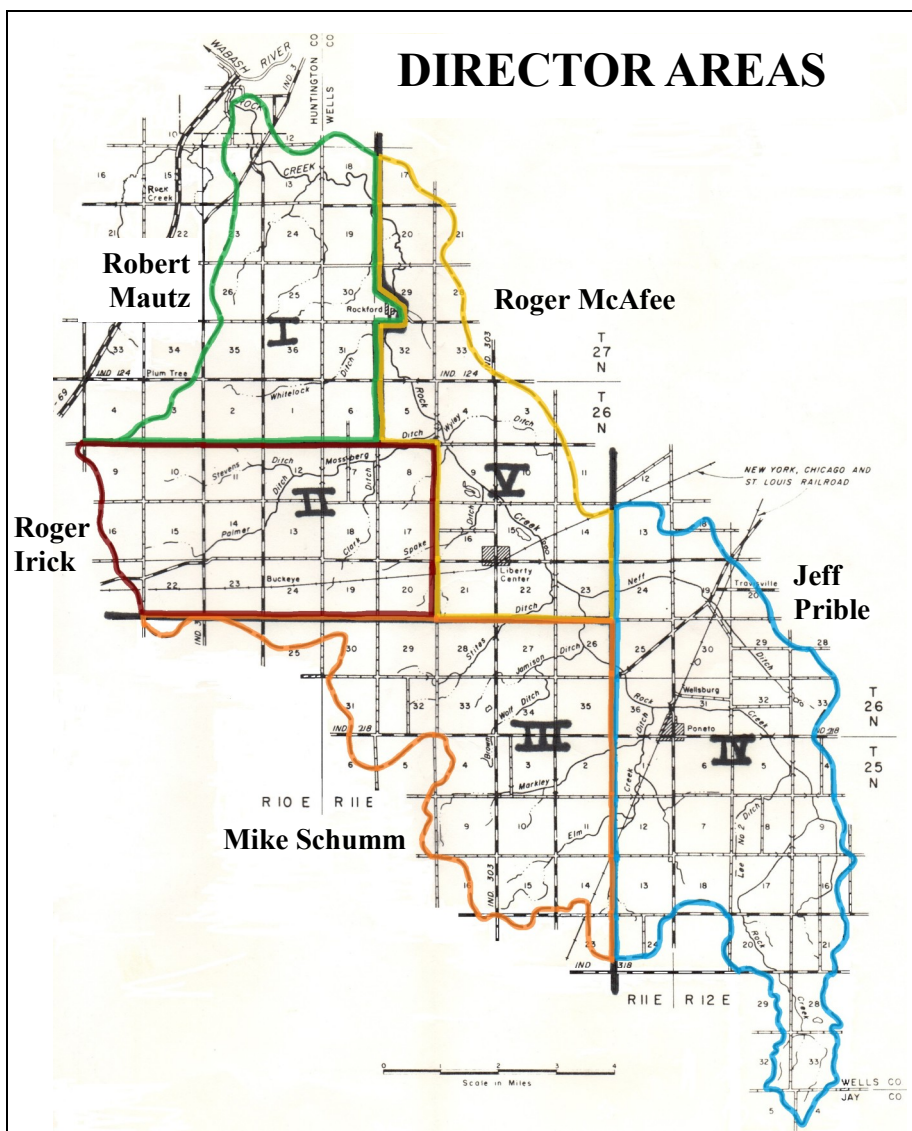
## ***53rd Annual Meeting***

### **Report to the Public of 2019 Activities**

~February 20, 2020~  
Wells Co. Community Center  
1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, IN

# 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 on the second (2nd) Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the RCCD office, 117 W. Harvest Road, Bluffton. Meetings are open to the public.**

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

The RCCD Directors have the powers to act, and to construct, and to maintain the Rock Creek within the district. The RCCD has a permanent easement and right-of-way from 75 to 125 feet on each side of the Rock Creek, measured from the center of the main channel, and on many of its tributaries.

Tree plantings, filter strips, and right-of-way markers were established as a part of the 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 contractors entering the right-of-way must contact the landowner for permission to use the area.

### **Funding**

The RCCD budget for 2019 was \$83,600. The **2019 special benefits tax rate** for the Rock Creek Conservancy District was **\$0.0270** per \$100 of assessed valuation of land and improvements, resulting in a certified levy of \$62,257.

The 2020 budget remained at \$83,600. The **special benefits tax rate for 2020** has been set at **\$0.0212** per \$100 of assessed valuation. The certified levy of \$49,806 will fund operating expenses and maintenance projects for 2020. The Rock Creek Conservancy District has no outstanding debts.

**Rock Creek Conservancy District**  
**General Fund Financial Report**  
**January 1 – December 31, 2019**

**CHECKING**

**BALANCE January 1, 2019** **\$28,989.09**

***RECEIPTS***

Huntington Co. Tax Income 11,581.98

Wells Co. Tax Income 53,792.85

Interest Income - Checking 21.39

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** **\$65,396.22**

***DISBURSEMENTS***

Salaries & Wages 10,500.00

Office Supplies 88.95

Travel 258.50

Legal Notices/Advertising 352.16

Insurance 1,008.00

Maintenance 12,520.00

Contingency-Annual Meeting 805.87

Contingency-Printing/Copying 8.27

Contingency-Website 160.05

Payroll Liabilities 950.96

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **\$26,652.76**

**CHECKING BALANCE December 31, 2019** **\$67,732.55**

**SAVINGS**

**BALANCE January 1, 2019** **\$55,028.19**

***RECEIPTS***

Interest Income - Savings \$ 16.51

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** **\$ 16.51**

***DISBURSEMENTS***

None \$ 0.00

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **\$ 0.00**

**SAVINGS BALANCE December 31, 2019** **\$55,044.70**

**TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS December 31, 2019** **\$122,777.25**

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

## ~Report to the Public of 2019 Activities~

### Maintenance

- The annual spray program was completed on Unit 2 of the Rock Creek channel, from CR 100 S/Mossburg Ditch in Wells County to CR 1000S in Wells County. (*Right of Way Management*)
- Brush removal within the RCCD 50 feet maintenance easement on the Mossburg Ditch between CR 400 W and CR 500 W, Wells County. (*B.E. Powell Excavating*)
- Remove sand bars on the Mossburg Ditch between CR 400 W and CR 500 W, Wells County. (*B.E. Powell Excavating*)
- The RCCD Directors and Contracting Officer met with land owners regarding right-of way access, flooding concerns, and to discuss future maintenance activities.

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

### ~Director Election~

At each annual meeting of the district, directors shall be elected to fill vacancies on the board due to expiration of terms, resignation, or otherwise following the Indiana Conservancy District Act, Sec. 5 (IC 14-33-5). The directors serve a term of 4 years.

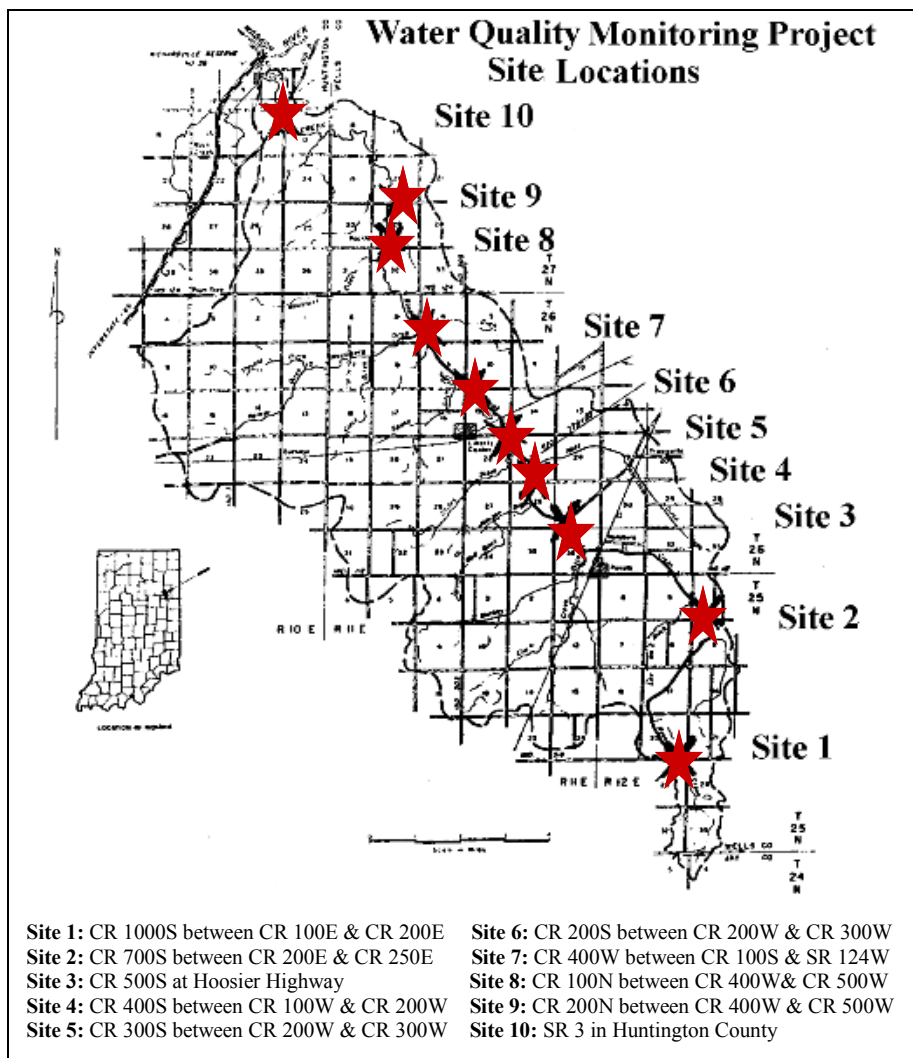
If there is only one (1) nominee for election to the board for each area for which a director is to be elected, then the election is not required to be held, and the nominee is considered elected to the area as if the election had been held.

Roger McAfee's position as Director for Area V is up for election in 2020 due to the expiration of his term. **Roger McAfee** was the only nominee for the position and is therefore considered elected for another 4-year term.

# Water Quality Monitoring Program

Monitoring was not conducted during 2019 due to weather events, lack of volunteers and other complications. The RCCD will be evaluating and revising the monitoring protocols, sample collections and volunteer program in 2020.

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.



## Historical Information

Poor drainage outlets and flooding had long been a problem in the Rock Creek watershed. In 1962, the Wells and Huntington Co. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Co. Commissioners applied to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) under Public Law-566 for assistance. The request was approved in 1963, 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 in 1966 and accepted by the local people.

For construction purposes, the total 24.3 miles of planned open drain reconstruction was divided into three units. Construction began March 10, 1969 and was completed in 1975. Unit 1 consisted of 9.6 miles of channel excavation and included all the rock excavation. The National Environmental Act of 1969 necessitated a new study and revised plan for Unit 2. It was approved in May 1972. Work began in early 1973 and was completed September 16, 1975. Unit 2 consisted of 14.7 miles of channel excavation using the alternating one-sided construction method, silt traps, deflectors, and fish pools. Unit 3 includes 13,370 feet of the Mossburg Ditch. Construction activities included clearing, log jam and debris removal. Construction began in February 1974 and was completed in July 1974.

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. No engineering fees were included in the cost, as the SCS provided all engineering services.

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

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**ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**117 WEST HARVEST ROAD**

**BLUFFTON, IN 46714**

**e-mail: [shenderson@adamswells.com](mailto:shenderson@adamswells.com)**

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