

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

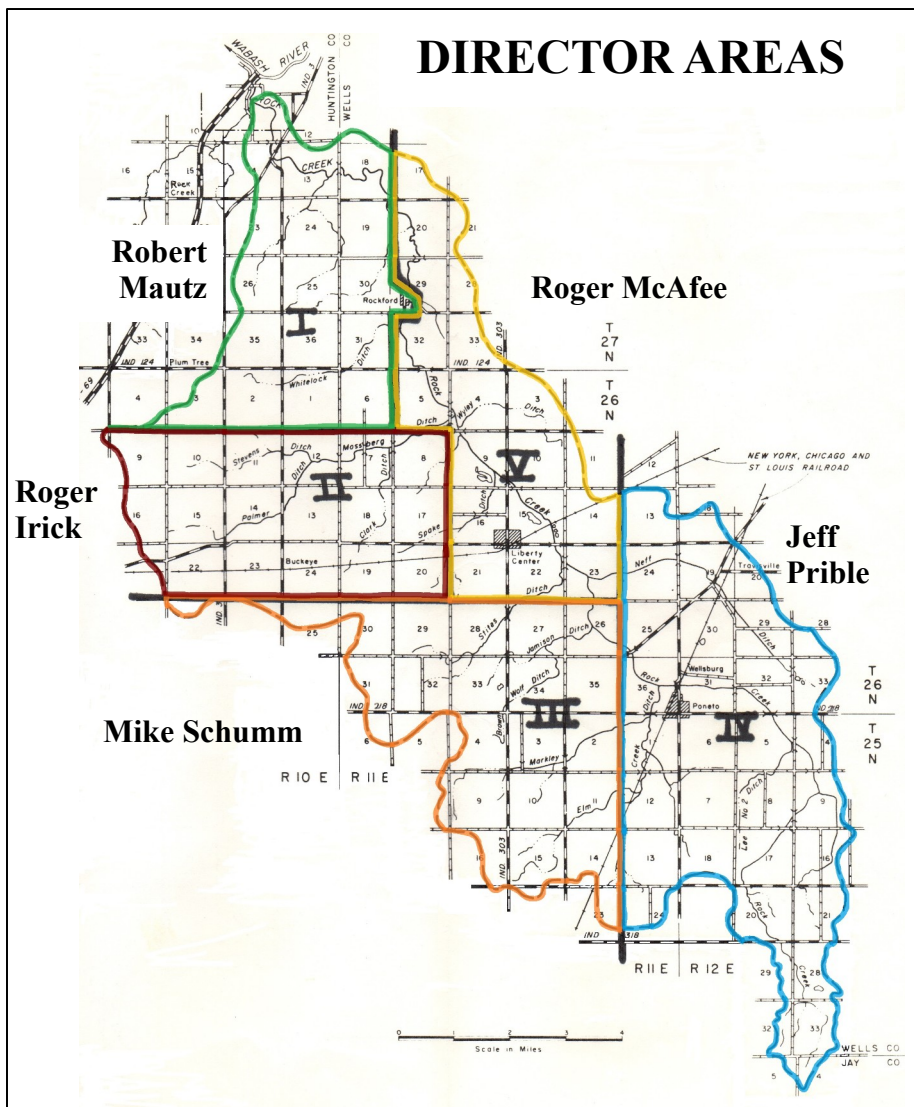
***55th Annual Meeting*
Report to the Public
of 2021 Activities**

**~February 17, 2022~
6:00 p.m.**

**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. Meetings are held on the second (2nd) Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Due to Covid-19 complications, the 2021 meeting dates and locations 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 the Area IV Director position was advertised and accepted through December 1, 2021 for the 2022 annual meeting election due to the expiration of the Director term.

The only nomination that was received was from **Jeff Prible**, he is therefore considered elected, and no election will be held. Jeff has served as the Area IV Director for 28 years.

Funding

The Rock Creek Conservancy District budget for 2021 was \$83,600. The **special benefits tax rate was \$0.0212** per \$100 of assessed valuation of land and improvements, resulting in a certified levy of \$48,246. All parcels are subject to a minimum \$10.00 assessment. The Rock Creek Conservancy District has no outstanding debts.

Rock Creek Conservancy District

General Fund Financial Report

January 1 – December 31, 2021

CHECKING

BALANCE January 1, 2021 **\$95,311.63**

RECEIPTS

Huntington Co. Tax Income	10,998.15
Wells Co. Tax Income	42,727.19
Interest Income - Checking	15.23
Permit Fees	150.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$53,890.57**

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries & Wages	11,000.00
Legal Services	350.00
Postage & Office Supplies	845.24
Travel	235.50
Legal Notices/Advertising	301.83
Insurance	1,005.00
Maintenance	36,800.84
Contingency	368.05
Payroll Liabilities	1,130.23
Transfer to Savings	5,000.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$57,036.69**

CHECKING BALANCE December 31, 2021 **\$92,165.51**

SAVINGS

BALANCE January 1, 2021 **\$55,052.96**

RECEIPTS

Interest Income - Savings	\$ 5.95
Transfer from Checking	5,000.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$ 5,005.95**

DISBURSEMENTS

None	\$ 0.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$ 0.00**

SAVINGS BALANCE December 31, 2021 **\$60,058.91**

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS December 31, 2021 **\$152,224.42**

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

~Report to the Public of 2021 Activities~

- Held “virtual zoom” joint annual meeting with the Wells Co. SWCD on March 9, 2021 at the Liberty Center Baptist Church. Annual reports were given and awards were presented.
- Mike Schumm was the only nominee for the Area III Director position and was considered elected. Robert Mautz was appointed to the Area I Director position. No election was required. They took the oath of office following the virtual meeting.
- Hired new Contracting Officer, Chase Gray to replace Kevin Brubaker upon his resignation due to other work commitments. Chase began working with the RCCD on April 1, 2021.
- The water monitoring program was revised and testing events resumed under the guidance of Steve Stauffer, Monitoring Coordinator.
- The annual spray program was completed on Unit 2 of the Rock Creek channel, from CR 100 S/Mossburg Ditch to CR 1000 S in Wells County.
- A surface pipe replacement was completed on the Whitelock Drain at SR 124, east of the Huntington/Wells County Line.
- A pipe repair was completed on the Rock Creek channel east of Hoosier Highway, near CR 500 S.
- Log jams and downed trees were cleared from the Liberty Center railroad trestle. Repairs to the trestle were completed and rip rap was installed to stabilize the banks.
- Log jams and downed trees were also removed from the Rock Creek channel at the SR 3 bridge in Huntington County; CR 400 S/CR 200 W, CR 200 E/CR 800 S, and CR 200 S/CR 300 W in Wells County.
- Met with utility and engineering firms to approve utility work and bridge replacements within the RCCD easement.
- The RCCD Directors and Contracting Officer met with land owners regarding right-of way access, flooding concerns, and to discuss future maintenance activities.



Pipe repair – before and after – East of Hoosier Highway.



Clearing log jams on Rock Creek channel.



Liberty Center railroad trestle – before.



Liberty Center railroad trestle – after.

TO DO LIST

Future activities for 2022 include:

- replacing and/or repairing surface water pipes;
- repairing easement areas where washouts have occurred in fields adjoining the channel;
- removal of log jams and downed trees;
- and the annual spray program.



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.

~Water Quality Monitoring Program~

The water quality monitoring program resumed in 2021 under the direction of Monitoring Coordinator, Steve Stauffer. Sampling was conducted on April 10th with 5 students participating, and again on June 12th with 3 students participating. Interested students and adult volunteers are welcome – contact Mr. Stauffer for more information.

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.

Monitoring Results April 10, 2021										
Test Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Temp - C	11.7	12.7	14.0	14.2	14.7	15.6	15.0	14.9	15.5	16.1
Oxygen mg/L	6.6	6.3	6.9	7.1	7.4	7.4	14.4	9.1	10.4	10.9
pH	6.8	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.1
Nitrite mg/L	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nitrate mg/L	2.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	2.00	0.50	2.00
Phosphate mg/L	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.10	1.00	0.00	0.10

Monitoring Results June 12, 2021										
Test Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Temp - C	21.0	22.5	22.6	24.7	24.2	22.9	23.0	22.5	22.8	24.8
Oxygen mg/L	9.8	10.4	6.0	8.11	5.0	4.9	6.9	5.3	6.3	5.7
pH	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.5
Nitrite mg/L	0.15	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
Nitrate mg/L	0.50	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phosphate mg/L	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.10

Test site locations: (1) CR 1000 S -between CR 100&200 E, (2) CR 700 S - between CR 200&250 E, (3) Hoosier Hwy., (4) CR 400 S -between CR 100 &200 W, (5) CR 300 S -between CR 200&300 W, (6) CR 200 S -between CR 200&300 W, (7) CR 400 W -between CR 100 S&SR 124, (8) CR 100 N - between CR 400&500 W, (9) CR 200 N -between CR 400&500 W, (10) SR 3.

Historical Information

Poor drainage outlets and flooding had long been a problem in the Rock Creek watershed. In 1962, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the County Commissioners of Wells and Huntington Counties made application to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) under Public Law-566 for assistance with the Rock Creek watershed problems. The request was approved in 1963. The Rock Creek Conservancy District was then established through court proceedings in 1966 with more than 60% of the landowners signing the petition. The work plan for improving the Rock Creek was completed by the Soil Conservation Service and construction began March 10, 1969.

The National Environmental Act of 1969 necessitated a new study and revised plan. It was approved in May 1972, and included limiting construction to one side clearing, replanting 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 channel, as well as minor clearing and log jam removal on the Mossburg Ditch.

Unit 1 includes the Rock Creek main channel from SR 3 in Huntington County to CR 400 W/CR 100 S in Wells County, plus the Whitelock open drain from the Huntington/Wells County Line to the junction with the Rock Creek. Unit 1 contains 9.6 miles of open drain.

Unit 2 includes the Rock Creek main channel in Wells County between CR 400 W/CR 100 S in Liberty Township to CR 1000 S in Nottingham Township, plus the lower 2,100 feet of the Mossburg Drain, for a total of 14.7 miles.

Unit 3 includes minor clearing and log jam removal on 13,370 feet of the Mossburg Ditch from the Rock Creek main channel to the junction of the Palmer-Stevens drains in Huntington County.

RCCD Directors



(L to R) **Jeff Prible** - *Area IV*; **Robert Mautz**,
Vice Chairman - *Area I*; **Roger McAfee** - *Area*
V; **Roger Irick**, **Chairman** - *Area II*; and **Mike**
Schumm - *Area III*.

Contracting Officer

Chase Gray 260/228-0992

Financial Clerk

Stacia Henderson 260/273-0972

Water Monitoring Coordinator

Steve Stauffer 260/307-6151

Thank you to our donors!

**ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
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www.rockcreekcd.org**