

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

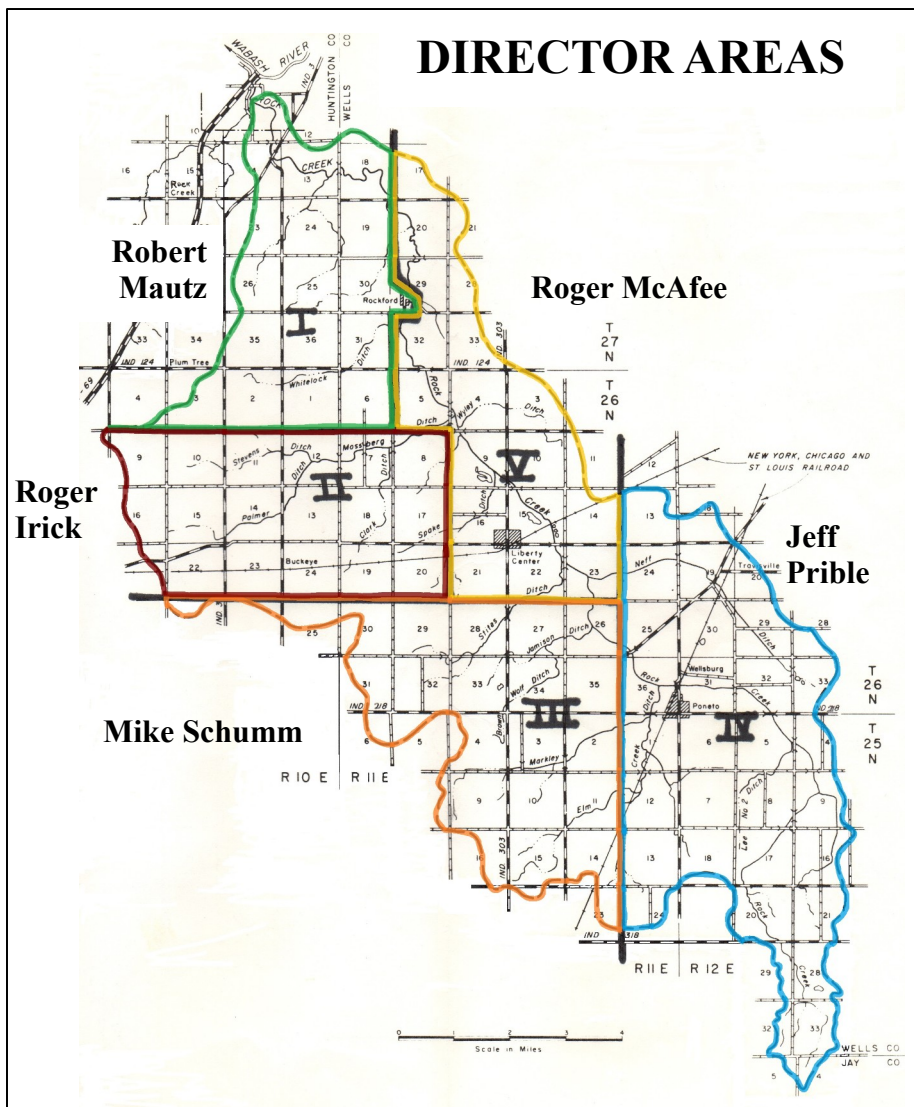
***56th Annual Meeting*
Report to the Public
of 2022 Activities**

**~February 16, 2023~
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 by landowners within the watershed to manage reconstruction activities (1969-1975) and to maintain the Rock Creek in an effort to reduce flooding, and provide an adequate drainage 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.

Meetings are advertised and are open to the public.

~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. The District can also petition the Wells Co. Commissioners to appoint Directors if nominations are not advertised or if no nominations are received.

The Wells County Commissioners have appointed **Roger Irick** to continue in his role as the Area II Director, therefore no election will be held. Roger has served as the Area II Director for 29 years; since 1994. Directors serve a term of 4 years.

Funding

The Rock Creek Conservancy District budget for 2022 was \$85,300. The **special benefits tax rate was \$0.0156** per \$100 of assessed valuation of land and improvements, resulting in a certified levy of \$37,755. 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, 2022

CHECKING

BALANCE January 1, 2022 **\$92,165.51**

RECEIPTS

Huntington Co. Tax Income 11,323.09

Wells Co. Tax Income 34,857.71

Interest Income - Checking 36.65

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$46,217.45**

TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS **\$60,060.70**

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries & Wages 12,450.00

Legal Services 251.50

Postage & Office Supplies 131.41

Travel-Wages 206.00

Legal Notices/Advertising 293.43

Insurance 796.00

Maintenance 18,654.28

Contingency 1,097.94

Payroll Liabilities 894.17

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$34,774.73**

CHECKING BALANCE December 31, 2022 **\$163,668.93**

SAVINGS

BALANCE January 1, 2022 **\$60,058.91**

RECEIPTS

Interest Income - Savings \$ 1.79

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$ 1.79**

DISBURSEMENTS

None \$ 0.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$ 0.00**

TRANSFER TO CHECKING **\$60,060.70**

SAVINGS BALANCE December 31, 2022 **\$ 0.00**

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS December 31, 2022 **\$163,668.93**

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

~Report to the Public of 2022 Activities~

- Held the joint annual meeting with the Wells Co. SWCD and Wells Co. Purdue Extension Service on February 17, 2022. Annual reports were given and awards were presented. The event speaker was Tom Crowe presenting information on woodland management.
- Jeff Prible was the only nominee for the Area IV Director position and was considered elected. No election was required.
- Reviewed and signed-off on the Easement Agreements for Bridge 105 and Bridge 106 in Wells County.
- Reviewed and approved the annual internal controls assessment.
- Four water monitoring events were conducted under the guidance of Steve Stauffer, Monitoring Program Coordinator.
- The annual spray program was completed on Unit 1 of the Rock Creek channel, from SR 3 in Huntington County to CR 100 S and Mossburg Ditch in Wells County.
- A large log jam was cleared from the Liberty Center railroad trestle. Additional repairs to the trestle were completed.
- Repairs were made to a structure in the Rock Creek easement south of SR 218 near CR 200 E. Logs and debris were also removed from the channel.
- Log jams and downed trees were removed from the Rock Creek channel at the SR 3 bridge in Huntington County; and CR 400 W bridge, and CR 400 S bridge in Wells County.
- The Contracting Officer and Directors met with landowners regarding right-of way access, flooding concerns, and to discuss future maintenance activities.

**Landowners are encouraged to report
maintenance needs to: Contracting Officer,
Chase Gray 260-228-0992**

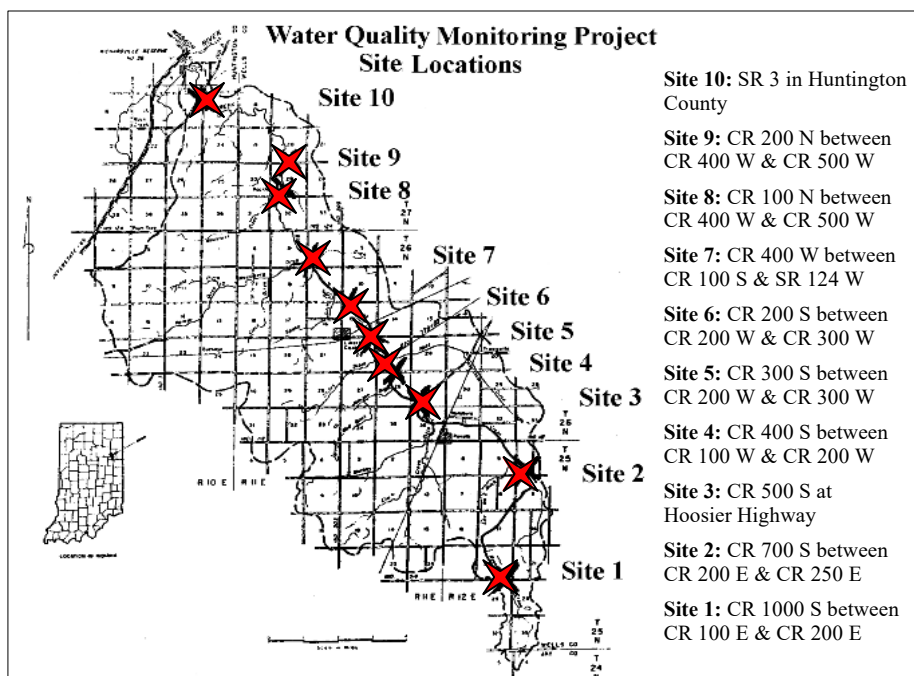
~Water Quality Monitoring Program~

Monitoring was conducted at the 10 sample sites on April 23rd, July 18th, October 4th, and October 20th.

The April event had increased turbidity levels in the stream, however the chemical tests were all within the state guidelines. The July sampling was following a significant rain event, and all 10 sites exceeded the state standard for *E. coli* for full body contact. Nitrate and Phosphorus were present at all 10 sites but within the state standard; however, Nitrite exceeded the state standard at 1 site. The October 4th event had 1 site with elevated Phosphorus results and also exceeded the state standard for *E. coli*. The October 20th sampling had 5 sites with Phosphorus present and 4 sites with *E. coli* results that exceeded the state standard. Nitrate and phosphorus levels continue to rise and fall depending on the season.

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

**Student and adult volunteers are welcome, contact
Steve Stauffer at 260-307-6151 to assist with monitoring events.**



TO DO LIST

Future activities for 2023 include:

- replacing and 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.

RCCD Directors



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

Contracting Officer

Chase Gray 260/228-0992

Monitoring Program Coordinator

Steve Stauffer 260/307-6151

Financial Clerk

Vacant

ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
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BLUFFTON, IN 46714
www.rockcreekcd.org