

**Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission
Minutes
November 21, 2024**

Attendance:

Commissioner Linda Freeman, Vanderburgh County Surveyor
Commissioner Karan Barnhill, City of Evansville appointee
Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave, Vanderburgh County Commission appointee
Commissioner Kristi Johnson, Department of Natural Resources appointee
Attorney Craig Emig
David Eichelberger, Christopher Burke Engineering
Jeff Mueller, Consultant
Amy Canterbury, Commissioner Elect Vanderburgh County
Angie Plank, DNR Division of Water
Bella Foster, DNR Division of Water
Justin Dickson, Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office
Michael Ward, Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office
Dennis Wilzbacher, Surveyor Elect Warrick County
Holly McCutchan, Warrick County Soil & Water Conservation District
David Brenner, Vanderburgh County Farm Bureau

Attorney Craig Emig advised that the first order of business according to statute is to elect officers.

Motion to elect officers:

Karan Barnhill made the motion, seconded by Cheryl Musgrave, to nominate Linda Freeman as Chair, Karan Barnhill as Vice-Chair, and Cheryl Musgrave as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Emig advised notice of today's meeting and the December 19, 2024, was published in the Evansville Courier & Press on November 7, 2024. Notice is not specifically required by statute, but it was deemed preferable to publish. In addition, announcements were made in multiple Vanderburgh County Drainage Board and Commission meetings of the meetings.

Attorney Emig discussed statutory requirements of the newly formed Commission as follows:

1. Hire an Executive Director.
2. Enact Special Assessments as capped by statute: \$7 per residential parcel, \$1 per acre for agricultural parcel, \$2 per acre for unimproved commercial parcel, \$50 per parcel for improved commercial parcel, \$360 per parcel for industrial/utility.
3. Create Flood Damage Reduction Plan
4. Create Water Quality Plan
5. Create Administrative Plan

Motion for attorney Emig to report on Executive Director hiring options at the December 19, 2024, Commission meeting:

Cheryl Musgrave made the motion, seconded by Linda Freeman. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the merits of an Interlocal Agreement. The Agreement would permit the Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission to access funds held by the Vanderburgh County Commissioners. These funds were originally appropriated to form the Commission and a significant portion remains, approximately \$50,000. If approved, the Commission could access these funds for its purposes by submitting claims to the Vanderburgh County Commission. These funds would be repaid in 2025 or 2026 upon receipt of parcel special assessments.

Other provisions of the interlocal agreement would waive conflict for legal counsel, allow access to the GIS system and all other necessary data, allow use of the city-county Internet web page services, and other relevant items.

Motion for attorney Emig to draft an Interlocal Agreement for review on December 19, 2024:

Cheryl Musgrave made the motion, seconded by Karan Barnhill. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the first date parcel assessments would be payable centered on exact statutory language. Attorney Emig will research and report at the next meeting.

Discussion of the possibility of state funds for the Commission. State funds are made available for at least two other existing Watershed Commissions. Chair Freeman and Vice-Chair Barnhill will approach area legislators at their earliest opportunity to explore state funding.

Discussion of the annual budget. Treasurer Musgrave will draft a budget for presentation at the next meeting.

Discussion of the existing legal drain and whether these fees will continue to exist or be replaced by the Watershed charge. Attorney Emig will research and report at the next meeting.

Motion of intent to levy a special assessment:

Cheryl Musgrave made the motion, seconded by Karan Barnhill. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of goals to include cooperative efforts with partner organizations to achieve early successes.

Motion to adjourn:

Cheryl Musgrave made the motion, seconded by Karan Barnhill. Motion passed unanimously.

Future meetings:

December 19, 2024

January 23, 2025

April 24, 2025

August 21, 2025

November 20, 2025

Location:

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library – Stringtown

2100 Stringtown Rd

Evansville, IN 47711