Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission

December 15, 2025 – 10:00 AM CDT
Vanderburgh County Civic Center Complex, Room 301, Evansville, IN

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Linda Freeman.

2. Attendance

Roll Call was taken, and all members were present. Kristi Johnson, attending virtually. In addition, Attorney Craig Emig and Executive Director, Justin Dickson were also present. See list of the public that was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Action Items

A. LARE Grant (logjam/Woody Debris Removal Application).

Chair Freeman stated that a vote will be needed for the approval of the location of woody debris removal to be used on the LARE Grant Application.

Executive Director Dickson stated that on the map provided is shown a location of woody debris that is located North of Pigeonbrooke Court. He stated in discussion with the consultants and they had found three or four sites that were looked at and because of the criteria of the LARE Grant the other two sites did not meet the criteria for the grant. He stated that for the Stringtown Bridge location, since there are other funding sources (County Bridge Funds) for the work, they would not consider funding with the LARE Grant money. In addition, the other location, which is at the Heidelbach Canoe Launch, it is not completely across the channel and therefore would not meet the criteria either.

Director Dickson further stated that he has provided property cards for the owners at this location. He would like to proceed with the LARE grant application for this location.

Commissioner Musgrave questioned if Bridge Funds could be used for woody debris removal. Discussion ensued with the consensus being that the County Engineer would have to be included in the discussions but that they have removed blockages on bridges within the city at bridges to keep the channels open.

Discussion was held regarding the Warrick County Log Jam and removal. It was decided that this would be discussed later because of the size and it may be out of the realm of this grant.

The Grant amount was discussed, and it was stated that it could vary but we would have to have quotes for the work and there is no cap on the amount that we request. The grants are 80%/20% so we would be required to pay the 20% of the cost. The due date is January 5th, and the board will not have a meeting prior to the submittal date, therefore we will need to have a motion to allow the Grant to be submitted and signed by the Director and Chair. The Executive Director will have to get the quotes, prepare the paperwork and have it ready to be submitted by the Grant Due Date.
Commissioner Musgrave made a motion to approve the location of the project as well as the submittal of the Grant Application and all necessary paperwork for the submittal. Second was made by Commissioner Barnhill and carried unanimously.

5. **New Business.**
   A. Burke Conceptual Plan Update
   At this time discussion was held regarding the Draft Plan that has been submitted for the Commission's review. Justin Dickson stated that this is our opportunity to review and make comments. At the next meeting we would then open the discussion to the public and board members.
   Commissioner Musgrave stated that when the commission was developed it was part of the statutory requirements that a plan be developed. She stated that this plan will be reviewed and the final plan would then be provided within a year from this conceptual plan.
   Commissioner Freeman stated that there will also be 2 more public stakeholder meetings before adoption of the final plan.
   Commissioner Johnson stated that she would like to know when Director Dickson would like to submit comments. Director Dickson stated he would like to have comments by a week or week and a half before the next meeting.
   B. Tree removal/planning projects.
   Chair Freeman stated discussion of the possibility of a tree project which would be removal of invasive species and planning of native species in a small area along the creek near the Heidelbach canoe launch and the Stringtown Road Bridge.
   Director Dickson stated that he and Commissioner Musgrave attended a meeting with representatives from the SWCD (Megan Ritterscamp and Megan Klenck) who are present today and Shawn Dickerson, the City Arborist, and there were a couple of spots mentioned regarding plantings and removal.
   Commissioner Musgrave stated that there was discussion of doing a "twofer" project that would consist of removal of invasives and planting some trees along the portion of the stream at Stringtown Road. This area is owned by the Levee

Authority and may be a good location for this. The group will meet again and discuss further with the assistance of CISMA.

Commissioner Barnhill stated that she would like to remind everyone that this is all Levee Property and there are a lot of regulations that the Levee Authority has, and we want to make sure that we are not damaging or removing trees that could cause damage. In addition, there are buffer regulations along the creek so removal of trees should be minimal. She further stated that this is her opinion that this is not high priority for immediate action at this time.

C. Possibility of illicit sewer discharges.

Commissioner Freeman stated that was placed on the agenda due to the recent announcement by the Evansville Water Sewer Utility that they would no longer allow private haulers to dump at the sewer plant.

Commissioner Barnhill reported that she has reached out to the Director of the Utility and that the MS4 and the Director are scheduled to meet regarding this issue. She further stated that the risk of Illicit Discharges increases with the sewage and grease disposal companies if they no longer have a location to dispose of their waste. She continued that there will be more likelihood that the companies will dump in a creek (Pigeon Creek) or other ditches which will only cause our already impaired streams to have water quality issues. She further stated that the EWSU has agreed to suspend the closure until a little later to give the Waste Haulers to work on getting approval for their own disposal sites.

Commissioner Barnhill stated that according to the director there is a couple of the haulers that are presently working on getting a waste site for their own use approved by the appropriate agencies and they will be able to handle their own waste, but it would not be open to the public.

Attorney Emig requested clarification of how this will impact the creek and how it is affecting this Commission.

Commissioner Barnhill explained that in the past before they started accepting waste, there were instances where the haulers were dumping in inlets, creeks, sanitary combination lines and it was causing illicit discharges and no way to track who the discharger was.

Commissioner Musgrave reiterated what Commissioner Barnhill stated. She also stated that it appears that the deadline has been moved back to July since the private disposal companies are building new dump stations.

Discussion was held with an explanation of how the City's MS4 handles an illicit discharge and what the fines are should there be a violation.

6. **Old Business.**

   A. Commission CD Investment at Old National Bank.

   Executive Director, Justin Dickson stated that the rates that were presented at the last meeting were changed when he went back to make the final decision and he found that Old National Bank was the lowest percentage rate and had the best terms, so the CD was reinvested the initial funds and the interest from the original investment. In addition, at the last meeting we discussed the investment of the upcoming December settlement. Director Dickson asked if there were any changes or discussion with how we want to proceed after we receive this.

   Chairman Freeman stated that she would like to see this discussed at the next board meeting. She further stated that it will probably be after Christmas when the funds are received and feels that this should be a future discussion. The Board agreed that this is a discussion to take place after the first of the year. Commissioner Musgrave stated that the Treasurer needs to be a signer on the CD and take more responsibility in the role as the Treasurer.

   B. Executive Director Contract/Job Description.

   Chair Freeman stated that this has been drafted and some changes need to be done and she has not had the opportunity to make those changes. She would like to bring this issue back at the January Meeting.

   C. Commission Website Update.

   Director Dickson stated that he has sent the initial framework to Tyler Technologies and they are working on their end to get this put together. He further stated that they are still waiting for the email to be attached to the website. He explained that this is being finalized by Tyler, but he has not received the final product at this time. He will continue to work on this and update at the next meeting.

   D. Truck Title/Registration Update.

   Chair Freeman stated that the truck plates and registration have been received and are on the vehicle so that has been taken care of.

   E. IDEM 205j Stream Gage Grant Agreement Update.

   Commissioner Freeman stated that she signed the Grant Agreement on December 8th and sent it back to them. They have a response that they have received it.

   Commissioner Johnson stated that after the Agreement is received by DNR, it must be sent to the Attorney General for signatures as well. She stated that in the past it took up to 30 days but with all the changes with the federal grants it may take longer.

7. **Consent Items.**
   A. Approval of November 15, 2025, PCWDC Meeting Minutes.
   B. Treasurer/Chair
      1. Executive Directors Report
         i. Christopher Burke monthly report.
      2. Treasurer's Report

         Commissioner Musgrave stated that she notices that there may be some overages in the line items in the budget and she would like to know how these items will be addressed.

         It was agreed that there are things that the Commission and the Accountant need to discuss to ensure that we are proceeding into next year with a system to keep the accounts balanced.

      3. Claims Voucher Report
         i. KDDK LLC Legal Fees – November 15, 2025, Statement #567710 for $2,520.00.
         ii. Stipends for Meeting – Recurring Payments Allowed at $35 per meeting.
         iii. Contractual Services Payments to Christopher B. Burke Engineering for services between October 26, 2025, to November 29, 2025, on invoice no. 40926 dated December 04, 2025,5 for $17,389.97.
         iv. Monthly Contractual Services Payments to Kathy Glaser for $400.00 paid on December 2, 2025 (For November services).
         v. Application fee and Speed Title fee for truck license and registration packet to Indiana BMV for $40 ($15 application fee and $25 speed title fee).
         vi. Receipt for extended temporary vehicle registration on November 14, 2025, in the amount of $18.78.
         vii. January invoice for Health Insurance Coverage for the Executive Director from Ambetter Health Solutions on December 5, 2025, for $645.20.
         viii. January invoice for Vision Insurance Coverage for the Executive Director from Vision Service Provider on December 5, 2025, for $16.94.
         ix. Invoice for Wex fuel purchases dated November 30, 2025, for $34.16

Commissioner Musgrave made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and unanimously carried.

8. Public Comment.

   Megan Ritterscamp, Indiana State Department of Agriculture was present and stated that she would like to address the Illicit Discharge issue, she stated that there is other watershed development commissions in other states that have used their funding to assist in the issues regarding septic tank failures and cleanouts/repairs to bring them up to code. She just wanted to bring that to the attention of the Commission. She further stated that she can send information, and she has found there are other areas that are experiencing high levels of E. coli that is a real problem, and they are trying to get more information about this. She stated that she wanted to bring this to the Commission's attention.

   Megan further explained that there are programs and grants. She stated that there are some grants available that were not awarded this year and she would be presenting them at their meeting in January to implore them to award these grants to protect our streams from E. coli and other pollutants.

   Commissioner Musgrave suggested a letter of support from the Commission, to ask them to consider funding and grants for this issue.

   A motion was made by Commissioner Musgrave to have our attorney send a letter of support/resolution to the Grants Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Barnhill and unanimously carried.

   The Board instructed Attorney Emig to draft a letter of support for Megan Ritterscamp to submit to the Grants Commission from PCWDC.

Commissioner Barnhill reported that there was an Illicit Discharge that was found near Pigeon Creek on the Evansville Day School Property. She explained that the property line clean out was purging sanitary waste onto the ground and there was a large pool at the cleanout pipe. The MS4 staff have notified Day School of the issue, and they are in the process of correcting and cleaning up the area. She stated that the situation will be monitored closely until it is remediated.

9. Adjournment.

   A motion to adjourn the PCWDC Meeting was made by Commissioner Musgrave, seconded by Commissioner Barnhill and unanimously carried.

Karan Barnhill 2-23-26

Karan Barnhill, Secretary/Treasurer Date