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## WCCD Board Serves You

District residents elect West Central Conservancy District's board of directors, who serve four-year terms on a rotating basis. The board members encourage WCCD customers to attend their open, regular meetings at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district office. Meeting minutes are posted on the district's Website at [www.wccdin.org](http://www.wccdin.org). Board members are interested in what residents have to say and encourage them to share comments and concerns.

### Board of Directors

Karl P. Buetow, Chairman  
William Holland, Vice Chairman  
Linda L. Scott, Secretary  
W. James Webb, Financial Secretary  
Paul M. Allen, Member



Members of the West Central Conservancy District Board of Directors and the Plainfield Town Council signed the Service Agreement on December 19, 2007.

## West Central Conservancy District and the Town of Plainfield Sign Historic Service Agreement

The West Central Conservancy District and the Town of Plainfield signed a historic agreement in December that will end years of legal disputes between the two entities and permit Plainfield to serve the area it has annexed.

The agreement resolves a dispute about which group will provide sewer service to an area generally located between County Road 100 South to 300 South and an area east to west between County Road 200 East and the Ronald Reagan Parkway.

The majority of the area has been annexed into the town of Plainfield and includes the AllPoints Midwest Industrial Park where millions of square feet of warehouse buildings are under development by Duke and Browning reality groups.

"We now have established boundaries between the conservancy district and the Town of Plainfield making it possible for us to cooperatively work to plan and enhance this area," said WCCD District Manager Ron Goff, who helped negotiate terms of

the agreement with Plainfield Town Manager Richard Carlucci.

"This agreement represents a new working relationship between Plainfield and the WCCD," said WCCD Board of Directors Chairman Karl P. Buetow. "We can both now focus on providing the best sewer service possible to residents of our communities."

Under the terms of the agreement:

- Property between County Road 200 South and 300 South not in the Town of Avon and served by WCCD will become Plainfield's sewer area.
- The changes will not have an impact on current WCCD and Plainfield sewer customers.
- Plainfield will reimburse WCCD \$952,000 it spent to build a sewer main and lift station, which will now be incorporated into the Plainfield sewer system.

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## Agreement Ends Legal Disputes, Fosters Improved Cooperation

“Our plan not only makes sense from an engineering and planning standpoint, it also makes sense from the perspective of serving the best interests of WCCD customers and freeholders, and the citizens of Plainfield,” Buetow said.

“We are replacing legal squabbles with a cooperative working relationship that moves us forward and benefits all the people we serve in Hendricks County. That is a very positive thing,” he added.

Robin Brandgard, president of the Plainfield Town Council, agrees that this agreement represents the positive steps

taken for different governing agencies to work together.

“We are pleased that we were able to settle this sewer issue in a positive and expeditious manner for the property owners and developers in that area,” he

said. “AllPoints Midwest will have a strong impact on Avon and Plainfield for many years to come, and the Town of Plainfield is proud to have played a role in securing this very important development.”

*“We are replacing legal squabbles with a cooperative working relationship that moves us forward and benefits all the people we serve in Hendricks County.”*

– Karl P. Buetow

## Confined Space Training Ensures Employee Safety

Making sure West Central Conservancy District employees are safe on the job is among our top priorities.

Some of the most potentially dangerous tasks our staff faces on a daily basis are performing inspections, maintenance and repairs to equipment in our collection system of manholes and lift stations and at our treatment plant.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration classify all these types of work areas as “confined spaces.”

That means we must conduct annual classes to make sure our employees are properly trained in how to work safely in these environments.

To help make sure our staff gets the best safety training possible, we’ve done two things recently. First, we built a confined space training area when we expanded our wastewater treatment plant two years ago.

### **Hiring the Best**

Second, we hired the best experts we could find to conduct the training—Professional Safety Services Group. All three principals of the company—Rick Pohlman, Gerald George and Russ Shoaf—are fire service veterans who have earned the rank of battalion chief. What’s more, they’re members of Indiana Task Force One, one



Confined space training is conducted annually as part of WCCD’s employee safety program. The district has opened the training to both the public and private sectors involved in wastewater treatment.

of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s 28 Urban Search & Rescue Task Force teams that are deployed at a moment’s notice when disasters strike around the country.

Pohlman explained during a training exercise conducted last fall, that the OSHA regulations passed in the late 1980s have helped significantly reduce the number of injuries and deaths from accidents in confined spaces.

### **Teaching Safety**

“We teach them how to properly evaluate the space and what precautions to take before entering the space so there are safe operations,” Pohlman said. “We also teach them to have a rescue plan in place in case something does go wrong and how to get people out of

the space before the worst happens.”

Assistant Plant Superintendent Shawn Massingale, who helped coordinate the exercise, said, “This is our third or fourth year working with Professional Safety Services Group, and they do an excellent job. We look forward to doing this training with them in the future.”

Before building the training facility—which the conservancy district also makes available to area fire and rescue services—employees would use existing manholes in the district.

“Our goal is to give employees a feel for what it’s actually like to enter a confined space because we wanted to have a hands-on approach not just classroom instruction,” Massingale said.

## Expanded Testing Program Ensures a Cleaner Environment

Customers and freeholders know that our “business” at West Central Conservancy District is treating the wastewater that flows to our facility from homes and businesses within the Avon community and beyond.

Probably less well known are the steps we take to ensure that the water we return to the environment is clean and meets all state and federal clean water standards.

Just as the mantra for a successful real estate project is location, location, location, our mantra for making sure we return clean water to the environment is testing, testing, testing.

We expanded our testing program recently to get more and better information to ensure that we meet the highest environmental standards.

Since assuming the job of Plant Superintendent last year, Richard Hedge has enhanced our testing program by increasing the number of tests we perform, developing a procedure manual for lab techs to follow, and creating a computer database to track test results that provides more in-depth reporting.

“The benefit of testing is to verify that we’re meeting permit limitations. We test for such things as solids and biological oxygen demand, which tells us how much organic content is in the water, and



Herbert Johnson prepares a test sample.



we want that as low as possible,” Hedge said. “We also test for ammonia and pH levels and, from April through October, we test for E coli bacteria because it’s potentially harmful to humans.”

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management does not require E coli testing from November to March because cold temperatures kill any of the E coli bacteria that may be present.

Automatic devices collect “raw” and final samples of wastewater around the clock. Those samples are combined into one test sample for evaluation. In addition, WCCD personnel collect “grab samples” from each tank involved in the treatment process to make sure everything is working properly.

The plant’s effluent (the water WCCD discharges into White Lick Creek), is tested six times per day, every day of the year,

Hedge added.

The new computer database allows Hedge to do a better job of spotting trends in the wastewater treatment process and make adjustments to meet changing conditions such as rain events or surges in flow.

Matthew Hill, the conservancy district’s primary lab technician, has seen his workload increase with the new testing procedures; however, he thinks the changes are worthwhile because they will lead to a smoother running operation.

“Most of the time the tests show that our system is operating normally with no problems. These new procedures, however, will allow us to respond more quickly if treatment issues do arise,” Hill said.

“We take great pride in operating a first-class wastewater treatment facility,” said District Manager Ron Goff. “Richard’s ideas, background and experience are helping to ensure that our system operates at the highest possible level of environmental safety.”

## Fats, Oils and Grease Have Impact on Wastewater Treatment System

The West Central Conservancy District is initiating a program to educate customers and freeholders about the impact fats, oils and grease have on the wastewater treatment system.

The district is also considering a program to reward the public for reporting illegal dumping of waste into the sewer system. Details about the progress of this program will appear in future district newsletters.

Fats, oils and grease create problems in two ways. First, they interfere with the treatment of wastewater and, second, they

can accumulate and adhere to sewer walls. Over time, the buildup will cause blockage of flow resulting in overflows are environmental and public health issues.

Products such as shortening, lard, butter, margarine and cooking oil should never be poured down a sink or flushed down a toilet. Oils and grease might disappear as liquid, but they quickly cool and solidify, which is when problems begin to develop.

While the district has always had an inspection program for restaurants in the

Avon community, in the past six months the district has emphasized the education and inspection program for those that must dispose of oil and grease, said Collections Supervisor Gary Padgett.

“Our local restaurants have done an excellent job of cooperating with this new program,” Padgett said. “Our hope is that by emphasizing the education and reporting program we can virtually eliminate problems and potential backups caused by fats, oil and grease entering the wastewater treatment process.”

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THE WCCD NEWS

West Central Conservancy District  
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The newsletter you're reading is printed on recycled paper with up to 10 percent post-consumer recycled content. This is part of WCCD's effort to be a leader in environmental responsibility.



**West Central Conservancy District  
Board Of Director Meetings – 2008**

Monday	Jan. 21	5 p.m.
Wednesday*	Feb. 20	7 p.m.
Monday	Mar. 17	5 p.m.
Monday	April 21	5 p.m.
Monday	May 19	5 p.m.
Monday	June 16	5 p.m.
Monday	July 21	5 p.m.
Monday	Aug. 18	5 p.m.
Monday	Sept. 15	5 p.m.
Monday	Oct. 20	5 p.m.
Monday	Nov. 17	5 p.m.
Monday	Dec. 15	5 p.m.

\*Annual Meeting

**Buetow, Webb, Win Election for Area 3, Area 4 Directors in Annual Meeting**

W. James Webb and Karl P. Buetow won new four-year terms as Director, Area 3 and Area 4, respectively of the West Central Conservancy District at its annual meeting on Feb. 20.

Webb won a second term, while Buetow won his fourth. He is the conservancy district's longest serving member.

Webb is a retired electrician and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers official. Buetow owns McClain Matthews Insurance Agency.

Following the election, the board of directors elected officers for 2008. They are: Karl P. Buetow, Chairman; William Holland, Vice Chairman; Linda L. Scott, Secretary; W. James Webb, Financial Secretary; and Paul M. Allen, Member.

**WCCD Fast Fact**

Did you know there are now six ways to pay your bill?

- Via the Internet using WCCD ePay
- By check or cash in person at the district office
- Writing and mailing a check
- Paying online through a bank
- Automatic payment by credit card
- Automatic payment by debit card