

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING VANDERBURGH COUNTY'S APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO RESEARCH AND EXPLORE THE FORMATION OF A WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE HIGHLAND-PIGEON WATERSHED

WHEREAS, House Bill 1639 was passed by the General Assembly and became Public Law 251-2023, effective July 1, 2023, when signed by Governor Holcomb following the 2023 session of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, Section 13 of Public Law 251-2023 added a new article to Indiana Code, I.C. § 14-30.5 et. seq., titled Watershed Development Commissions;

WHEREAS, the executives of one or more counties may adopt ordinances designating their counties as members of a proposed watershed development commission;

WHEREAS, a watershed development commission may be established for certain flood damage reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation and water infrastructure purposes;

WHEREAS, a watershed development commission may also have water quality purposes if its board develops a water quality improvement plan;

WHEREAS, a watershed development commission is to be governed by a board that includes at least two members from each participating county, specifically its Surveyor and a Commissioner (or a Commissioner appointee);

WHEREAS, a watershed development commission is required to develop a flood damage reduction and drainage plan for its designated watershed;

WHEREAS, a watershed development commission is granted exclusive authority to perform drainage and flood damage reduction activities within the channel of the river that is the surface water outlet of its designated watershed or authorized to enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement with an existing local governmental authority to apportion flood damage reduction authority and financial support between the two entities;

WHEREAS, more than ninety percent (90%) of Pigeon Creek of the Highland-Pigeon Watershed runs through Gibson County, Warrick County and Vanderburgh County, resulting in differing jurisdictions, control and issues despite each individual county facing similar problems with flood damage reduction, drainage and storm water management;

WHEREAS, the above neighboring counties are interested in researching and exploring the formation of a watershed development commission to identify and tackle problems with Pigeon Creek, including local flooding, drainage and water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, the above neighboring counties are interested in working together to improve Pigeon Creek for flood damage reduction, industry, agriculture and collaborating as key stakeholders in the long-term improvement and revitalization of the Highland-Pigeon Watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana the following:

The Board of Commissioners of Warrick County fully supports the appropriation request by the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana for the Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC proposal to provide professional services to assist with an application for the formation of a watershed development commission in the amount of Sixty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$62,500.00), to be reimbursed from the Watershed Development Commission if and when formed.

The Board of Commissioners of Warrick County fully supports Vanderburgh County's efforts and commitment to the formation of the proposed Highland-Pigeon Watershed Development Commission within Vanderburgh County, Indiana and hereby commits to continue to explore Warrick County, Indiana's level of participation, if any, in said Highland-Pigeon Watershed Development Commission, including board participation and taxing authority.

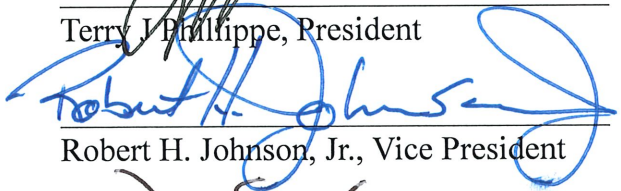
So adopted this 25th day of September, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA


WARRICK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Terry J. Phillippe, President

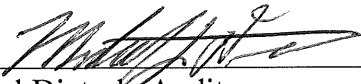


Robert H. Johnson, Jr., Vice President



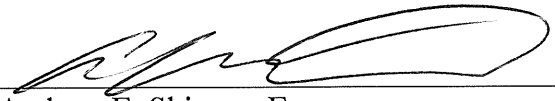
Dan Saylor, Member

ATTEST:



Michael Dietsch, Auditor
Warrick County, Indiana

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:



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