



This is the first in a series of staff and board member biographies that will be going out with the monthly billing.

Bob's Bio

Introduction:

My name is Bob Minarich and I have been serving as the General Manager for the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District since August of 2004.

That I got into the water utility business was not my original life goal. I was in my junior year at Purdue University studying IDE or Inter disciplinary engineering. I had intended to study the development of artificial limbs. At this time, NASA was laying off engineers by the thousands from their space program and I knew jobs were going to be scarce.

Coincidentally, my home town was looking for a new water superintendent and I was asked if I thought I could pass the test for being a certified water works operator. I did and for 20 years ran that system. I also oversaw the creation of a sanitary sewer project for the entire town and at times covered for the street superintendent among many other duties.

VLACD was looking for a new general manager and I applied for the job looking for something new. During my 10 years with L-A-C Utilities and the District, I have become a volunteer for the Clean Lakes Program, Hoosier Riverwatch, and attended and passed the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. I also serve on the Advisory Board of the Porter County Salvation Army and active with the American Legion.

After getting the job with my home town I raised a family of three children, 2 boys and a daughter. My daughter just recently gave me my first grandchild, Isabella Maeve, whom I will shortly visit in Ireland where my daughter and her husband reside.

My hobbies tend to change often but I enjoy woodworking, gardening, aquariums and horsing around with my pup Tiberius. The dog and I share (when he lets me) the house that I grew up in.