

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 6th, 2024, 8:00 am

USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Daniel Bullerdick, Marc Roberts (via call), Joyce Grimble, Jordan Gillenwater, Tricia Herr, Dave Stanley, Kenny Cain, Aron Rhoads, Nathan Stoelting, Hanna Garriott

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:03 am.

Partnership reports

Tricia- Master Gardener's class Tues and Thurs September 3rd thru November 7th. \$190 sign up fee, comes with a big textbook and lots of information. UAV class in Fountain County first week of September. Go have fun at the state fair! Tricia will be working at the fair part of the time and encourages everyone to go.

Joyce- Budget hearings are coming up, Council is looking at the external and the internal marks as far as pay. The county council is first going to work towards bringing those who are far below the average up to a better salary. Only the Salary committee has met so far based on the findings of the study. Joyce believes that changes will be implemented for 2025.

Kenny- SSB Kenny sits of steering committee for CCSI. CCSI is rolling out a new program called Ag vision, farmers to farmers. 7:30am on the 14th will be the first event. CWI Grants will be coming through in September.

Nathan- CWI Grants will be rolling out in September. No big change in the guidance, money needs to go towards removing sediments in water. Nathan is a resource for any further CWI grants the district may be interested in. Board leadership program is a new way of training online for board members, he encourages the board to check it out. It is in a pilot phase right now and Nathan is looking for feedback on the program to improve it as a way for board members to get trained up in between everyone's busy lives. Nathan will email Jordan with a link to send out to the board. The previous program was called the board leadership institute, it would travel across the state. Now it has been converted into an online format.

Jordan- Conducted exit interview with Kristen and asked for feedback from her. Kristen suggested more involvement from the board and to keep committees active for things like grant projects, budgets, and other ongoing district business. 3 applicants for the director's role have applied, interviews will be discussed further down in new business.

Sam- Community Grower's meeting next Wednesday evening, those interested are to get in contact with Sam and prepare a side dish using ingredients from your garden. Sam will discuss the status of field days during old business.

Dave- Re-ups for CRP, NRCS has tag teamed that process for Fountain and Montgomery County. Dave has paid for a few EQIP contracts for forest management plans. Anything not funded this year for EQIP will roll into next year so no signing up is required.

Hanna- Hanna, our Resilient Indiana Technical Assistant, introduced herself and described her role in being an assistant to the district. She recently helped with the Garden Walk and will be helping guide at field days late this month.

Consent agenda: Treasurer's report will be filed next month. Corrected date on past minutes Daniel moved to approve, Aron 2nd to file minutes with correction. Motion approved. Jordan motioned to pay both reimbursements of \$35 to Sam and Kristen, Aron 2nd. consent agenda approved as presented.

Old Business

Upper Sugar Creek 319 Grant- The only thing left pending is a few letters of support. The application is nearly ready to go and send in. FOSC and TNC will be sending in their letters of support this week. Jordan will reach back out to Sara Peel to double check before submitting the application by September 2nd.

Field Days- Sam has nearly everything ready, will need to purchase ice and additional water and snacks. Sam requested board members be present during field days. Sam will deliver teacher packets as soon as the final counts for students are known. Sam and Dave will arrange with Aron to pick up the tables and chairs. Jordan and Raoul will assist with picking up ice and other items needed closer to the date, Sam will have a list prepared. We are currently under budget with reimbursements for various things factored in. Insurance check will be made out and delivered by Sam today. Sam asked the board to be present at Field Days and setup day if available to assist with making things go smoothly.

Hiring Process and Committee for Director position- Marc wants to get ball rolling on interviews for next week. Marc can reserve a room at Fusion 54 for Monday the 12th of August at 5:30pm for a couple hours. Jordan will reach out to the applicants and invite them to the interviews.

Budget Hearing Committee- 26th and 27th of August are the budget hearing meetings. Kenny, Raoul, and Jordan will be presenting at the meeting for higher salaries for the district positions. Jordan will schedule a time slot for our presentation to the council.

New Business

IDEA Conference Registration- Sam requested \$430 for registration and hotel stay for the IDEA conference in October. Daniel Motioned to approve, Aron 2nd motion approved

W4L Learning Circle Nov 12th – This year's Learning circle will be a soil health presentation at the Cain's farms. Sam and Hanna have started planning with the state coordinator Heather Bacher and Brienne Lowe. The site has been secured with Kenny. We currently have a budget of \$450 for Learning Circles. Sam will determine the costs for lunches and possibly port a john rental for the day.

Jordan motioned to reconsider the approval of last month's minutes due to a need for an additional correction in New Business to state Kristen will be taken off the HHSB account,

signed minutes will be taken into the bank and signed off on by Jordan and Raoul to complete this process. Daniel motioned to approve Aron 2nd. Motion approved.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:53 am.

Minutes approved 8/29, 2024

J. Miller
Daniel Ballant
M. R.

Raoul Anson

Submitted by Lea Hickle

**Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 14th, 2024, 8:00 am
USDA Service Center Conference Room**

In attendance: Daniel Bullerdick, Marc Roberts, Raoul Moore, Sam Lovold

Daniel opened the meeting at 8:04 am.

Partnership reports

Sam- Field Days Preparation is going well, Sam is distributing teacher packets today. Sam needs ice for each day and some perishable breakfast items for each day. There is a Community Grower's Meeting this evening as well. CISMA meeting was scheduled for October 24th, since then the IDEA conference was announced, and it falls on the same dates. Sam will push the CISMA meeting back 1 week.

Consent agenda: Secretary's Report, August 6th meeting minutes
Raoul motioned to approve the minutes, Marc 2nd. Motion approved.

Old Business

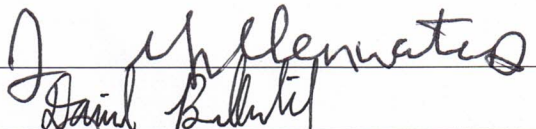
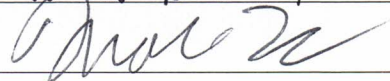
Conservation Director Interview Discussion- Last Monday the board interviewed the applicants for the Director position. Raoul motioned to offer the job to the first pick Gillianne, and then Lea the second pick if Gillianne declines. Marc 2nd. Motion carried.

New Business

None to discuss at this meeting.

Daniel adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am.

Minutes approved 8/29, 2024

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Submitted by Lea Hickie

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 29th, 2024, 8:00 am
USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Joyce Grumble, Jordan Gillenwater, Daniel Bullerdick, Raoul Moore, Marc Roberts, Kenny Cain, Michael Hill, Seth Harden, Sam Lovold, Dave Stanley

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:04 am.

Partnership reports

Sam- will compile a list of supplies needed for CISMA activities this fall. Will reach out to local businesses to see if they will be able to donate any materials for the CISMA. Will now be turning attention towards weed wrangles in October and Learning Circle in November. Was approached by Wabash to be partner on a INPS and Wabash Community Grant towards a native wildflower garden project on Wabash's campus. The ask is for help with routine maintenance and promotion of the garden. Board is in support of this initiative and use of district page to promote and staff. No motion needed at this time.

Dave- Has been going to Fountain County once a week still, no new EQIPs here in county yet. Re-ups are nearly caught up here in the county, thanks to the soil conservationists for their support. Next week FSA will be going to an all-employee conference and be out of the office for 3 days. CSP and EQIP sign up for next year are available.

Kenny- Next SSB meeting is on the 10th. They will be having a summer summit in Putnam County down in Greencastle. This year's topic will be watershed development commissions. Like other development commissions.

Joyce- Joyce thought that the board did well at the budget hearings. The new director will remain non-exempt going forward. The new hire will start at where Kristen

Consent agenda: Raoul moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Marc 2nd. Motion approved. Marc moved to file the July treasurer's report. Raoul 2nd. Motion approved.

Old Business

Upper Sugar Creek 319 Grant- Finished adding Letters of Support to the grant application. Jordan spoke with Sara Peel and will submit the application later today. We will learn if we were accepted in November

Field Days- Field Days went very smoothly. Sam has written to the teachers and presenters/volunteers thanking and asking for feedback. Sam has nearly finished putting away all of the field day supplies as well.

Budget Hearing Committee- Two nights ago the budget hearing happened. Joyce believes we should hear back in October at some point since the budget needs to go to the state for approval.

The Program Coordinator position will likely receive a boost in pay which we will hear about at some point in the future. The Director Position will likely remain at a similar level. Jordan called upon the board to continue to talk with our county officials about the benefits of soil and water.

New Business

New Conservation Director-September 9th – New Director Lea Hickie will be starting later next month. The board felt good about each applicant in general. We discussed trainings and conferences to send her off to including IDEA and IWLA. Jordan discussed a suggestion from Kristen to move to QuickBooks online. Raoul motioned to move over to QuickBooks online. Marc 2nd. Motion approved.

First 319 Project Closure Letter- We sent our last invoice in for the project and received a letter saying we were officially done with that project.

RCPP Update- The RCPP proposal was submitted in July for 15 million dollars for the 20-county project. $\frac{3}{4}$ of that funding will go toward cost share. The other $\frac{1}{4}$ will go towards hiring technicians and other support staff. The practice list of projects that could be funded is very extensive. it primarily focuses on edge of field but also includes in field practices. 15 of 20 counties have submitted letters of support and have added over 1 million dollars' worth of in-kind match. If approved Seth will then enter a negotiation phase with NRCS at the state level and things would be able to get started next summer at the earliest if all goes well. Dave suggested a training for the potential personnel on how to sell the non-traditional practices from both the angle of the farmer and landowner. Seth also mentioned a land stewardship leadership training from Iowa that will be coming to Indiana through Purdue extension and a SARE grant.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:33 am.

Minutes approved 10/3, 2024

Lea Hickie
J. Allenwitz
Marc

David Bullard

Submitted by Lea Hickie