

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 3rd, 2025, 8:00 AM
USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Marc Roberts, Raoul Moore, Daniel Bullerdick, Joyce Grimble, Jordan Gillenwater, Rachel Stine, Adam Beck, Aron Rhoads, George Reger, Kenny Cain, Sam Lovold, Lea Hickle

Daniel opened the meeting at 8:02 am

Partnership reports

Adam- ECAP program is currently going out to producers. It started Wednesday the 19th of last month. 200 applicants as of now. Pushed out 4.1 million dollars in the county since it opened. Similar to past programs based on base acres but not using planted acres to determine payment. Wrapping up Arc/PLC. Ends on 15th of this month. CRP is still on pause. There is a possibility of all CRP contracts coming up for a renewal will get a 1 year extension. Everything else is up to date other than new contracts. The facility loan program is still going on, pending financial review from the Rockville office.

Kenny- Discussed guidance of clean water Indiana Grants with State Soil Board. September 12th is the deadline for those grant applications. Summit meetings have been pushed back to 2026.

George Reger- ISDA Soil Sampling signup ends tomorrow. Will likely open back up in the fall. Works great for small farmers with pastures. Tillage Transect work is ongoing. Will work on Montgomery County Transect with Sam and Lea next week, all are welcome to join if interested. Hoping to see more cover crops along the transect.

Joyce- Legislative Breakfast on the 12th here in Crawfordsville. Soil and Water are Chamber of Commerce members and get the member rate on admission.

Marc- State Association furloughed program staff for a couple of weeks and brought them back. RITA techs were brought back on as contractors due to the lapse in IRA funding rather than full time staff.

Sam- Hosted compost education activity at the Carnegie Museum in collaboration with the Community Growers. Weed Wrangle with FOSC was successful, cleared a large section of creek bank. Next week is War of the Weeds with NICHES. Will be going on site visit to two new NICHES properties with NICHES Staff next Monday. There is an invasive survey scheduled for next week as well as a CISMA Meeting. Our Native Plant Sale will open on May 5th. It will be online preorder with pickup at the Master Gardener's Native Plant Sale.

Lea- Received our \$20,000 from CWI. Chainsaws and Chickadees training on the 23rd of April down in Dubois. Registration is \$20 a person and will be most of the day.

Consent agenda Daniel moved to approve, Jordan 2nd. Consent agenda approved to file as presented with correction to the previous minutes.

Old Business

Summer Summit during 4th grade field days- Summer Summit has waned over the past few years. The goal is to connect members of the ICP. They have been weighing the benefits of holding them on a smaller regional basis or in 3 parts of the state. They have kicked the can for them down the road to 2026 now. Kenny will be working closely with Jordan on this since he is our new Region Director. The decision to hold a showcase meeting after field days is up to the board. Jordan, Kenny, Raoul, and Lea will form a committee to discuss details. They will form a plan before next month's board meeting.

New Business

Mandatory training for board members- There are some mandatory training courses for board members on the ISDA website under the New Supervisors Tabs with 4 videos and completion forms that need to be turned into Lea. Lea will send out an updated email with links to these videos for the board to complete. Next month they will shoot to have the front 2 trainings done. At the end of either the May or June meeting the group will aim to do the sexual harassment training as a group.

319 Grant FY26 Application- NOI is due June 1st to put our name in the hat for the next 319 Grant. Lea will go to Sara Peel and Seth Harden to discuss our application for this year. We want to find a central issue to identify in our application to address in hopes of making a stronger application. Lea will prepare a letter for the NOI to be signed at the next meeting. Jordan will form committee for the 319 Application process with himself, Kenny, Lea, Michael Hill, and Daniel to oversee the process with Lea to make our application as strong as possible this year. Rachel will help proofread the grant.

North Montgomery Prairie- Zach Cain in conjunction with Coal Creek Pheasants Forever has been working with the North Montgomery School Board on converting the elementary baseball diamonds as well as some other places around the schools into native grass prairies to cut down on mowing maintenance. Sam called and talked to Zach, and they are currently shopping for quotes on different mixes. Sam will reach out to the North Montgomery School Board and provide some technical assistance and guidance for this project and report back next month.

Upcoming bills:

- IDEA Dues
 - IDEA dues were actually \$50 per person and not total as Lea presented at a previous meeting. Raoul motioned to approve the IDEA Dues for \$100 for Lea and Sam. Rachel 2nd. Motion carried.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am

Minutes approved 5/1, 2025

David Bullock

J. M. M.

Raul Arora

Submitted by Lea Hickie

