

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 6th, 2025, 8:00 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Marc Roberts, Raoul Moore, Daniel Bullerdick, Kenny Cain, Dave Stanley, Aron Rhoads, Michael Hill, Adam Beck, Rachel Stine, Joyce Grimble, Nathan Stoelting, Lea Hickle, Sam Lovold

Daniel opened the meeting at 8:15 am

Partnership reports

Dave- NRCS has been affected by the federal layoffs. All staff who have been on under a year were let go. Dave has word from the state office that states that 35 probationary employees have been fired in Indiana. By March 14th all agencies need to have a reduction in force plan to lay off more employees. The fork in the road offer Dave mentioned last time has not moved forward in any tangible way for those who took that offer. IASWCD program staff for USH, CCSI, and RITA were all furloughed. The contribution agreement is likely not to be renewed in the future, it ends this year. The contribution agreement between the district and NRCS contracts us to check CRP waterways and filter strips that are up for renewal or field checks.

Adam- ARC/PLC sign ups are going on. April 15th is the deadline for sign ups. Adam recommends to pick a program and move on, payments have been on hold regardless. ECAP emergency commodity assistance program is the new program to get payouts out to producers. CRP is still in the same boat, there is no new sign up. Heather has begun drawing up CRP contracts for those who have been on the wait list longest in anticipation of it opening in the future. There are no NRCS employees to conduct that work currently regardless. In regard to workforce reduction orders Adam feels confident with our workload and needs in Montgomery County this USDA office would not be affected.

Kenny- SSB has been in strategic planning meetings. They have been spending a lot of time in training and recruiting of IASWCD staff and making a centralized summit for training and networking.

Marc- IASWCD has been able to catch up with the increase in dues and tuck away 3 months of salary, they had to furlough 18 program staff due to the federal funding freeze. Marc has recommended putting rent back in the budget for all districts due to the uncertainty of future federal funding and office space.

Nathan- Looking to revamp training processes around the state. DSS's got together Friday to come up with a list of everything district staff need to get started on the job. They came up with a 5-page document and now need to come up with a more concise deliverable for that. Working on getting out CWI funds to each different. Processing training reimbursements on a first come first serve basis. Summer Summit they are looking toward a supervisor training to occur during that.

Joyce- Courthouse is currently being remodeled. Today is the ribbon cutting for the Early Childcare Center in town, which has been a longtime need in our community. Looking to raise wheel tax to help take care of roads. If property taxes are done away with at the state level, the work done on local income tax will potentially help, schools are in trouble in the county if those property taxes go away.

Sam- Planning Weed Wrangles for the spring, closest one coming up is March 22nd Saturday at the old Coke Plant from 9am-12pm. Long list of wrangles on the calendar this spring with school groups, clubs, and businesses. Growers have begun planning events for the year. North Montgomery Springfest is a new event coming up. We have been asked to have a station during it. The date has yet to be determined.

Lea- March 26th we will be at the Carnegie for Compost Crusaders. Requested reimbursement in our contractual budget line for our catering from the Juniper Spoon. AFR was submitted, our \$20,000 from CWI should be available to us soon. As of now the contribution agreement has been frozen on payments. Any further work done on it will not be guaranteed to be paid. Lea is now a resident of Montgomery County!

Consent agenda Raoul moved to approve, Rachel 2nd. Consent agenda approved to file as presented with correction to the previous minutes to amend state soils competition to State FFA Competition.

Old Business

Plant Sale- Sam received a quote from Woody Warehouse for the shrubs and small trees for the plant sale for a price of \$1,830. In addition to advertising costs and extra funds for additional plants if some sell out early Sam is requesting \$2,250 dollars for this years plant sale. Aron motioned to approve the budget, Raoul 2nd. Motion to approve Sam's budget request of \$2,250 approved.

Donation to Southmont FFA- The South FFA was appreciative of the sponsorship we provided them at our annual meeting.

New Business

North Montgomery FFA Sponsorship- March 14th-16th is the FFA annual retreat for North Montgomery. They have reached out to request a sponsorship for this trip. Aron moved to sponsor their trip for \$1000, Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

Officer Elections- We need to fill the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, secretary, and treasurer. Aron moved to keep the positions the same, with Jordan as chair, Daniel vice chair, Raoul as secretary/treasurer. Daniel 2nd, motion approved.

Summer Summit- Kenny has once again petitioned to host the IASWCD summer summit at the Cain's Homelike Farms during Field Days week. The talk now is to have the state split into 3 regions and have a summit in each one. Kenny would like to have the meeting on the 1st day of field days in their shop since it is already set up and ready to go. Kenny suggests a panel of lots of folks from around the state in different leadership positions.

- Upcoming bills:
 - Chamber of Commerce membership ~ \$200
 - 2025 IASWCD Annual Dues ~ \$4,011.89 (plus \$401.19 for Gold Level membership)

Motioned to approve paying dues and the Gold Level membership, Aron 2nd. Motion approved.

Daniel adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am

Minutes approved May 1, 2025

Daniel Bullard

Raoul Aron

J. Spiller

Submitted by Lea Hickie