

# Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 8:00 AM

### USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Joyce Grimble, Marc Roberts, Jordan Gillenwater, Lea Dick, Brandy Daggett, Aron Rhoads, Raoul Moore, Jess Cain, Zach Cain, & Kenny Cain

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:06 AM

#### Partnership reports

Kenny – The State Soil Board had their 25<sup>th</sup> CWI Guidance meeting recently. Kenny will report back next meeting with any updates.

Marc – The Urban Soil Health program is currently in their last year of funding. They may not be able to continue their contract with IASWCD next year. IASWCD is waiting to see how things develop. Mark will report any new updates at the next board meeting.

Brandy – Brandy is covering 11 counties, including Montgomery, as acting DC and her normal duties as Planning Team Leader. In our office she has been familiarizing herself with the current contracts. She is working closely with producers and getting their contracts into compliance. Rob Miller and George Reger have been helping her with Suitability and Feasibility forms.

Sam- Native Plant Sale has been steady, still have around 40 trees and shrubs to sell day of at the Master Gardener's Native Plant Jamboree on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>. It will take place from 10am-2pm. Sam visited Hamilton County SWCD to learn about the Park Stewardship volunteer program with the goal of adapting a similar system for the Brickyard and other parks in town here. We met with the Shades State Park naturalist and discussed doing some weed wrangles at the park this summer in conjunction with Parke County SWCD. Our first one will be June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We are hosting an SWCD Drop in at the Table Spoon on June 17<sup>th</sup> to attract interest to the Growers group and our programs in general. Planning for the Garden Walk is underway as well with a date of Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>. We are currently planning a route and looking for interested gardeners to be hosts on the tour. We have ordered water bottles for the field days and have all but the Pollinators station presenters confirmed. The Brickyard Prairie is starting to green up. Some Canada Thistle Patches have revealed themselves though, Sam is planning to spot spray them. If anyone knows of a side by side with a spray tank that would make it a quick job and keep the prairie safe from encroachment. We are in the process of getting a quote for the signs for the Brickyard prairie, we currently have around \$1,700 left in our \$5,000 approved budget for the Brickyard prairie.

Lea- I updated my new last name at HHSB, Jordan and Raoul will be sent an account agreement revision to sign.

**Consent agenda** Aron moved to approve, Raoul 2<sup>nd</sup>. Consent agenda approved to file as presented.

## **Old Business**

Mandatory Trainings for board members – Jordan and Aron need to finish their board trainings and present their certificate of completion to Lea. Lea will send them a reminder before the next board meeting.

319 Grant FY26 Application – Lea got guidance from Olivia Wenger about applying for 319 Grants. It is speculated that there is a much smaller pot of money for this year's 319 grant than last year's. The Upper Sugar Creek Watershed (the area of interest for our project) is not considered a priority zone according to IDEM standards. Lea proposes to research other grant opportunities, such as CWI Grants, to fund our project. CWI grants are a smaller pot of money but much easier to apply and report to. Kenny announces that there will be a meeting discussing CWI Grant guidance on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Lea will learn more about CWI Grants and report back next board meeting.

North Montgomery Prairie – Jess and Zach Cain presented information about a native prairie that the North Montgomery School Corporation recently planted at some of their schools. The prairies will be used as pollinator habitat and a living classroom that students will have at their disposal. The School is requesting SWCD sponsorship of the prairie. In the future, North Montgomery plans to put up signage in front of the prairie. They would include the SWCD logo, should we sponsor the planting. We have \$20,000 in our Clean Water Indiana Fund that has not been allocated yet this year. The total cost of the seed mix was \$4,798.72. If other school districts request sponsorship for a similar project in the future, we could support them. Raoul motioned to sponsor North Montgomery School Corporation \$4,798.72 for the native prairie. Aron 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion approved.

Hay Ride and Hang – August 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM will be our SNW Regional Meeting, “Hayride and Hang”. A \$100 gift card was purchased to give to Lenny Farlee for speaking at our annual meeting, however he declined this payment. Since the gift card is non-refundable, we will use it as the door price at the Hayride and Hang. Swicks BBQ will be catering. Lea requested a budget of \$2,000 to pay for catering. Raoul motioned to approve the requested budget. Aron 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

## **New Business**

Farmer Float Trip – We will postpone the Farmer Float trip this year. Friends of Sugar Creek (FOSC) has decided not to fund the event, rather they would only provide the canoes. With short notice, the event would most likely not be well attended. We will continue correspondence with FOSC and try again next year.

SWCD Truck – There are only 2 vehicles assigned to our USDA Service Center currently. It is speculated that NRCS Affiliates will not be able to use these vehicles in the future. Lea proposes that the board should think about purchasing an SWCD truck for work purposes. The district owns a trailer and Polaris, but without a truck to haul the trailer and Polaris, these are useless.

Brandy mentions that many surrounding SWCDs own a work truck. Lea will speak with these SWCDs and learn more about the process of buying/owning a work vehicle.

Polaris Tune-up – Lea requested a budget of \$233 to pay for an oil change and inspection of the Polaris. Raoul motioned to approve. Aron 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM

Minutes approved 7/3, 2025

AJ Rhoads  
Raoul  
Aron

David B. Smith

Submitted by Lea Dick