

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

In attendance: Aron Rhoads, Kenny Cain, Raoul Moore, Rachel Stine, Daniel Bullerdick, Seth Harden, Marc Roberts, Lea Dick, Sam Lovold

Daniel opened the meeting at 8:07 AM

Partnership reports

Marc – USH grant ends in September, no new grant with NRCS to continue it. IASWCD will pursue a CWI grant for it. RITA and CCSI are secure for the time being.

Kenny – Gave report with Jordan at IASWCD meeting in Morgan Monroe a while back. SSB will be meeting next Tuesday in Indy. One topic brought up at the previous meeting was a potential fund set back of CWI monies to help struggling districts, those displaced from federal offices, etc.

Sam - 4th grade field days planning is coming along smoothly, have received order of water bottles, reserved porta johns, and confirmed all the presenters. Next Table Talk Tuesday to be held on July 15th. We will be at the Table Spoon to talk shop with people on conservation. Next CISMA meeting will be on July 17th. We received our reimbursements from SICIM for our activities last year for an amount of \$5,575. Forestry Field Day is to be held on July 25th in the evening from 6pm-8pm details and location TBA. Garden Walk planning is underway for July 26th in the morning. Will be centralized around the Nicholson School Garden, still looking for additional gardens in the area. Plant Sale has been wrapped up, after expenses, removing tax and fees we profited \$260.32.

Lea – Resolutions can be submitted for the IASWCD business meeting. No annual conference but there will still be a business meeting in Indy at the Farm Bureau meeting in December. Resolutions are due in September. There is a succession planning workshop in August for districts in Ferdinand Indiana.

Consent agenda Rachel motioned to approve with corrections to spelling of names in previous minutes, Raoul 2nd. Consent agenda approved to file as presented.

Old Business

319 Grant vs CWI Grant – Lea attended a CWI grant guidance session as well as a Purdue Extension grant workshop recently to learn all about grants. With our watershed not being in IDEM's priority area for 319 it may be more worthwhile to pursue CWI funds to start up some of our projects from our 319 project. Seth thinks it is still worthwhile pursuing our application to 319 as usual and eye CWI to potentially fund a portion of our project. Kenny brought up the focus of CWI grants recently has been in capacity and equipment. Lea would like to have

another committee meeting to discuss our gameplan for our 319 application. Daniel, Kenny, and Jordan will help with this discussion and Lea will reach out to our neighboring counties.

NRCS Contribution Agreement 2026-2031 – NRCS pushed back the signing of our next Contribution Agreement to after our current one expires. Lea passed out the revised agreement. It is relatively the same from our past 5 year agreement with some updates to staff salaries which bumps up the total reimbursement amount of the life of the contract about \$1000. We will discuss our decision at a later meeting.

SWCD Truck – Lea learned that our county does not have a fleet system for vehicles. Lea also spoke with Eric in Vermilion county about potential avenues to get vehicles. SWCDs cannot take loans and would have to buy vehicles outright. Lea added a line in our budget for vehicle maintenance in case we do need to purchase a truck. Lea will continue to gather information about this process.

New Business

2026 County Budget Hearing – Budget hearing for the county is August 26th in the evening in the County building. Kenny will attend with Lea. Lea removed a few redundant budget lines and reduced some money from the overtime budget since Sam takes comp time. Lea will add a line for rent in the budget and keep it at \$0 for the time being should we no longer be able to be in the same office as NRCS and FSA.

Native Landscaping at the County Building – Tom Klein brought up an interest in having some native landscaping at the County Building. He did not give many specifics on scope or what he is interested in. Lea will meet with Tom and come up with a game plan and report back.

TNC Update RCPP – The RCPP project was unfortunately terminated by the National NRCS. They had to sign an amendment to formally end the project a couple weeks ago. There will be an opportunity in the fall to submit a request for proposal again. TNC is going to continue to work with Districts on smaller projects and focus on edge of field practices still.

District Apparel – Lea designed some new district t shirts for staff and the board to promote the district and do field work in rather than our polos which aren't quite suited for things like weed wrangles. Rachel recommended topline as an option. Lea will get some other quotes from around town. Lea will get quotes on around 25 t-shirts and hoodies.

IDEA Fall Conference – October 15th-17th on Lake Monroe. Registration is \$150 each and the cost to stay at the hotel is \$129 per night. Lea requests a budget of \$816 to pay for registration and hotel for her and Sam to attend Fall Conference. Aron motioned to approve, Daniel seconded, motion carried. Lea and Sam will look to gather a silent auction item.

Rachel adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM

Minutes approved August 7, 2025

Paul Dick

Paul Dick

Paul Dick

Submitted by Lea Dick