

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 7th, 2025, 8:00 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

Board Members

Jordan Gillenwater
Q1 2025 – Q1 2028
Elected

Daniel Bullerdick
Q1 2024 – Q1 2027
Elected

Raoul Moore
Q1 2023 – Q1 2026
Elected

Aron Rhoads
Q1 2024 – Q1 2027
Appointed by SSCB

Rachel Stine
Q1 2025 – Q1 2028
Appointed by SSCB

In attendance: Michael Hill, Tricia Herr, Daniel Bullerdick, Jordan Gillenwater, Kenny Cain, Raoul Moore, Joyce Grimble, Brandy Daggett, Lea Dick, Sam Lovold, Adam Beck.

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:03 AM

Partnership reports

Michael – Putting 5 acres into CREP program. Water has limited the amount of planting they've been able to do, tentatively will seed prairie in the fall or spring.

Brandy – Brandy is still acting DC with no end date announced yet. EQIP has 12 active contracts currently in the county, was 15 when Brandy started acting. Contracts are starting to near completion. 2 pending 2025 applications. 10 new applications for the next year. Mostly small farm projects with a couple invasives and cover crops. CSP there are 5 active contracts and 1 application for FY 2025. 2 renewal applications. CRP workload is heavy and NRCS is short staffed to cover the load of new applications, will be slow moving. DCs from other counties may come in and help once their workloads are done.

Kenny – SSB has been quiet as of late. Kenny is off to the State Fair for the Pathway to Water Quality and will be filming an interview and helping out after.

Adam – Supplemental Disaster Relief program has been doing payouts for producers who had insurance payments in 23 and 24. They had a county committee meeting on Monday where they approved these payments. Drought was an ineligible reasoning for these years but other storm damage was approved. We have sent some program techs to other surrounding counties to help with their workloads as some have recently become short staffed. CRP reenrolls and new offers have been steadily rolling in. The amount of contracts that are not reenrolling has increased significantly this year compared to previous years. 3-4 facility loan program requests.

Raoul – Indiana Woodland Stewards Association has their annual meeting the 1st weekend in November at Turkey Run. 5 nominees from this region.

Tricia – Changes to extension are likely to come. Piloting extension “pods” where counties share a couple of extension educators rather than have ones for each county. State Fair is going on right now. DNR Fishing is looking for volunteers as well. Our county fair went well. 564 4Hers had projects and showed at the fair. Master Gardeners plant exchange on September 27th. Tricia

is looking for advice in a meeting about what areas she should focus her educational programs towards. Will be in touch with Lea and Adam. Diversified cornbelt tour is making a stop in Montgomery County at Joe Mills Farm next Tuesday. It is free but requires registration.

Lea – Changes to open door law. Executive sessions can now discuss healthcare options, employee specific compensation or employment matters, and employee handbook changes. Now on board meeting minutes and agendas we have to put the names, positions, appointing authority, and dates of term for board members. SWCD board meetings have to live stream if they meet in the community meeting room in the county building. Contribution agreement can be signed at any time it will be reviewed in December. Lea will resend the Contribution Agreement. Lea has been working with the county IT department to lower some of our costs. We also got on the county antivirus program to save some money.

Sam – Held Garden Walk and Forestry Field Day this month. Continuing with Table Talk Tuesdays, has opened new opportunities to work with people in the community. Held Growers meeting yesterday. Get the Dirt USH conference to be held September 4th. Planning to also hold a composting workshop with our USH specialist on September 21st. Sam conducted two invasive species property surveys this past month. Sam is working on reimbursement applications for SICIM with the surveys, outreach, and weed wrangles we have done. Will be a great way to add more funds to our CISMA and begin making some equipment purchases.

Consent agenda Raoul moved to approve, Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

Old Business

SWCD Truck Purchase – Lea has spoken with Lori Dossett to find out about how the county has gone about purchasing vehicles. Lea has added a line for vehicle maintenance in case we do end up purchasing a county vehicle. As of now we still have use of the federal truck. We've done the groundwork so now if it comes to it, we will be ready.

2026 County Budget Hearing – Will be on August 26th at 4:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room. The changes to the budget are:

- Added a line for vehicle maintenance totaling \$1,000
- Added a line for office rent w/ estimated amount of \$9,500
- Deleted lines for Social Security, Cleaning, and Off Storage Space
- Reduced OT line to \$0
- PC and CD given 3% raise as advised by the county auditor.

Our 2026 budget is \$12,356 more than 2025's budget. Lea and Kenny will be at this hearing to present our proposed budget to the county council.

Native Landscaping at the County Government Building – Lea and Tom Klein met and talked about using some of the underutilized lawn at the Government building for a planting project. Discussed some different options including a sensory garden. Could potentially gather volunteers during the Montgomery County Volunteer Day.

District Apparel – Lea presented a few quotes from a handful of area businesses. The board decided to go with Toplines Athletics. Jordan moved to approve spending \$750 dollars on district apparel, Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

New Business

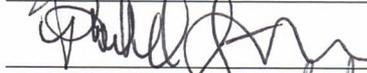
4th Grade Field Days/Hayride and Hang – Field Days is mostly ready to go. Need to go shopping for snacks and supplies. By the end of the day tomorrow will have final counts of students from the schools and guides as well as insurance. Will need ice each morning for water coolers and drink cooler. Raoul will get ice each morning for the coolers. Dave still planning to assist. Aron will help get tables and chairs.

Kenny has been going to all the meetings in the region to call upon our region’s supervisors and staff to come to the hayride and hang region meeting. Kenny has reached out to Trey Barton to try to get the Baird’s to the meeting. Coltin Gresser will be there to do a fishing demo.

Upcoming Bills – Tom’s Marine bill for \$596.49. Much higher than we had budgeted for at the previous meeting. Jordan moved to approve, Raoul 2nd. Motion approved.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:42 AM

Minutes approved September 4, 2025

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Submitted by Lea Dick