

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 4th, 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: Raoul Moore, Daniel Bullerdick, Aron Rhoads, Jordan Gillenwater, Adam Beck, Brandy Daggett, Kenny Cain, Michael Hill, Nathan Stoelting, Lea Dick, Sam Lovold

Absent: Rachel Stine

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:04 AM

Partnership reports

Adam – Shutdown Adam and Sherry were asked to come in and process commodity loans on Oct 25. It took 11 days for their programs to come up to do that. ARC payments came out; we paid on wheat in this county. Some surrounding counties paid on corn but not ours. CRP was unable to be worked on during the shutdown. Supplemental disaster relief program is the next program to come out. This program is for those with insurance claims in '23 or '24 and pays on top of those. Only 11 were issued in the county for the first phase. There are over 500 applicants for the next phase in '23, '24, and '25. Payments will start coming in the next couple weeks, it will depend on the producers' crop insurance for those years. The SDRP has no deadline, FSA will be reaching out to producers about it soon. Commodity loans interest rates are still going at a rate of 4.269%. Adam and Sherry checked 11 bins yesterday.

Base allocations and yield updates. Base acres on farms can be updated this year as well as yields. If yields go down then you won't have to update them. CRP payments have been made. Lots of calls asking about payments but we were unable to get those out during the shutdown. Most payments should be made by Friday or Saturday.

Michael – He is still waiting on CREP and getting some seed in the ground this month.

Brandy – CSP and EQIP payments have been top of the list. 5 active CSP and 11 active EQIP in the county right now. CRP status reviews has had its deadline pushed back into February. Interim CRP plans still have a deadline at the end of the month. Rob Miller has been working a lot of out this office on determinations for wetlands. Brandy will still be acting for the time being. The hiring freeze is apparently going to be lifted, with high priority positions looking to be filled like county District Conservationists.

Kenny – CWI grants have been issued by the State Soil Board. Next SSB meeting is next week, they will recognize Ray Chattin and Amy Burris for their service to the SSB. They will be working on the plan of work for next year.

Lea – Employee evaluations are coming up; Lea will conduct one with Sam this month. Lea will present that to the board next month during an executive session. Since no business can be decided on during an executive session, the minutes of that board meeting will only state that an executive session was held for the stated reason and that the information discussed will be properly filed. December 19th is the IASWCD business meeting. Jordan and Daniel are registered to go. Per diems for the board are due to be sent out at the end of this month. Any outstanding mileage that the board would like to be reimbursed for should be reported to Lea ASAP.

Sam – Held Table Talk Tuesday a couple weeks ago. Have had 2 invasive surveys this past month. Attended the Indiana Parks and Rec Association awards banquet where we and Parks and Rec received the Clark Ketchum Conservation Award for our Brickyard Prairie Project. Will be assisting Tricia Herr with an educational bird program later this afternoon with one of the elementary after school clubs. CRP reviews are in full swing, waiting for a break in the weather to get back out again though. 4 townships have been checked off the map so far.

Jordan – Jordan has been reviewing the proposed resolutions for the IASWCD business meeting. One he brought up was the potential for using bottle deposits to supplement the conservation funds. Another proposal titled “snowballs chance” was to allow for district supervisors to be eligible for election in counties in which they do not primarily reside but own property. This proposition. The third proposition concerned consolidation of smaller districts not collocated with a USDA office, and forming a study committee to research the feasibility of consolidating smaller districts. Jordan will vote on these at the upcoming business meeting.

Raoul – Raoul brought up a drainage ditch that crosses Montgomery, Clinton, and Tippecanoe that has been fully cleared on both sides. Raoul’s concern was the south side being cleared and now the water is unshaded.

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

Old Business

Revision of Internal Controls and Policy Manual – Lea has developed separate internal controls and policy documents for our district. Raoul has pointed out some corrections to be made for the final draft. This essentially is the same from our policy manual just housed in a different document that better outlines responsibilities of the district. Lea is looking for approval to adopt this document with corrections. Raoul moved to approve adoption of this document with corrections, Jordan 2nd. Motion approved.

Brickyard Nature Park Ecologic Survey – Lea and Sam submitted the application to the Roy Whistler Foundation for the Brickyard Nature Park invasives removal project. They met on December 2nd. and we are waiting for an update at this time. Kenny suggested using a CWI grant to supplement this project should we be awarded, or get a head start on.

Annual Meeting Planning – Lea has received some quotes on venues from both Stone Creek and Hidden Hollow. The price of renting Stone Creek Lodge and Hidden Hollow Farm is \$1023.75

and \$1925, respectively. The board has decided to go with Stone Creek for our meeting site. Lea has also reached out to Swick's and The Juniper Spoon for quotes on catering. The estimated price of using Juniper Spoon and Swicks as our caterer is \$4002.50 and \$1925, respectively. Jordan motioned to approve paying the deposit of Swick's up to \$1000, Aron 2nd. Motion approved. Lea is still reaching out to potential speakers. Lea will first reach out to Chad Evans to speak. Daniel motioned to approve an upper limit of \$1000 for a speaker, Aron 2nd, motion approved. We selected a Conservationist of the Year and will reach out to them and let them know they won!

New Business

FFA Fundraising Letter – North FFA are looking for funds for a dairy judging trip to Scotland. After discussion we will table this discussion and come back to it at the following meeting with the intention of providing sponsorship after speaking more with the FFA.

Montgomery County Historical Society Sponsorship Letter – The board decided to turn down the request.

NACD Annual Conference – Jordan motioned to approve to send Sam on the trip to NACD and excuse him from the annual meeting with a budget of \$2,500, Raoul 2nd. Motion approved. Jordan also put a side note of leaving it open to approve an additional person should one of our board members or partners be interested.

2026 Board Meeting Dates – Lea has proposed we keep the meetings to the first Thursday morning each month going into the new year. The next meeting will be January 8th at 8am in the USDA Service Center.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 10:04 AM

Minutes approved 1/6/25, 2025

Raoul _____
J. [unclear] _____
Daniel Bellamy _____

Submitted by Lea Dick

