

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 5th, 2026, 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: Jordan Gillenwater, Raoul Moore, Joyce Grimble, Aron Rhoads, Brandy Daggett, Marc Roberts, Kenny Cain, Rachel Stine, Michael Hill, Hanna Garriott, Adam Beck, Lea Dick, Sam Lovold

Absent: Daniel Bullerdick

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:01 AM

Partnership reports

Brandy – Deadline for EQIP applications for fiscal year 26 has passed. 20 new EQIP and 4 new CSP applications have been submitted. Angie Garrison from Boone is going to help Brandy with meeting these producers. CRP Status reviews have been completed. Rob Miller has been completing Wetland Determinations and has those all up to date. Program Rollout meeting for this year has yet to be held, Staff from all 50 states have been meeting in Indy to learn about this before all state staff are trained. Brandy has field visits set up but the details have not been released yet. Regenerative Pilot program has some details out but not all.

Joyce – County Council is waiting to see what state legislators do and what county budget will look like. Nucor is moving ahead with their expansion which should help bring in revenue. More houses being built in the county as well.

Kenny – State Soil Board has a budget from the cigarette tax and general fund of 8.5 million dollars and some change. Out of this money \$20,000 goes to each district, 1.7 million to grants. Needs assessment meeting was held, a firm has been contracted to interview supervisors and improve delivery of each district's missions. 2 million dollars has been contributed to CREP, the biggest single budget item, but is leveraged 10 to 1.

Marc – The IASWCD had its state house day on last Tuesday to coincide with conservation day at the Statehouse. Some of the concerning bills have died off, but there are some new ones that are particularly concerning.

Adam – FSA is approaching bridge payment sign up for farmers to receive money on planted 2025 acres. That date is on the 23rd. CRP non-compliance letters will be sent out soon for those not in compliance. Clinton County FSA has been short staffed, and our office has been sending staff over there a couple of times a week. This is to continue until March 31st but is subject to

change. This Monday there will be a County Committee meeting and COC election. Million dollar facility loan was closed last week, uncommon in this office and good to have done. Clinton is hiring a temp for their FSA office as well. It runs out on September 30th, but could be kept on when the hiring freeze opens up.

Hanna – Hanna has been taking around a new hire to shadow the district and see some of our projects around the county. Resilient Indiana has no open positions now and is fully staffed. The new hire Tucker will bounce around shadowing other RITAs until he takes over in his area.

Lea – The SWCD Annual Meeting is February 17th at 5:30 pm at Stone Creek Lodge. Chad Evans is our keynote speaker, presenting on the topic of meteorology and climatology. Swick's Kitchen and Emporium will be catering. Lea has sent the board members what their speaking responsibilities will be; if they have any issues they should speak with Lea. Additionally, if any of the partner organizations would like to give a 2025 recap at the meeting, they should let Lea know ASAP.

CRP status reviews for Montgomery County have been completed, and our 2020-2025 Contribution Agreement has been officially closed out. Lea has not yet heard any news that NRCS will be continuing with Contribution Agreements.

Sam – Community Growers Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday 11:30am-1pm at the Table Spoon. Will be discussing events for this year. The custom plaque for the annual meeting should be ready to go within a few more days, Andy Karle has been helping with it.

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

Old Business

NACD Annual Conference – Hanna and Sam will be gone February 16th to the 20th. Vermillion County and Parke County both contributed \$500 a piece for sending her, reducing the total cost from our county from \$1800 to \$800.

Roy Whistler Grant Application – Our application was not accepted; however we received some guidance from the Foundations President. They suggested we find 50% cash match and reapply in November. We have decided to approach the Community Foundation as a potential avenue for funding as well as applying for a CWI Grant. We will form a committee to manage finding funds for the project through grants, Raoul, Sam, Lea, and Kenny will be a part of it.

Internal Audit Committee – Internal Audit happened the week before last. Lea, Raoul, and Rachel conducted in and everything is good to go.

New Business

FFA Tent Request – North FFA requested 3 tents for use during their farm safety program in March.

NRCS MOU – Districts that are collocated with NRCS must sign an MOU to remain in their collocated offices and share information. Rachel Motioned to approve signature of the MOU, Aron 2nd. Motion carried.

Plant Sale and Garden Show – Sam has requested a budget of \$2,250 for the plant sale this year. We will hold it during the Master Gardeners Plant Sale on May 2nd. The Master Gardeners have a lot of wildflowers and forbs available this year, so we will focus on trees and shrubs again this year to avoid direct competition. Raoul motioned to approve the budget, Aron 2nd. Motion carried.

Upcoming Trainings – Free records training in Rockville coming up soon that Lea will go to. Prescribed Fire Training in Montezuma in March, it will cost \$25. SICIM Annual meeting will be on March 30th in Noblesville. Sam and Lea will be attending that one. Both have costs under \$250 dollars so no board approval is required. Program Rollout trainings will be online this year for NRCS, and RITA and SWCD staff are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Bills – Aron moved to pay bills as presented, Rachel 2nd. Motion carried.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM

Minutes approved March 5, 2026

Raoul Morse
AJ Rhoads
Paula D'Amico

Jodi Spillings
Paula D'Amico

Submitted by Lea Dick