

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 6th, 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 2026 – Q1 2029
Elected

Aron Rhoads
Q1 2024 – Q1 2027
Appointed by SSCB

Rachel Stine
Q1 2025 – Q1 2028
Appointed by SSCB

In attendance: Raoul Moore, Jordan Gillenwater, Daniel Bullerdick, Rachel Stine, Adam Beck, Brandy Layton, Sheila Schroeder, Michael Hill, Kenny Cain, Seth Harden, Lea Dick, Sam Lovold

Absent: - Aron Rhoads.

Daniel opened the meeting at 8:03 AM

Partnership reports

Lea – DJ Case came to visit, they are the communications group hired by the ISDA to help figure out what districts need around the state. We spoke with them and shared what we do. There are two sessions for supervisors to give their opinions that Lea will share as well. Ecdysis, a nonprofit farmer centered research organization has launched a project called Avalanche to conduct sampling on farms. Lea is going to send in our IASWCD support check this month.

Sam – Conducted 1 invasive survey and 1 soil health site visit. The Community Growers Garden Walk was well attended, 25 people were on the tour of the 3 gardens. 4th Grade Field Days are 2 weeks from today. All reservations have been made with the services we need, lunches, porta johns, straw, insurance, and EMT services. We have plenty of guides and all presenters are reserved. Adam is unable to help the whole time with his station this year, but we have enlisted Coltin Gresser from Pheasants Forever to fill in his spot. Sam is just waiting on final word from a few more teachers on how many students will be attending and then groups will be decided upon and packets made and sent out. Next week on the 12th there will be a CISMA meeting here in the USDA Service Center at 4pm.

Adam – There are well over 200 CRP re-enrolls and over 100 new ones waiting to get mapped out. Adam is still in Clinton County part of the week. He will now be going there for at least the next 6 months under an official agreement. Last week there was an Employee Appreciation Day for FSA.

Brandy – No big changes over the past month. Of the 20 EQIP applications 4 have been obligated. CRP re-enroll documentation has been a big focus of late. NRCS is still going through reorganization, not much has been made public about that.

Sheila – CCSI just recently finished up their 3-day soil health training for partners. The Farm Advisors program is still in the process of starting up, they are looking for mentor and mentee farmers.

Michael – Michael's wetland planting is coming along especially with all the treatment he has done with the Reed Canary Grass.

Kenny – Kenny's term has ended in the State Soil Board as of March. He has taken a well earned break. Larry Clements took Kenny's place. Larry is a past TNC Director for the state of Indiana.

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

Old Business

319 Grant Application – Lea has been working with Sara Peele and Seth Harden on our application for FY 2027. In the meantime, Lea has been working on collecting Letters of Support. Today Lea needs the board to approve an updated Letter of Support. Raoul moved to approve the Letter of Support as presented, Jordan 2nd. Motion carried.

New Business

Teen Indiana Master Naturalist – 13 students have signed up for the course so far. Lea requests a budget of \$1,200 for mileage reimbursement of speakers, snacks, classroom supplies, and student giveaways. Rachel motioned to approve the budget, Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

District Vehicle Policy – Raoul had some revisions of the policy that Lea had adapted from Vermillion County. Lea will make these corrections and have the updated policy at next month's board meeting.

NRCS Local Working Group – Lea will work with Brandy on getting a working group established and inviting people out to join and help guide the local decision-making process for our NRCS office.

The Nature Conservancy RCPP – in 2024 the TNC had a project approved for 16 million dollars, but it was rescinded. There is a new project with a new funding level for the new project area. The new project will likely be 5 million dollars. The proposal is required to be turned in on August 24th. We have already agreed to support the project but we must determine if it will be to the same level as 2 years ago. If all goes well the project will begin in July of 2027. Raoul moved to update and submit the letter of support with updated match figures for current salary levels. Rachel 2nd. Motion carried.

SICIM Donation Letter – SICIM sent out a request to all the counties asking for support. Raoul motioned to donate \$2,000 to SICIM. Jordan 2nd. Motion carried.

2026 IDEA Conference – This year's conference is October 7-9th at Pokagon State Park in Angola. Lea is unable to attend but Sam is potentially interested in going. Jordan moved to approve \$500 to send Sam to the conference, Raoul 2nd. Motion approved.

Daniel adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM

Minutes approved September 3, 2026

Sam Jordan
Daniel Buhiti

Y. Raoul
Daniel Buhiti

Submitted by Lea Dick

