

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 27, 2026
MEETING # 911

Present:

Scott Ryan, *Chairman, Grange Member*
Brian Holloway, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau*
Richard Kennedy, *Member at Large*
Robert Headwell, Jr, *Legislative Rep*
Thomas Elwood, *Legislative Rep*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*
Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk*
Scott Davis, *Senior Technician*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 7:37 PM

MINUTES of the March 23, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Richard Kennedy made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of April 27, 2026:

<i>District Checking:</i>	<i>12,355.30</i>
<i>Building Acct:</i>	<i>1,207.86</i>
<i>Building Acct (ICS)</i>	<i>100,263.81</i>
<i>Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470</i>	<i>4,413.19</i>
<i>Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511</i>	<i>.00</i>
<i>Creek Acres Farm CRF C012551</i>	<i>365,701.34</i>
<i>AEM</i>	<i>105,302.27</i>
<i>Ridgedale C701426</i>	<i>57,721.51</i>
<i>MMT Cattle CAFO (Rnd 1) C012776</i>	<i>617,328.78</i>
<i>MMT Otsuago (Rnd 30)</i>	<i>454,130.31</i>
<i>Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432</i>	<i>639.58</i>
<i>Slate Creek Farm T00335GG</i>	<i>4,737.61</i>
<i>Hill Top Acres (CRF 8) T012707</i>	<i>36,371.96</i>
<i>Zitone (CRF 8) C012705</i>	<i>46,460.63</i>
<i>General Fund:</i>	<i>6,778.24</i>
<i>General Fund (ICS)</i>	<i>491,152.91</i>
<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>880.32</i>
<i>Petty Cash</i>	<i>250.00</i>
<i>Undeposited Funds</i>	<i>20.00</i>
<i>Total in all accounts</i>	<i>\$2,305,695.62</i>

Review of disbursements (check register 3/23/26 through 4/27/2026)

Review of outstanding accounts

ABSTRACTS # 4-2026: Bills paid, to be paid and transfers.

Motion: by Brian Holloway to approve Abstracts #4-2026, accept the Treasure's report, pay all audited bills, approve all salary payment for next month and/or the next board meeting, 2nd by Richard Kennedy, motion carried.

Old Business:

1.) Field Work

- *There have been a lot of field visits for tile work recently*
- *Scott Davis is working with an intern from Boces for the week. She will work alongside Scott and Joe to get an idea of what we do on a day-to-day basis.*
- *We are currently taking orders for our fish sale*
- *Scott will be meeting with Tom Twente from Grow Amsterdam this week. They would like help from our office engineering a shade building. We will assist with that.*
- *Culvert sales have been steady. Tile prices will be going up in May.*
- *Roger Lottman won the bid to do the project at Walts Pond. He will be dredging the pond and making it bigger. That work will be starting soon.*
- *Regional Envirothon will be Wednesday. Montgomery County will be bringing 7 teams.*

- Jessica Skinner has certified Michalak's manure pit. They are now working on the as-built.
 - Just finishing up the barnyard project at MMT's in Town of Minden. Corey has started the design on two other manure storage for MMT. Corey met with an engineer to help with the second storage.
 - Three tier 4 projects for AEM were submitted and they have been signed at the state level.
- 2.) **Ag tire recycling (April 20th – May 2^{rst})** – Our annual Ag tire recycling event began on April 20th. Although the start was gradual, it is common for participation to increase during the second week as the word spreads and more people call to register their tires before the event concludes. May 2nd will be the final day to drop off tires free of charge.
- 3.) **Farmland Protection Reserve Fund** – Five farmers attending the meeting held today at the Annex Building to discuss the Farmland Protection Reserve Fund grant. They will begin accepting applications. All members of the AED board and the Farmland Protection Board will be invited to come in and rank the applications.

New Business

- 1.) **Tree Sale** – The tree sale was conducted successfully without any incidents. Although sales were somewhat lower compared to previous years, a few larger orders helped improve overall profitability. On the day of the event, total sales reached \$1,818.25. Our overall profit from sales was approximately \$6,000.
- 2.) **Ag Non-Point Source Grant Round 31** – The district successfully submitted 5 grant applications for Round 31.
- 3.) **Great Plain No Till Drill repairs** – There are two estimates for repairing the Great Plains No-till drill: one for the necessary repairs and another for a complete overhaul of the drill. Joe believes that a full overhaul is not currently required. He recommends proceeding with the essential repairs to prepare the equipment for use, with the option of scheduling a comprehensive overhaul later. **Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to do the necessary repairs, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.**
- 4.) **Bunker – Archeology** – Corey is coordinating with the archaeologist at Bunkers to ensure the project remains on schedule. Utilizing Part C funds to hire our own archaeologists and geologists has proven to be an effective strategy, allowing us to proceed without waiting for NRCS personnel, which would delay the implementation of the project significantly. A motion was previously made to allocate Part C funds for this purpose a few years ago, but with a change to our board of directors, he believes it would be prudent to re-visit this policy and confirm that it still aligns with the board's approval. **Brian Holloway made a motion to continue using Part C money for archeology, geology and engineering practices to keep the projects moving, Robert Headwell, Jr. seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.**
- 5.) **Grant Closeouts** – Another policy that we have previously approved, but due to the addition of a new board member, Corey recommended obtaining updated approval. Specifically, this pertains to disbursing payment to the farmer once the closeout paperwork has been submitted to Scott Fickbohm, prior to receiving our final payment from the state. **Robert Headwell, Jr., motioned to approve the policy; the motion was seconded by Thomas Elwood, all in favor, motion carried.**
- 6.) **Engineer meeting** – Corey met with an engineer who has recently worked with Schenectady County. The engineer learned about the TSP (Technical Service Provider) program through NRCS, completed the certification process with NRCS, and expressed interest in partnering with us on future projects. Currently, Montgomery County does not have any engineers providing ground-up project development. Corey provided him with a tour of some of our projects and design work. During the visit, they negotiated the project fee structure, which could be based on hourly billing or a contractual agreement per project, depending on his preference. Corey was satisfied with the meeting and plans to collaborate on an initial design. If that project is successful, it could lead to a strong working relationship.
- 7.) **Interview for temp position** – Corey conducted an interview with Brad Bower regarding a potential position assisting with NAACC assessments and supporting technician responsibilities. Brad's resume was highly impressive, and he possesses all the necessary qualifications for the position. However, during the interview, Brad indicated that he is not currently seeking a full-time opportunity. He inquired whether it would be possible for him to contribute to the NAACC assessments on a part-time basis. Corey agreed to hiring him part-time and would like to get him started soon.
- 8.) **PART C funds** – Corey inquired with the board about allocating a portion of the Part C funds, ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000, to support the Farmland Protection Fund Grant. Bob Headwell suggested that it would be more prudent to wait until the grant applications are received, then review the available resources with the county. This approach could potentially allow for an increased funding pool if more funds are secured than initially anticipated.

Committee Reports

NRCS: No Report

FSA: No Report

AEM: No Report

AED:

Key Activities This Month

Grant Programs & Administration

- Supported Town of Minden NYS PLAYS Grant (attended 1 meeting, ongoing coordination)
- Participated in Ag & Farmland Protection Reserve Fund Q&A and outreach support
 - Coordinated with the County Executive Office on program promotion
- Assisted with Round 31 grant application intake and review process

Agricultural & Environmental Education

- Tree planting at Walter Elwood Museum (completion in progress)
- Preparing for Regional Envirothon participation
- Co-hosting Community Composting Workshop (May 9, Grow Amsterdam)

Farmers Market Development (Grow Amsterdam)

- Vendor recruitment and onboarding are ongoing
- Social media and content development
- Operational coordination with the team
- Interviewed for the Market Manager position

Harvest Connection

- Updated producer intake form and farm listings
- Developed social media content calendar
- Continued platform updates and system improvements

Overall Outcome

Strengthening program delivery, expanding outreach, and building long-term capacity across agricultural and local food system initiatives.

Victoria Bray
Ag Economic Development Specialist

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:19 PM

NEXT MEETING: June 22, 2026 @ 7:30 PM (Evaluations at 7:00 pm)

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak