

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 23, 2026

MEETING # 910

Present:

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

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*
Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk*
Victoria Bray, *Ag Economic Dev Specialist*
Joseph Slezak, *Resource Conservationist*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 7:30 PM

MINUTES of the February 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 March 23, 2026:

<i>District Checking:</i>	13,619.06
<i>Building Acct:</i>	17,416.06
<i>Building Acct (ICS)</i>	60,093.13
<i>Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470</i>	4,404.21
<i>Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511</i>	.00
<i>Creek Acres Farm CRF C012551</i>	364,957.43
<i>AEM</i>	105,088.06
<i>Ridgedale C701426</i>	57,604.09
<i>MMT Cattle CAFO (Rnd 1) C012776</i>	616,073.00
<i>MMT Otsuago (Rnd 30)</i>	453,295.75
<i>Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432</i>	638.28
<i>Slate Creek Farm T00335GG</i>	4,727.97
<i>Hill Top Acres (CRF 8) T012707</i>	36,307.50
<i>Zitone (CRF 8) C012705</i>	46,424.00
<i>General Fund:</i>	26,434.04
<i>General Fund (ICS)</i>	490,093.36
<i>Water Quality</i>	878.53
<i>Petty Cash</i>	250.00
<i>Undeposited Funds</i>	486.00
<i>Total in all accounts</i>	\$2,303,304.47

Review of disbursements (check register 2/23/2026 through 3/23/2026)

Review of outstanding accounts

ABSTRACTS # 3-2026: Bills paid, to be paid and transfers.

Motion: by Richard Kennedy to approve Abstracts #3-2026, accept the Treasure's report, pay all audited bills, approve all salary payment for the next month and/or the next board meeting, 2nd by Brian Holloway, motion carried.

Old Business:

1.) Field Work

- Corey has been working with a new farmer who is developing a dairy facility. The farm will host approximately 170 cows, and reliable water access is essential. Corey has been coordinating efforts to construct an on-site pond to meet the farm's water needs.
- The design for the manure storage at MMT Farms will get started next week.

2.) District Law – Module 10 – Tom Elwood was unable to attend the board meeting; however, he confirmed via email that he has completed the District Law Training.

3.) Ripsower – Joe presented the board with quotes obtained from local businesses for constructing a similar item to the Vermont Ripsower, which is a specialized piece of equipment not available through standard agricultural suppliers. None of the estimates provided by Joe were more cost-effective than purchasing the Vermont Ripsower directly from Land Care Cooperative. Richard Kennedy made a motion to purchase the Vermont Ripsower from Land Care Cooperative for the price they quoted us of \$32,870.00, Robert Headwell, Jr. seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

New Business

- 1.) **Ag tire recycling (April 20th – May 1st)** – *Scott Ryan made a motion to approve the dates for our Ag tire recycling event. It will run for two weeks, opening on April 20th and ending on May 1st. Robert Headwell, Jr. seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 2.) **Legislative Meeting (Farmland Protection/Clawbacks)** – *Corey and Victoria attended the committee meeting last week, during which the Farmland Protection Reserve Fund was discussed. They approved to move the money forward for the reserve fund. The legislative board is scheduled to vote on the resolution tomorrow evening. Subsequently, the funds will be allocated to the Soil and Water Conservation District for administration.*
- 3.) **WQS recap** – *Victoria, Karen, and Scott attended the Water Quality Symposium this year. Victoria participated for the entire week, found the event to be very educational, and had the opportunity to network with colleagues from other districts in the soil and water districts. Victoria will be responsible for preparing the quarterly CDEA newsletter and the district will receive a payment of \$4,000 for her efforts in compiling the quarterly reports. Scott Davis was nominated at the Division 6 meeting and officially appointed as the new CDEA Division 6 Representative.*
- 4.) **LL Bean - Shirts/light jacket orders** – *All the orders from the district staff and the board members have been submitted and the order will be placed this week.*
- 5.) **Tablecloth and banner materials with new logo** – *Victoria requested authorization to order a new tablecloth with our logo and retractable banners to highlight AEM, AED and Conservation. Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 6.) **AEM yr 19 tier 4 projects** – *Joe compiled a list of AEM Year 19 Tier 4 projects scheduled under the new three-year contract. Applications were received and subsequently ranked. The list was then presented to the board for approval. Richard Kennedy made a motion to accept the projects as presented, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 7.) **Bunker** – *Bunkers have a 2-inch waterline to supply water to their barn, which is currently insufficient to meet the increasing demand. Corey has been working on-site to develop an alternative solution to ensure adequate water supply for the barn, accommodating the additional cows in his herd.*

Committee Reports

NRCS: No Report

FSA: No Report

AEM: Included in agenda items

AED:

- **The Farmer's Connection Dinner** scheduled at Meg's at MUNY was cancelled. Victoria will continue coordinating with Meg on a future event.
- **Farm Bureau sponsored Victoria's attendance** at the Young Farmer and Rancher Conference. The event included a guided tour of Byrne Dairy, which was highly informative and provided valuable insights into the dairy industry.
- **Victoria participated in the WQS** for the week, establishing new contacts and gaining additional knowledge.
- **CDEA Newsletter** is almost complete for the quarter.
- **Farmer's Market conference** on Thursday. This will be paid for through Grow Amsterdam.
- **Dakota Wilson** received his grant. Victoria will be available to assist when needed.
- **Working on a grant** with the Town of Minden for a playground at the Walts Rd pond site. (NY Plays Grant). They are willing to add some conservation into the plan (pollinator garden, plant various trees, etc).
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Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:19 PM

NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2026 @ 7:30 PM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak