MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 19, 2026
MEETING # 916

Present:
Brian Holloway, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau*
Robert Headwell, Jr, *Legislative Rep*
Thomas Elwood, *Legislative Rep*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*
Karen Klemczak, *Office Manager*
Victoria Bray, *Ag Economic Dev Specialist*
Brad Bowers, *Technician*
Scott Davis, *Senior Technician*

Public Comment:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 7:33 PM

MINUTES ***of September 28, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Thomas Elwood, all in favor, motion carried.***

TREASURER'S REPORT as of October 19, 2026:	
District Checking:	***14,671.98***
Building Acct:	***38,010.60***
Building Acct (ICS)	***146,311.61***
Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470	***2,683.83***
Creek Acres Farm CRF C012551	***364,048.90***
AEM	***253,170.52***
Ridgedale C701426	***58,419.55***
MMT Cattle CAFO (Rnd 1) C012776	***138,681.57***
MMT Otsquago (Rnd 30)	***313,984.54***
Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432	***647.31***
Slate Creek Farm T00335GG	***4,794.90***
Hill Top Acres (CRF 8) T012707	***36,811.83***
Zitone (CRF 8) C012705	***47,022.50***
General Fund:	***24,795.82***
General Fund (ICS)	***349,465.77***
Farmland Protection Reserve Fund	***159,069.51***
Water Quality	***890.97***
Petty Cash	***250.00***
Undeposited Funds	***.00***
Total in all accounts	***$1,953,731.71***

Review of disbursements (check register 9/28/2026 through 10/19/2026)
Review of outstanding accounts

ABSTRACTS # 10-2026: Bills paid, to be paid and transfers.
Motion: by Rpbert Headwell, Jr. to approve Abstracts #10-2026, 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 Thomas Elwood, motion carried.

Old Business:

1.) **Field Work**
- Michalak – Scott completed the design for the Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP) for the Farmland Protection Grant.
- Hill Top Acres is underway and moving along.
- Conard designs for the barnyard are being worked on currently.
- Hydroseeding for the year is done. There were 81 loads done this year.
- Tire recycling event was busy. Busier than any other year.
- The focus through the end of the year is to get as many jobs surveyed as possible before the snow starts to fall.

New Business

1.) **Annual Plan of Work – The 2027 annual plan of work is complete. Thomas Elwood made a motion to approve, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried.**
2.) **NRCS Closeouts –** Tomorrow, Corey will meet with NRCS to review the as-builts at Michalak Farm and MMT Commodity Buildings, and receive the sign off on the projects.
3.) **CRF Applications –** We have 6 or 7 applications to write for CRF this year. They are due November 21rst.
4.) **County Budget –** The Farmland Protection Fund is included in the budget for the upcoming year. Our allocation for 2027 should remain unchanged.
5.) **Fredericks Farm –** A 5000 cow dairy farm just over the Herkimer County line. They are expanding their operations into Montgomery County and purchased 800 acres in the county. Fredericks would like to apply for a CRF grant and asked if Montgomery County could write the grant for them. However, Corey informed them that they would need to apply through Schoharie County. We may be able to assist but would be unable to complete the application for them.
6.) **Farmland Protection update –** Once the budget is approved, a press release will be issued. We expect to begin receiving applications in January, with the submission deadline targeted for February and award notifications scheduled for March. This timeline is designed to ensure that all projects are ready to begin in the spring.
Current project updates:
   - Appleridge, Kennland and Dygert are complete and have been paid
   - Holloway is scheduled for the first week of November
   - Victoria made a call to Adirondack Maple Farm but was unable to get through.
   - Empire Hay and Samdil are working with our office on engineering and design.
   - First Generation is almost done, waiting on the electrician to install the air conditioner for the cooler.
   - Dellavale is done, waiting on them to get the paperwork to us so they can get paid.
   - Michalak design is complete and is about 2/3 done with their project.
   - Bunker tile project is also in progress.
7.) **Auto Cad Certificate Training –** Brad would like to take an online class to become Auto CAD certified. The cost is $3400 and he is looking into the Frank Bratt scholarship to offset the cost. He is going to apply for $750, and he may be able to submit two applications for the course which would take $1500 off the cost of the course. **Robert Headwell Jr. made a motion to approve seconded by Thomas Elwood, all in favor, motion carried.**
8.) **Scott Davis – Report (Leadership training/CDEA) –**
   - Scott provided a summary of his experience at the Leadership Conference in North Carolina. He acknowledged that the overall experience was highly valuable and appreciated the district board's approval of his attendance at the conference.
   - CDEA update – Scott attended a two-night meeting in NYC, as division rep, for CDEA. Some of the highlights from that meeting;
     - RFP for Erosion and Sediment Control
     - Admin Conference (Nov 16-17) – attendance is down
     - Legislative Committee has hired a lobbyist. They will be working on retirement (Tier 6)
     - They hired an attorney to work on the bylaws and put together an RFP for GIS. Scott will be the liaison for this.
     - Putting out an RFP for an accountant.
     - Looking into regional engineers.

Committee Reports

NRCS: No Report
FSA: No Report
AEM: No Report
AED:

- Participated in the Con Skills workshop, completing classes in tree identification, pond ecology, tile design, and construction inspections. The classes were very helpful in giving a clear picture of the technician's job.
- Preparing for next year.
- Still helping with the Farmers Market in Amsterdam. The market manager quit. There are only a few more weeks to go.
- Still working on Farmland Protection Reserve Grant. Trying to get all the projects closed out before the end of the year.
- Speaking at the NYACD Annual Meeting to give a presentation on the Farmland Protection Reserve Grant

Adjournment: **Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 PM**
NEXT MEETING: ***December 3, 2026 @ 11:00 AM, Winner Circle***

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak