

**2026 April**  
**-McLean County SWCD Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on April 1, 2026, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:30 a.m. Directors present were Irvin Bane, Jeff Mathews, Garrett Conaty and Collin Loeffler. District employees present were Brett Irwin, Ross Fogle and Jackie Kraft. Allan Hertzberger of NRCS was present. Aidan Walton of PCM was present.

***~Financials/Minutes:***

Irvin motioned to approve the March minutes as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Irvin motioned to approve the April checks as written. Garrett seconded. Motion carried. Collin made a motion to approve the financials as written; March bank statements were not yet received for this meeting but will be included in next meetings financials packet. Garrett seconded. Motion carried.

***~Aidan gave an update on PCM:*** Busy season and farmer meetings are wrapping up as producers are getting ready for 2026 planting season.

***~Allan gave an update on NRCS:*** Ranking for EQIP applications is nearly completed with April 3 as the deadline for ranking. Site visits and S&F forms have been completed for 2026 re-enrolling CRP acres. HEL spot checks are underway for McLean and Livingston counties.

***~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written:*** Received final payment for 319 implementation grant. Waiting for IEPA to close out grant. Conducted a windshield survey for 604b grant for Sugar Creek Watershed Plan. Waiting for an official agreement with IEPA to be completed. Announcement for NACD TA grant funding has been delayed until summer.

***~Brett gave the District report as written:*** Received 6 additional funded applications from IDOA for CPRG. Total contract acres for McLean County stands at 22,132.23. Spring tree and fish sales are underway. Site visits have been completed for 2025 FCSS cover crop program. CRP site visits for 2027 and 2028 are underway.

***~Ross gave the Watershed report as written:*** April E-News and ISA Field Day flyer to be sent via Mail Chimp this week. ISA Field Day planned for April 9<sup>th</sup> which will showcase conservation research and practices at the ISU farm and areas near Lexington followed by a farmer panel for discussion. Ross brought up the Jim Rutherford Golf Outing and the SWCD Foundation. Ross discussed the golf outing and the McLean County SWCD Foundation will make decisions moving forward regarding fundraising plans. 2 Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship applications were presented to the Board. Collin made a motion to approve \$1000 scholarships for both Jaidyn Ormsbee and Chase Steege. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

***~Old Business:***

***~New Business:*** Garrett brought up a potential revenue stream for Central Illinois corn growers through selling corn stover to an industrial processor that converts the stover into fiber used for cardboard and packaging products. A company based in Pekin Illinois is hoping to get started with processing and partner with local farmers to buy round bales of stover to convert into these products. The next Board meeting was set for June 10, 2026, at 7:30 am at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 am.