

**2026 March
-McLean County SWCD Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on March 11, 2026, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:43 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.

~Financials/Minutes:

Irvin motioned to approve the February minutes as written. Collin seconded. Motion carried. Garrett motioned to approve the March checks as written. Irvin seconded. Motion carried. Collin made a motion to approve the financials as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

~Allan gave an update on NRCS: Ranking for EQIP applications is underway. April 3 is the deadline for ranking. CSP ranking will begin in April with a ranking deadline of June 12. State office wants 2027 and 2028 CRP expiring contracts to have site visits completed by September 30.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: Finalizing invoice to close out 319 Implementation Grant. Windshield survey is planned for next week with the consultant for the Sugar Creek Watershed Plan. State of the Lakes Meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, hoping to reschedule later this month. Funding announcement expected in March for 2025 NACD TA Grant. 25 Oak trees will be planted at Lake Bloomington with cooperation of McLean County Extension and a 4H club for the AISWCD Tree Planting Project. Trees expected to be picked up between March 24 through March 26.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Received 6 applications for PFC cost-share during the 1st signup period. 2 applications were condensed to 1 and one application was unranked due to engineering job approval authority. A PFC -3 Ranking Spreadsheet was provided to the Board for review. Irvin motioned to pre-approve applications 25004 (Strip-till) for \$4,525.00, 25001 (Strip-Till) for \$1,596.00, and 25003 (Cover Crops) for \$4,560.86 for PFC funding and review application 25005 (waterway) once more PFC funding is available. Garrett Seconded. Motion carried. CPRG applicant acres have been verified and sent to IDOA. Waiting on updated acreage list and potentially more funded applicants.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: March E-news created and distributed. ISA Field Day planned for April 9th which will showcase conservation research and practices at the ISU farm and areas near Lexington followed by a farmer panel for discussion.

~Old Business:

~New Business: The Board conducted the Organization of the Board to elect officers among themselves. Irvin motioned to maintain the Board for 2026 with Mike Kelley as Chairman, Jeff Mathews as Vice-Chairman, Garrett Conaty as Treasurer, and Collin Loeffler as Secretary. Garrett Seconded. Motion carried. Collin made a motion to donate \$100 to the Illinois Envirothon. Garrett seconded. Motion carried. Garrett made a motion to change the April board meeting to April 1 at 7:30 AM at the USDA Service Center in Normal. Collin seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 am.