

2026 August -McLean County SWCD Minutes
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The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on August 12, 2026, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:31 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. Alex Strand and Andy Knapp of Maizing were present.

~Financials/Minutes:

Irvin motioned to approve the July minutes as written. Collin seconded. Motion carried. Collin motioned to approve the August checks as written. Garrett seconded. Motion carried. Garrett made a motion to approve the financials as written which included both June and July. Collin seconded. Motion carried.

~Alex Strand and Andy Knapp of Maizing gave a presentation of their business: Developing manufacturing capacity to create 100% corn stover fiber products. These products are fully compostable and will be used in the packaging industry. Currently in the funding stage right now, near term goals are to open Pekin plant and give a blueprint for co-ops to open similar processing plants in the future.

~Aidan gave an update on PCM: Conducting final meetings with growers before harvest, attended cover crop workshop hosted by McLean SWCD and Illinois Soybean Association.

~Allan gave an update on NRCS: 14 applications were obligated for EQIP totaling \$1,342,157 in funds (3,945.7 acres). 2 of 4 CSP applications are currently obligated with the other two expected to be completed by the 8/14 deadline. 2026 CRP plans are near completion and on track to meet deadlines.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: Evergreen Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project is completed for 2026. Site showing planned for October for 2027 work. Signed contract with Spheros and Jeff Boeckler for 604b Watershed Plan Grant. Grant completion deadline is June 2027. Ross's TA grant funding announcement has still been delayed.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Brent Hewitt PFC Strip Till contract 25004 is complete with \$4525.50 in cost share. Jeff motioned to approve the cost share for payment. Collin seconded. Motion carried. Jack Holland PFC grassed waterway preconstruction is completed. CRP plans are underway with 94 plans currently ready for signature and 32 plans signed by producers.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: Mail Chimp August Campaign has been created and distributed. 2026 fall newsletter has been created and sent to copy shop for printing and distribution. ISA cover crop workshop was held on August 11. 520 acres have been signed up so far for ISA Lake Bloomington sub watershed cover crop program. Working on prescribed burn training through NRCS and IDNR online programs.

~Old Business:

~New Business: The next board meeting was set for September 9, 2026, at 7:30 am at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The Board went into closed session to conduct employee reviews. The Board ended closed session and adjourned the meeting at 9:34 am.