

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

December 12, 2025

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held December 12, 2025, at the Ogle County USDA Service Center, Oregon, IL. Chairperson Marcia Heuer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

DIRECTORS:

Marcia Heuer, Chairperson
Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer
Kayse Rushford

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Darin Dehaan
Terry Reeverts
Henry Tideman
Molly Duncan

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Brian Lindquist, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD
Sterling Taylor, Executive Director, Ogle SWCD
Jeff Woodyatt, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – Cody Considine, Vice Chairperson, Jon Pearson

AGENDA

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. Sterling Taylor stated the final agenda included the "Comptroller Report" under "New Business." Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the November 13, 2025, minutes. Hearing none, Kayse Rushford made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The November 2025 financial report in comparison to the budget had been emailed to the directors earlier. The account balances and the credit card statements were also reviewed. Kayse Rushford made a motion to accept the financial report and to pay the bills as presented. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS

Employee time sheets were reviewed. Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the time sheets as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PFC/SSRP/PPCC COST-SHARE

Sterling Taylor reviewed the following applications for completed projects to be paid from Fiscal Year 2024 Partners for Conservation (PFC) funds.

#14100212, Waterway/tile, \$20,851.96

#14100213, Waterway/Tile, \$13,621.62

#14100255, Cover crop, \$5,989.62

#14100256, Cover crop, \$10,351.76

Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the payments as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CONSERVATION PLANS, REVISIONS, or CANCELLATIONS

Sterling Taylor stated no action was needed.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS

Brian Lindquist reviewed two NRI Reports he had completed.

- Jose Nunez, Ag1 to Ag1 Special Use for a wedding venue, Dement Twp, 2.35 acres, Land Evaluation Score 87.00, Prime Soils with limitations for basements and septic.
- Pamela Moring, Ag1 to R1, Lincoln Twp, 5.0 acres, Land Evaluation Score 93.68, Prime Soils with no noted limitations.

Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the reports as prepared. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REPORTS

IDOIA BUREAU OF LAND & WATER, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, Shelly Steging –

Shelly Steging was not able to attend. Any other correspondence from IDoA had been forwarded via email earlier. Sterling Taylor shared the Illinois Conservation Cropping Seminar will be an in-person event in Sycamore on January 27, 2026. After some discussion it was agreed that the District would pay the registration fee of \$25 for any directors, associate directors and staff that attended the seminar.

BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL, Darin Dehaan –

Darin Dehaan shared several of the projects and studies that the Council continues to work on.

NW IL BIRD and NATURE ALLIANCE/PRAIRIE PRESERVATION, Kayse Rushford –

Kayse Rushford shared several of the programs and activities of the group, including the very successful Bird Seed program.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan shared her work projects at the Grasslands, including fall burns and bison management. She also discussed a multi-state Ag Initiative she is working with.

MIDDLE ROCK PARTNERS, Cody Considine-

Cody Considine was not able to attend. Molly Duncan shared the group has been busy with fall burns and brush management.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Sterling Taylor-

Sterling Taylor said aside from the administrative duties, he attended the statewide employee training in Springfield, and he has been working with several landowners to complete conservation projects and process cost-share payments. He stated he has been working with Jeff Woodyatt to prepare a proposal for how the District can assist the Ogle Co. Zoning in reviewing some of the ordinance requirements for Solar, Wind and Battery Storage Systems. Sterling reviewed a renewed "Unfunded Agreement" with USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) for the use of office space and equipment supplied by NRCS. Sterling added he will be working to get the Spring 2026 Tree Sale information out next month. Sterling said other things he had to discuss were later on the agenda.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Brian Lindquist-

Brian Lindquist stated he worked on several Natural Resource Inventory reports, and he is working with several landowners to complete prairie seedings for this fall.

PCM SPECIALIST, Alexa Skirmont-

Alexa Skirmont was not able to attend. Sterling Taylor stated she has been busy gathering fall data from producers.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Jeff Woodyatt-

Jeff Woodyatt distributed and reviewed a written report he prepared on his activities. (see attached)

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, Aaron Seim-

Aaron Seim was not able to attend. He had forwarded a written report, and it was distributed. (see attached)

AISWCD, Eliot Clay-

Any correspondence from the AISWCD had been forwarded via email earlier.

PHEASANTS FOREVER, Vacant-

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NACD Technical Grant – Jeff Woodyatt reviewed the grant purpose and how it could benefit the District. He will continue to complete and submit the application.

Ogle SWCD Website – Jeff Woodyatt has been working to create a website for the Ogle Co. SWCD. Although it is still “under construction,” it is accessible at **ogleswscd.org** . Some discussion followed. No action needed.

Ogle SWCD Audit – Sterling Taylor reviewed the auditor findings of a Financial Review of the District’s fiscal year 2025 finances.

AISWCD NRCS Administrative Agreement – Sterling Taylor shared the District is not eligible to participate in this agreement until next fiscal year.

Ogle County Wind/Solar Site Reviews – There was discussion of a proposed agreement for the Ogle Co. SWCD to assist the County by conducting reviews of some items within the zoning ordinances. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Ogle Co. GIS Partnership FY 2026 Dues – After a brief discussion, Cade Bushnell made a motion to pay the \$211 as partnership dues for 2026. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SWCD Election – Nominating Committee, Date – Sterling Taylor reviewed that 3 director seats are up for election. After a brief discussion, Kayse Rushford made a motion to hold a general election on February 10, 2026. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Comptroller’s Report – After a brief discussion, Cade Bushnell made a motion to accept the Comptroller’s Report as prepared for Fiscal Year 2025. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the directors present, voting yes, Bushnell, Rushford, Heuer. No nye votes were heard. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 8:00 am.

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being there was no other business, at 9:53 a.m. Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

Cade Bushnell, Secretary
Ogle County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Date

Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date