

# OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

February 12, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held February 12, 2026, 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  
Cody Considine, Vice Chairperson  
Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer  
Jon Pearson  
Kayse Rushford

### **ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:**

Darin Dehaan  
Terry Reeverts  
Herny Tideman

## **OTHERS ATTENDING:**

Alexa Skirmont, PCM Specialist, IL Corn Growers/Ogle SWCD  
Jeff Woodyatt, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD  
Brian Lindquist, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD  
Sterling Taylor, Executive Director, Ogle SWCD  
Aaron Seim, District Conservationist, NRCS

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – None

## **AGENDA**

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. 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 January 6, 2026, minutes. Kayse Rushford noted that in her report for the NW IL Bird and Nature Alliance, Wisconsin does not currently have an open hunting season on the Sandhill Crane, but that is being discussed. Kayse Rushford made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The February 2026 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. After some discussion, Cade Bushnell made a motion to renew a maturing \$100,000 CD in the CDARS system for 12 months and to also invest in a new 5-month \$50,000 CD with funds from the Operations Account. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS**

Employee time sheets and travel/expense reimbursement claims 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 stated no new actions were needed. Jeff Woodyatt discussed the current sign-up.

## **CONSERVATION PLANS, REVISIONS, or CANCELLATIONS**

Sterling Taylor stated no action was needed.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS**

Brian Lindquist reviewed 1 NRI report.

Sheri Semon, Ag1 to R1, 5.88 acres, Pine Rock Township, LE score 70.84 with no noted limitations.

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

## **CERTIFICATE of SERVICE**

Chairperson Heuer presented a certificate of appreciation to Cody Considine for his 12 years of service on the District board. Cody did not seek a re-election to the board.

## **REPORTS**

*IDOa BL&W REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, Shelly Ray –*

Shelly Ray was not able to attend. Any other correspondence from IDoA had been forwarded via email earlier.

*BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL, Darin Dehaan –*

Darin Dehaan said the last regular was canceled. Darin shared the city of Oregon is working to create some warm season pollinator areas.

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

Kayse Rushford shared the NW IL BNA is hosting their Annual Banquet for March 31<sup>st</sup> in Freeport. Woodcock watches at the Elkhorn Preserve are scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Several other field trips planned.

*NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-*

Molly Duncan was not able to attend. Cody Considine shared that Molly is in Nebraska, at the Turner Ranch, working with the bison. He also said that prescribed burn season has begun for the management of the prairies.

*MIDDLE ROCK PARTNERS, Cody Considine-*

Cody Considine said the group's annual meeting is set for February 12<sup>th</sup> at Cork and Tap in Oregon.

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Sterling Taylor-*

Sterling Taylor distributed and discussed his written report. See Attached. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for the staff to seek attendance at the Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds and the Soil Health Leadership Program. He also discussed the lack of Resource Conservationists in neighboring countries and how IL Department of Agriculture programs and grants require the services of Resource Conservationists. Discussion was had on how that could affect the Ogle Co. SWCD.

*RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Brian Lindquist-*

Brian Lindquist said he assisted NRCS to complete field status reviews of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. He also said he has been working with schools to distribute the scholarship offered by the District. Brian has been working with landowners to seed warm season dormant seedings and will complete cool season frost seedings in March.

*RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Jeff Woodyatt-*

Jeff Woodyatt distributed and discussed his written report. See Attached. Jeff also shared that the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program (no-till/strip-till cost-share) funds that will be handled through the District and may require the District conduct a more extensive and costly annual audit.

*PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PCM) SPECIALIST, Alexa Skirmont-*

Alexa Skirmont said she has been busy creating the producer annual reports and meeting with farmers to discuss their systems. She currently has 56 participants.

*NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, Aaron Seim-*

Aaron Seim said the NRCS staff have been working with producers preparing EQIP applications and ranking process. Aaron discussed the breakdown of the \$16.7 million for this year's program including the new Regenerative Ag Initiative.

*ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (AISWCD),*  
Any correspondence from the AISWCD had been forwarded via email earlier. Sterling Taylor shared some information on current funding legislation the state association is working on.

*PHEASANTS FOREVER,*  
The position located in Rockford has been filled.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**SWCD Election** – Sterling Taylor reviewed the results of the election held on February 10, 2026. 14 ballots were cast to elect Cade Bushnell, Molly Duncan, and Kayse Rushford to three open seats for two-year terms on the board.

**Conservation Cropping Seminar** – There was a brief discussion about the material presented.

**SWCD Scholarship** – Brian Lindquist discussed this item during his report.

**Natural Resource Inventory Fee for Special Use, Wind Energy System** – There was much discussion on the current fee schedule and an alternative for Wind Energy Systems. It was agreed to maintain the same fee schedule for all required NRI Reports.

**Tree Sale** – Sterling Taylor distributed the new tree sale brochure and briefly talked about the program.

**IL Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)** – This was discussed during Jeff Woodyatt's report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Local Work Group** – Sterling Taylor plans for the District to host another Local Work Group meeting this March.

**Economic Interest Statements** – Sterling Taylor said the Ogle County Clerk would be distributing the annual Economic Interest Statements for 2025 to the directors.

**Staff Training Opportunities** – This was discussed during Sterling Taylor's report.

**Prescribed Burn Equipment Waiver and Prescribed Burn Volunteer Waiver** – Jeff Woodyatt reviewed the liability waivers he had prepared for the loaned use of District owned prescribed burn equipment and a prescribed burn volunteer list. Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the use of these liability waivers as presented. Cody Considine seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for March 12, 2026, at 8:00 am.

No other business was brought before the Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no other business at 9:52 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

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Cade Bushnell, Secretary  
Ogle County Soil and Water  
Conservation District

Date

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Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date