

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

March 12, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held March 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
Jon Pearson, Vice Chairperson
Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer
Molly Duncan

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Darin Dehaan
Terry Reeverts
Henry 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
Dave Nelson, Mount Morris

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – Kayse Rushford

AGENDA

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the February 12, 2026, minutes. Cade Bushnell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. 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. Cade Bushnell made a motion to accept the financial report and to pay the bills as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS

Employee time sheets and travel/expense reimbursement claims were reviewed. Molly Duncan made a motion to approve the time sheets as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PFC/SSRP/PPCC COST-SHARE

Sterling Taylor stated no new actions were needed.

CONSERVATION PLANS, REVISIONS, or CANCELLATIONS

Sterling Taylor stated no action was needed.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS

Brian Lindquist reviewed 1 NRI report.

Harry Adams, Ag1 to R1, 10.0 acres, Byron Township, Land Evaluation (LE) score 77.57 with limitations for septic systems.

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

REPORTS

IDoA BL&W REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, Shelly Steging –

Shelly Steging 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 meeting was canceled. Darin shared that the Council hired a financial administrator.

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

Kayse Rushford was not able to attend.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan said that prescribed burn season has been in full swing for the management of the prairies. Molly shared a cost-share opportunity for agribusinesses to purchase equipment to assist producers apply conservation practices.

MIDDLE ROCK PARTNERS, Cody Considine-

Cody Considine was not able to attend.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Sterling Taylor-

Sterling Taylor distributed and discussed his written report. See Attached.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Brian Lindquist-

Brian Lindquist said he assisted NRCS to complete field status reviews of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. 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.

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PCM) SPECIALIST, Alexa Skirmont-

Alexa Skirmont said she has been busy creating the producer's annual reports and meeting with farmers to discuss their systems.

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

Aaron Seim said the NRCS staff have been working with producers to prepare applications and manage contracts for EQIP, CSP and CRP. Aaron discussed the breakdown of the \$17 million for this year's EQIP 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NRI Report Fee – After discussion, it was agreed to use the same fee structure for all Natural Inventory Reports prepared by the District.

Local Work Group Meeting – Sterling Taylor stated Ogle Co. SWCD will host a meeting being planned for March 26, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Amendment FY2026 – Sterling Taylor reviewed the FY26 Budget Amendments. Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the amended FY26 budget as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IL Corn Growers PCM Agreement – Sterling Taylor reviewed the FY26 Illinois Corn Growers Agreement to host a PCM Specialist. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the agreement for FY26 as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PCM Specialist Contract – Sterling Taylor reviewed the FY26 employment contract for the PCM Specialist. Molly Duncan made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Resource Conservationist Assistance MOU – Sterling Taylor discussed the lack of Resource Conservationists in neighboring counties and how IL Department of Agriculture programs and grants require the services of Resource Conservationists. Discussion was held on how that could affect the Ogle Co. SWCD. The consensus of the group was that a fee of \$75 - \$100 per hour could be charged based on assistance requested.

Board Organization – Cade Bushnell made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Marcia Heuer continue to serve as Chairperson. Jon Pearson seconded the motion. Voice votes of yes were heard. No nye votes were heard. Motion passed unanimously.

Molly Duncan made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Jon Pearson to serve as Vice Chairperson. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion. Voice votes of yes were heard. No nye votes were heard. Motion passed unanimously.

Jon Pearson made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Cade Bushnell to continue to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Molly Duncan seconded the motion. Voice votes of yes were heard. No nye votes were heard. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Appointments – Chairperson Heuer reviewed her suggested committee assignments. See Attached. After a brief discussion, all agreed.

Meeting Dates, Time, and Place – Sterling Taylor distributed a meeting schedule (see attached) keeping the regular board meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 am, at the Ogle County Farm Bureau. After some discussion, Molly Duncan made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Cody Considine seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for April 16, 2026, at 8:00 am.

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business at 9:47 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

Cade Bushnell, Secretary
Ogle County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Date

Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date