

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

April 16, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held April 16, 2026, at the Ogle County Farm Bureau, 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
Kayse Rushford
Molly Duncan

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Darin Dehaan
Terry Reeverts
Henry Tideman
Ed Baker

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Jeff Woodyatt, 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 –Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer

AGENDA

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. Jon Pearson 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 March 12, 2026, minutes. Molly Duncan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The March 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. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS

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

PFC/SSRP/PPCC COST-SHARE

Jeff Woodyatt reviewed two applications to be added to the FY2025 Partners for Conservation priority list.

#14100257, \$1,167.19, Waterway

#14100258, \$14,296.47, Waterway

Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the applications as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CONSERVATION PLANS, REVISIONS, or CANCELLATIONS

Sterling Taylor stated no action was needed.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS

Sterling Taylor stated no action was needed.

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 Council is updating their website. He shared that Oregon and the 5 area mayors are meeting to discuss how they can better utilize the Blackhawk Hills Council. There was discussion about the I-Fiber Contract.

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

Kayse Rushford Said there was nothing new for the Nature Alliance. She shared the Prairie Preservation Society will be holding their Annual Banquet at Stronghold.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan said that prescribed burn season has wrapped up. Molly shared 3 upcoming events: Science Symposium April 25th, Volunteer Meeting May 2nd, Box Turtle count May 13/14th.

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 was not able to attend. Sterling Taylor reviewed some of Brian's activities.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Jeff Woodyatt-

Jeff Woodyatt distributed and discussed his written report. See Attached.

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PCM) SPECIALIST, Alexa Skirmont-

Alexa Skirmont was not able to attend.

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. None of the applications submitted for Ogle County were selected. Aaron also shared some of the changes to the CSP program.

ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (AISWCD),

Any correspondence from the AISWCD had been forwarded via email earlier. Sterling Taylor shared information concerning the AISWCD Annual Conference to be held in Peoria, IL this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Local Work Group Meeting – Sterling Taylor reviewed the Local Work Group meeting the Ogle Co. SWCD hosted on March 26, 2026. There were 12 in attendance to discuss conservation programs and needs.

Ogle Co. SWCD Scholarship – No applications have been received yet. Deadline is May 1, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Electronic Board Meeting Attendance – Chairperson Heuer reviewed the rules and guidance from the Department of Ag that followed the State of Illinois statute for governmental public meetings to include electronic components. After some discussion, Molly Duncan made a motion to create a policy allowing directors to participate via electronic means. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Staff will also gather information and cost for conducting a ZOOM component for meetings.

