

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

May 14, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held May 14, 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:

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
Dave Nelson, Mount Morris

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 April 16, 2026, minutes. Kayse Rushford made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The April 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. Molly Duncan made a motion to accept the financial report and to pay the bills as presented. Kayse Rushford 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

Jeff Woodyatt reviewed three applications to be added to the FY2025 Partners for Conservation (PFC) priority list.
#14100259, \$995.17, Pollinator
#14100260, \$3,781.63, Pollinator
#14100263, \$1,357.04, Pollinator

Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the 3 PFC applications as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jeff Woodyatt reviewed 41 contracts on 14,801 acres enrolled in the FY2026 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for producers to practice no-till or strip-till on their farms. (see attached list). Molly Duncan made a motion to approve the 41 CPRG contracts 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 1 NRI report.

Josh Nelson, Ag1 to IA, 10 acres, Mount Morris Township, LESA Land Evaluation score 74.52 with note that surrounding land use is agriculture. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the report as prepared. Kayse Rushford 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 was not able to attend.

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

Kayse Rushford said she had nothing new for the Nature Alliance.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan shared several events: Bison Tours, Science Symposium, and scheduled workdays. She also discussed the Box Turtle count conducted in mid-May.

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. Sterling added the employee health insurance premiums would be increasing for the next fiscal year. He also reminded the directors that the Economic Interest Statements were due to the County Clerk May 1, 2026.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Brian Lindquist-

Brian Lindquist reviewed his past month activities including 3rd Grade tree distribution, completing Prairie seedings and meeting with landowners to review their warm season CRP plantings.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Jeff Woodyatt-

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

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PCM) SPECIALIST, Alexa Skirmont-

Alexa Skirmont reviewed her past month's activities including having completed the producer's annual reports and a weeklong team meeting in Nebraska. She shared that PCM would be the administrator for the "Farmers for Soil Health" program.

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

Aaron Seim was not able to attend. Sterling Taylor distributed a written report Aaron had prepared. See attached.

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 House Bill 4755 to include \$10 million in the FY27 State budget for SWCD's. The committee hearing had been positive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ogle Co. SWCD Scholarship – The Scholarship Committee reported that 2 excellent applications were received. After some discussion, Molly Duncan made a motion to award Hunter Miller a \$2000 scholarship and Levi Eden a \$2000 scholarship. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Electronic Board Meeting Policy – Sterling Taylor distributed a policy for directors to attend SWCD meetings electronically. (See attached) After some discussion, Kayse Rushford made a motion to adopt the policy as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Staff will also gather information and cost for conducting a ZOOM component for meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

AISWCD Annual Meeting and Conference – Sterling Taylor reviewed information concerning the meeting and conference to be held June 13-15, 2026, in Peoria, IL. Chairperson Heuer will plan to attend and serve as the voting delegate for the Ogle County SWCD. Staff Woodyatt and Taylor will also plan to attend.

Local Conservation Focus Event – No Action. Item will be placed on the next board meeting agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Henry Tideman initiated discussion addressing avenues and tools to encourage farmers to share conservation experiences and successes. Much discussion followed.

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for June 11, 2026, at 8:00 am.

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business at 10:00 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

Cade Bushnell, Secretary
Ogle County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Date

Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DIRECTORS MEETING – May 14, 2026