

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

June 11, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held June 11, 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
Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer
Kayse Rushford
Molly Duncan

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Terry Reeverts
Henry Tideman
Darin DeHaan

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Aaron Seim, District Conservationist, NRCS
Jeff Woodyatt, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD
Brian Lindquist, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD
Sterling Taylor, Executive Director, Ogle SWCD

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – None

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.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Brian Lindquist introduced Hunter Miller. Hunter was selected as one of two Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District 2026 scholarship award winners.

MINUTES

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the May 14, 2026, minutes. Kayse Rushford made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The May 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. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS

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

PFC/SSRP/PPCC COST-SHARE

Jeff Woodyatt 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.

Jerrod Wickler, Ag1 to R1, 6.45 acres, Byron (west) Township, LESA Land Evaluation score 53.61 with note that the area is wooded and has severe limitations for dwellings with basements and septic tank absorption fields. Cade Bushnell 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 stated the next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2026. He also shared the city of Oregon is working to obtain a designation as a "Bird City". Oregon's Sustainable group is coordinating an event to clean areas along the Rock River.

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

Kayse Rushford said the annual "Crane Count" yielded a slightly lower number this year. Most likely due to an earlier than usual migration this year. She also shared the "Butterfly Fest" will be held at the Elkhorn Creek Preserve on July 25th.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan shared Nachusa Grasslands Annual Report. She said the summer public Bison Tours are available by signing up. Molly explained the differences and the relationship between The Nature Conservancy and the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands.

MIDDLE ROCK PARTNERS, Cody Considine-

Cody Considine was not able to attend. Molly Duncan shared the group had several workdays and they are working towards hiring an executive director.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Sterling Taylor-

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

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Brian Lindquist-

Brian Lindquist discussed the Transect Survey, Outdoor Stewardship Days, Ag-in-the-Classroom, and the Scholarship award winners.

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 reviewed EQIP and CSP programs and the new increased funding levels. Aaron stated the staff would be conducting Conservation Compliance reviews. Ogle County had 11 random reviews drawn. In the past, there have been around 30 reviews. He also said that the NRCS District Conservationists would be attending the AISWCD Annual Conference.

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

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

UNFINISHED 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 plans 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 – After some discussion . it was agreed that the District would plan a Conservation Day this late summer. Staff will work to put an event together.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2026 Budget Amendment – Sterling Taylor reviewed the proposed FY 2026 Budget amendments. After some discussion, Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the amended FY 2026 Budget as presented. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion. Chairperson Heuer asked for a roll call vote. Directors Pearson, Rushford, Bushnell, Duncan and Heuer voted yes. No nye votes were voiced. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 2027 Budget – Sterling Taylor reviewed the proposed FY 2027 Budget. After some discussion, Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the FY 2027 Budget as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion. Chairperson Heuer asked for a roll call vote. Directors Pearson, Rushford, Bushnell, Duncan and Heuer voted yes. No nye votes were voiced. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sterling Taylor stated the Ogle County SWCD was originally scheduled to host the quarterly Northern IL Land Use Council meeting in May. After some discussion, it was suggested that Ogle Co. SWCD offer to host the meeting in August or September at the Nachusa Grasslands and to include a prairie tour.

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for July 9, 2026, at 8:00 am.

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business at 9:38 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 – June 11, 2026