

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

July 9, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held July 9, 2026, at the Ogle County Farm Bureau, Oregon, IL. Chairperson Marcia Heuer called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

DIRECTORS:

Marcia Heuer, Chairperson
Jon Pearson, Vice Chairperson

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Darin DeHaan
Terry Reeverts

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
Levi Eden, Oregon

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer, Molly Duncan, Kayse Rushford

AGENDA

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

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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

MINUTES

Due to a lack of a quorum, Chairperson Heuer asked that this item be held over for approval at the next board meeting.

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. Due to a lack of a quorum, Chairperson Heuer asked that this item be held over for approval at the next board meeting.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS

Employee time sheets and travel/expense reimbursement claims were reviewed. Due to a lack of a quorum, Chairperson Heuer asked that this item be held over for approval at the next board meeting.

PFC/SSRP/PPCC COST-SHARE

Jeff Woodyatt stated no new actions were needed.

CONSERVATION PLANS, REVISIONS, or CANCELLATIONS

Sterling Taylor presented a list of Conservation Plan of Operations for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for renewed and new contracts. The consensus of those present was for the District to sign the plans so they can be forwarded to Farm Services Agency (FSA). Due to a lack of a quorum, Chairperson Heuer asked that this item be held over for approval at the next board meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS

Brian Lindquist reviewed 1 Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) report.

Shane Nielson, Ag1 to R1, 6.45 acres, Marion (South) Township, LESA Land Evaluation score 74.63 with note that the area is wooded and surrounding land use is agriculture. The consensus of those present was to sign the report so it can be forwarded to Ogle County Zoning Office. Due to a lack of a quorum, Chairperson Heuer asked that this item be held over for approval at the next board meeting.

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 last regular meeting was cancelled. He shared that the design concepts from the Housing Design competition have been presented to several communities.

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

Kayse Rushford was not able to be present.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan *was not able to be present*. Marcia Heuer reviewed some of the activities at the grasslands.

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 discussed the solar and wind construction practices and degrees of land manipulation. He shared results from the Transect Survey. Brian stated Outdoor Stewardship Days will be October 6-7, 2026.

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 is also conducting Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) reviews and preparing conservation plans. 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 – Jeff Woodyatt discussed the plans for a Conservation Day in mid-August 2026. Jeff and Alexa Skirmont (PCM) have been working together to plan this event.

NEW BUSINESS

Ogle Co. HEW Funding Application – After some discussion, it was agreed to submit a fiscal year 2027 funding application for \$50,000 .

OTHER BUSINESS

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for August 13, 2026, at 8:00 am.

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business, at 9:46 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

Cade Bushnell, Secretary
Ogle County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Date

Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date

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DIRECTORS MEETING – July 9, 2026