

OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

August 13, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held August 13, 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
Molly Duncan
Kayse Rushford

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Darin DeHaan
Terry Reeverts
Henry Tideman

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
Alexa Skirmont, PCM Specialist, IL Corn Growers/Ogle SWCD
Dave Nelson, Mt. Morris

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – None

AGENDA

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. Terry Reeverts asked if Lorado Taft Campus could be discussed during Darin DeHaan's report and Ogle County Data Center Ordinance could be added for discussion under "New Business." Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the two additions. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Molly Duncan made a motion to approve the June 11, 2026, minutes as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

After reviewing the July 9, 2026, minutes, Jon Pearson noted under "Unfinished Business" AISWCD Annual Meeting was held in July. Not in June. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the July 9, 2026, minutes with the correction. Marcia Heuer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The June 2026 financial report was reviewed. Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the June 2026 Financial report as presented. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The July 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 approve the July 2026, financial reports. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS

The June 2026 employee time sheets were reviewed. Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the June 2026 time sheets as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

July 2026 employee time sheets and travel/expense reimbursement claims were reviewed. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the June 2026 time sheets as presented. Molly Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PFC/SSRP/PPCC COST-SHARE

Jeff Woodyatt reviewed 2 Partners for Conservation (PFC) cost-share contracts for payment.

14100257, Waterway, \$1,167.19

14100259, Pollinator, \$995.16

Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the two payments as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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. (See attached list) Molly Duncan made a motion to approve the list as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

Brian Lindquist discussed a recent application for an NRI Report from Route 29 Properties. Also known as Macklin Quarry. Since the area of interest has already been quarried, and the NRI report uses information within the top 60 inches, the report would be of little to no use. After some discussion, Cade Bushnell made a motion to refund all but the base fee of \$500. 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 shared the Regional Council has published their Annual Report. The council is working with communities to develop a database for potential housing and industrial development. Darin said a lot in Polo, IL has been chosen to build a model home designed through the design contest for multi-generation housing project.

Darin also said the City of Oregon has been certified as a "Bird City." He reviewed discussions concerning the future of Lorado Taft Campus.

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

Kayse Rushford said she had nothing new to share.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-

Molly Duncan stated that the Grasslands is hosting tours this time of year. Autumn on the Prairie is September 19th. Molly said the TNC Agricultural Equipment grants are being utilized to assist local agri-businesses purchase conservation farming equipment.

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 is coordinating seeding projects for this fall. Brian reviewed Outdoor Stewardship Day and Ag Awareness Day. He also discussed a possible fee schedule for seeding projects with government and non-for-profit organizations.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST, Jeff Woodyatt-

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

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PCM) SPECIALIST, Alexa Skirmont-

Alexa Skirmont stated she has been working with existing and new producers to gather data. She also discussed the plans for the upcoming field day. Alexa shared information about funds for producers through Farmers for Soil Health.

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 NRCS will likely change the district grouping of Ogle and DeKalb Counties to include Lee County.

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 – Cade Bushnell was presented an award and congratulations for 20 years of service as a director on the Ogle Co. SWCD Board. Chairperson Heuer, Jeff Woodyatt and Sterling Taylor attended the meeting and conference held July 13-15, 2026, in Peoria, IL. Some discussion was shared concerning the event.

Conservation Field Day – Jeff Woodyatt and Alexa Skirmont discussed what is planned for the Conservation Field Day on August 19, 2026.

Ogle Co. HEW Funding Application – Sterling Taylor shared that the HEW committee has asked the Ogle Co. SWCD to meet with them to discuss our funding request on August 26th.

Land Use Council Meeting – Sterling Taylor shared that the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2026, at Nachusa Grasslands.

Solar/Wind/BESS Consulting – Brian Lindquist, Sterling Taylor and Jeff Woodyatt reviewed a meeting they had with Ogle Co. Zoning Department and Highway Department to discuss the possibility of the District providing review consultation on wind and solar sites.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Committee: Employee Contracts – Sterling Taylor stated the employee contracts end August 31, 2026, and the committee needs to meet to develop new contracts.

Audit, Fiscal Year 2026 – After some discussion, it was agreed to ask Shelly Dambman to complete a financial review of the District's financials for fiscal year 2026.

Plat Book – After some discussion, it was agreed the District should pursue the possibility of coordinating a new plat book.

Data Center County Ordinance – Terry Reeverts initiated discussion concerning the data center ordinance for Ogle County and how the Soil and Water Conservation District is involved. Some discussion followed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for September 10, 2026, at 8:00 am, at the Nachusa Grasslands.

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business, at 10:03 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

Cade Bushnell, Secretary
Ogle County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Date

Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date