

# OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

September 10, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held September 10, 2026, at the Nachusa Grassland Preserve, Franklin Grove, IL. Chairperson Marcia Heuer called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

## THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

### **DIRECTORS:**

Marcia Heuer, Chairperson  
Jon Pearson, Vice Chairperson  
Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer  
Molly Duncan  
Kayse Rushford

### **ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:**

Ed Baker  
Henry Tideman

## **OTHERS ATTENDING:**

Jeff Woodyatt, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD  
Brian Lindquist, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD  
Sterling Taylor, Executive Director, Ogle SWCD  
Deb Pearson, Mt. Morris

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None

DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None

DIRECTORS ABSENT – None

## **AGENDA**

Chairperson Heuer asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **MINUTES**

Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the August 13, 2026, minutes as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The August 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. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the August 2026 financial report and to pay the bills. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS**

The August 2026 employee time sheets 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 discussed some of the ongoing projects.

## **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) Cade Bushnell made a motion to approve the list as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS**

Brian Lindquist stated no new actions were 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 a lot in Polo, IL has been chosen to build a model home designed through the design contest for Multi-Generation Housing Project. Some discussion followed.

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

Kayse Rushford said the group was taking bird seed orders though Oct. 2, 2026. They are planning seed collection and a campfire at the Elkhorn Preserve. A field trip is scheduled to the Amboy Marsh.

*NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-*

Molly Duncan stated their Annual Fall Festival is September 19<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on the bison herd.

*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 preparing for 2 education events, Outdoor Stewardship Day and Ag Awareness Day.

*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-*

A written report from Aaron Seim was distributed.

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

Any correspondence from the AISWCD had been forwarded via email earlier. Jeff Woodyatt reviewed the following items concerning the AISWCD; 2026 Summer Conference, auditors List, and current legislation.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Conservation Field Day** – Jeff Woodyatt reviewed the Conservation Field Day held on August 19, 2026. 30 were in attendance, with discussion on soil health, cover crops, the results from Precision Conservation Management 2025 conservation and economics data and a drone seeding demonstration. The Ogle Co. Beef Producers provided a steak sandwich meal.

**Ogle Co. HEW Funding Application** – Sterling Taylor said he and Jeff Woodyatt meet on August 26<sup>th</sup> with the Ogle Co. Health, Education, and Welfare Committee to discuss the FY2027 funding request from the Ogle Co. Board.

**Land Use Council Meeting** – Sterling Taylor shared that the quarterly meeting scheduled for September 10, 2026, at Nachusa Grasslands was canceled due to the lack of attendance from other counties.

**Solar/Wind/BESS Consulting** – Discussion was held concerning a proposed plan for the District to provide consulting reviews to the Ogle Co. Zoning Department and the Highway Department to ensure the County Ordinance requirements are being met on wind, solar and BESS sites.

**Personnel Committee: Employee Contracts** – Personnel Committee Chairman, Jon Pearson stated the committee had met to discuss employee contracts and benefits for the FY2027 contract year. Jon Pearson made a motion to offer compensation for a one-year contract beginning September 1, 2026, to the two resource conservationist positions and the executive director position, based on the cost-of-living, inflation, and merit, a 4% salary increase and a 2% bonus. All other benefits and conditions are as provided in the previous standard contract and personnel policies. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Plat Book** – Brian Lindquist said he is in discussion with the publisher to develop a new plat book. Some discussion followed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**District Foundation** – After much discussion, it was agreed to form a committee to formulate the structure of a District Foundation. The initial committee will include Jeff Woodyatt, Henry Tideman, Cade Bushnell, Marcia Heuer and Sterling Taylor.

**AISWCD Dues** – Sterling Taylor reviewed the FY26 dues request from the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts for \$2200. Cade Bushnell made a motion to pay the dues as requested. Molly Duncan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Illinois Healthy Soils Initiative** – After some discussion, Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the initiative as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Seeding Fees For Government and Not-for-Profit Organizations**

After discussion, the District agreed to consider requests from governmental agencies and not-for-profit organizations for custom air-seeding services at no cost or at a reduced rate. Requests will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements:

- The proposed establishment must be planned as native pollinator habitat.
- The plan must be reviewed to confirm that it meets minimum standards for success.
- The requester must complete an application form developed and implemented by District staff.
- The District Board must review and approve the request.

Molly Duncan moved to approve the application form, review process, and District Board approval requirements described above. Cade Bushnell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

No other business was brought before the Board.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no other business, at 9:48 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

After the meeting, eleven of those attending were taken on a guided tour of the Nachusa Grasslands.

---

Cade Bushnell, Secretary  
Ogle County Soil and Water  
Conservation District

Date

---

Sterling Taylor, Recorder

Date

**OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
DIRECTORS MEETING – September 10, 2026