OGLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2026

The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District was held October 8, 2026, at the Ogle County Farm Bureau Building in 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

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:
Ed Baker
Henry Tideman
Darin Dehaan

OTHERS ATTENDING:
Jeff Woodyatt, Resource Conservationist, Ogle SWCD
Sterling Taylor, Executive Director, Ogle SWCD

DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE – None
DIRECTORS DEPARTING EARLY – None
DIRECTORS ABSENT – Cade Bushnell, Sec/Treasurer, Molly Duncan

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT
The September 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 September 2026 financial report and to pay the bills. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS
The September 2026 employee time sheets were reviewed. Kayse Rushford 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 stated the Ogle Co. SWCD received an additional $9,392.37 in FY 2025 PFC funds to be used on additional projects. The funds were unused funds from other SWCD's in the state.
Jeff reviewed 3 Partners for Conservation (PFC) applications for an additional $9,392.37. (Application numbers 14100262, 14100265, 14100266). Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the applications as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
Jeff reviewed 41 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) payments to participating producers for a total of $518,024.50. See attached. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the payments as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CONSERVATION PLANS, REVISIONS, or CANCELLATIONS
Sterling Taylor stated no new actions were needed.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORTS
Sterling Taylor 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 shared the Council is creating a policy on awarding micro-grants. Darin also said the Greater Freeport Partnership has sent a letter to the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council asking for support in getting funding for the Partnership from the City of Freeport. After much discussion, it was agreed that the representative for the Ogle SWCD would abstain with no opinion if a vote on the matter is called for at the Council.

NW IL BIRD and NATURE ALLIANCE/PRAIRIE PRESERVATION, Kayse Rushford –
Kayse Rushford said she had nothing new to report. Bird seed pickup will be October 17th.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS, Molly Duncan-
Molly Duncan 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 was not able to attend.

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. Sterling Taylor shared that Alexa is busy working with current and several new producers gathering and entering data.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, Aaron Seim-
Aaron Seim was not able to attend. Sterling Taylor shared that the deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications is December 18, 2026.

ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (AISWCD),
Any correspondence from the AISWCD had been forwarded via email earlier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ogle Co. HEW Funding – Sterling Taylor said after meeting with the Ogle Co. Health, Education, and Welfare Committee and explaining some of the District's goals and activities, the Committee voted to fully support the District's FY2027 funding request from the Ogle Co. Board.

Solar/Wind/BESS Consulting – Sterling Taylor stated there are no new actions 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.

District Foundation – Jeff Woodyatt said an initial committee meeting to formulate a District Foundation was held October 29, 2026. The initial committee discussed main goals, funding, programing, advisory members, rolls, and duties. Another meeting will be set after harvest is completed.

Plat Book – There is nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

AISWCD CRP Sub-Agreement Extension – Jeff Woodyatt reviewed the AISWCD CRP Sub-Agreement extension to assist Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) workload. Jon Pearson made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Kayse Rushford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Community Project Assistance Request
Jeff Woodyatt discussed a Community Project Assistance application from the Rock River Center asking the District to provide custom air-seeding services at no cost to seed a 3.17-acre prairie at the Center. Kayse Rushford made a motion to approve the application as presented. Jon Pearson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

No other business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business, at 9:17 a.m., Chairperson Heuer adjourned the meeting.

Cade Bushnell, Secretary Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District	Date
Sterling Taylor, Recorder	Date