



211 N. Appleton Road

Belvidere, IL 6108

815-544-3465 ext. 3

### **Boone County SWCD Board**

#### **Present**

Bill Hall.....Chairman

Jack Ratcliffe.....Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Frank.....Vice-Chairman

Todd Aves.....Director

Aaron Brahmstedt.....Director

#### **Absent**

#### **Attendees**

Teagan Duffy.....SWCD

Ashley Barry.....IDOA

Josh Franks.....NRCS

### **SWCD Meeting 08/15/2024**

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:07 A.M.

#### **Minutes**

The July meeting minutes were approved by Jack Ratcliffe and seconded by Todd Aves.

The Special Hiring meeting minutes were approved by Todd Aves and seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Barry gave a brief introduction as the new Boone County IDOA Conservation Planner.

#### **Finance Report**

Teagan Duffy gave the finance report. Current funds are \$274,169.57 in Midland checking account and \$15,108.13 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is at \$248,689.74. In a motion made by Mike Frank and seconded by Todd Aves the report was approved.

Mr. Ratcliffe asked if there should be a vote to put Ms. VanTilburg on the Midland account. Ms. Duffy stated that she had that written in her report, but the vote could be done now. Jack Ratcliffe made a motion to place Heather VanTilburg on the Boone County SWCD Midland bank accounts and the Illinois

Funds accounts, and to take Teagan Duffy off the accounts, seconded by Todd Aves. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

### **Timesheets**

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets.

### **Reports**

Teagan Duffy gave SWCD report.

Josh Franks gave NRCS report. He mentioned that PCM will have a field day next week from 10-noon at 32456 Pearl St.

Teagan Duffy continued SWCD report.

Ms. Duffy asked if the board would like to change NRI policy to make hard copies an opt-in for applicants. She stated that the county planners indicated they would prefer digital copies. In a motion made by Todd Aves and seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt to update the NRI policy, the motion was approved in an unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy asked if the board would like to include the following disclaimer on future NRI opinions: *The given opinion is based on the quality of the parcel's farmland and the potential resource loss that could occur if the zoning change is implemented. The board's opinion is meant to inform the decisions made for land use changes on parcels proposed for the discontinuance of agriculture. The result of which is meant to supplement any determining factors, not the exclusive factor for a change of use. The board's policy is to vote unfavorably for parcels with LE scores greater than 69, unless there are significant barriers to farming present.* Mr. Franks stated that it would be more clear to include an explanation that LE scores over 69 indicate prime farmland, which is why that LE score was chosen. Jack Ratcliffe made a motion to add the disclaimer with the edits suggested by Mr. Franks, motion seconded by Todd Aves. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy presented NRI's 1766 through 1769. She mentioned that there was a waterway south of the proposed project. There was discussion on the size of the proposed development and the high LE score. Mike Frank made a motion to vote unfavorably on all four, due to the high LE score and the prime state of the farmland, the motion was seconded by Jack Ratcliffe. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy presented NRI 1770. She mentioned that there were parts of the parcel located in the floodplain, as well as some wetlands on the property. There was discussion on the prime nature of the soil and farmland. There was discussion on the location of the wetlands on the parcel and the level that they would interfere with farming operations. Todd Aves made a motion to vote unfavorably due to the high LE score and the location of the wetlands and floodplain preventing them from being a barrier to farming on the parcel, the motion was seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy presented NRI 1771. She mentioned that there were limited portions of the parcel located in the floodplain as well as wetlands on the property. There was discussion on the placement of the

wetlands. There was discussion on the prime nature of the farmland on the property due to high LE score. Todd Aves made a motion to vote unfavorably due to the high LE score and prime nature of the farmland on the parcel, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy presented NRI 1772. She mentioned that the topography on the site was relatively hilly, and there is a line of trees through the middle of the parcel. There was discussion on the location of the parcel in relation to other nearby agricultural sites, and how that may make it less desirable to farm. There was discussion on the LE score being lower than 80, coupled with the tree line and the topography, that may make this parcel less than ideal farming conditions. Bill Hall made a motion to vote favorably due to the sub-prime nature of the farmland on the parcel, seconded by Todd Aves. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy asked if she would be able to keep her jacket after she vacates her position. She also asked if the new employee could order themselves new employee clothing and business cards. Aaron Brahmstedt made a motion to allow Ms. Duffy to keep the jacket and allow for funds to purchase new employee equipment, seconded by Todd Aves. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Ms. Duffy asked if there could be an approval for \$400 to sign the new employee up for the IDOT erosion training workshop. Todd Aves made a motion to approve the funds, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

Todd Aves brought up that there had been negotiation for the new employee's salary. Todd Aves made a motion to accept the negotiated rate of \$53,928, as the new starting salary, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion was passed in a unanimous vote.

### **Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn made by Aaron Brahmstedt and seconded by Todd Aves.