



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

Heather VanTilburg.....SWCD	Ashley Barry.....IDOA
Josh Franks.....NRCS	Luke Trexler.....NRCS
Griffin Smith.....NRCS	

SWCD Meeting 03/05/2025

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

Minutes

The January meeting minutes were approved by Jack Ratcliffe and seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt.

Public Comment

No public comment given.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$232,687.92 in Midland checking account and \$15,094.80 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is at \$255,817.55. Ms. VanTilburg made comments about open invoices for NRCS administrative work that was billed. She also noted that county funding had been granted, and the first quarter payment was received. There was a motion made by Mike Frank, seconded by Todd Aves to approve the finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

Timesheets

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets and mileage report.

Reports

Josh Franks gave the NRCS report and staffing update, March 14th the CR expires. Mr. Franks said not much has changed on programs except for IRA, those funds are paused. Mr. Franks said that \$20 million of IRA funds had been released last week for some payments but will be paused again. He reported that new CRP is still suspended, and that Boone/McHenry/Lake FSA has a new acting CED.

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD Report. Ms. VanTilburg is working on scoring Soil & Water Stewardship scholarships this week and will be helping at an SESC workshop that Winnebago County SWCD is hosting tomorrow. She reminded everyone that the 3-D Mapping public event is this Saturday at the Wing and Wheels Museum located on site of the Poplar Grove Airport. Ms. VanTilburg noted that the district should be prepared for a government shutdown if the CR expires without a resolution, the SWCD would not have access to the office or the NRCS computer if this occurs. She stated that she is preparing for this and will make arrangement in the event of a shutdown.

Ms. VanTilburg gave an update on AISWCD, mentioning SB2387 and noting that directors may call Eliot Clay with the Association if they want to talk about it further or have specific questions. Ms. VanTilburg gave an update on IDOA, noting that PFC ranking is due May 1st and quarterly reports due April 11th. Annual reports are due April 1st to close out the FY24 grant agreement.

Organization of the Board

The board voted on the organization of the board. Todd Aves made a motion to leave the organization as is, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion carried.

Local Work Group Meeting Plans

Ms. VanTilburg went over the plans for Boone's Local Work Group meeting scheduled April 3rd. She noted that the board meeting is the day before on the 2nd, and asked if the board would like to reschedule the board meeting for the morning of the local work group meeting. The board indicated they will keep the schedule as is.

MCCA Signage

Ms. VanTilburg gave an update on fixing the signage at the Mosquito Creek Conservation Area. Ms. VanTilburg asked the board if they think we should try to apply for a community foundation grant to help with the cost. Ms. VanTilburg also mentioned possibly adding some associated dates to the current listing, if she can find them, and leaving some space for any future restoration project contributors. Mr. Ratcliffe mentioned that the previous contact for signage inquiries will be unable to assist, Ms. VanTilburg agreed to look into additional contacts.

District Equipment

Ms. VanTilburg discussed that the district needs a new computer, the old one will no longer update and is not running well. Ms. VanTilburg would also like to include additional technology such as a document scanner, docking station, and the renewal of a previous office software subscription to better support the district's workload. There was a motion made by Todd Aves to allow the purchase of new devices and to set a limit at \$1500 total for the transaction(s). Aaron Brahmstedt seconded; the motion carried.

Annual Report

Ms. VanTilburg gave the Annual Report.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn made by Mike Frank, seconded by Todd Aves.