



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

#### **Absent**

Aaron Brahmstedt.....Director

#### **Attendees**

Heather VanTilburg.....SWCD

Griffin Smith.....NRCS

Luke Trexler.....NRCS

### **SWCD Meeting 04/02/2025**

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:06 A.M.

#### **Minutes**

The March meeting minutes were approved by Mike Frank and seconded by Jack Ratcliffe.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment given.

#### **Finance Report**

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$227,585.00 in Midland checking account and \$15,091.40 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is at \$256,780.88. There was a motion made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Todd Aves to approve the finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Timesheets**

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets and mileage report.

## **Reports**

Luke Trexler gave the NRCS report. Mr. Trexler related that the previously laid off probationary employees would be returning for 45 days, and that NRCS has a new Chief. He gave an update on programs; the Farm Bill was extended, IRA funded contracts were on pause but has since been lifted, and still no new CRP. Mr. Trexler reported that the team has been working on mid-contract management reviews and modifications, and that the Boone staff are still working on helping Stephenson County with their CRP backlog. It was noted that there were many applications this year with a wide range of practices/plans for agriculture, there were 71 in our district group. Mr. Trexler concluded the report, Ms. VanTilburg added that there would likely be more USDA staff potentially being stationed in the office very soon due to the return to work order.

Ms. VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. She noted that the new computer was purchased but that she still needs to order the small scanner. Ms. VanTilburg recapped the erosion and sediment workshop hosted by Winnebago and the 3-D Geologic Mapping event last month. For Boone County's event, about 175 registered to attend but they think that around 200 were there. Ms. VanTilburg reminded the group that the local work group meeting is to be held tomorrow at the transfer center on Lyford Rd at 9:30 a.m. She reported that the county/municipal Stormwater Technical Committee met last month to revitalize the group and take on responsibilities of planning oversight for the new data and mappings from the geologic survey, more to come. Ms. VanTilburg gave a brief overview of the 2025 NE IL Envirothon event and announced that next year's dates were in progress already. Ms. VanTilburg discussed that a professor who witnessed the geologic survey reached out and would like the SWCD to meet the class they're teaching this semester to talk about regenerative agriculture and our interactions with cultural resource management planning, which would be later this month.

Ms. VanTilburg discussed that CSP renewal letters had been mailed out for NRCS Admin work, and that people have been reaching out for seed to do their practices this year. She reported also that there are two pollinators, possibly a waterway and cover crop/no till practices for PFC interest. Ms. VanTilburg said that earlier a request was made to transfer some cost share to another district. She discussed updates on SESC, AISWCD funding bills SB2387 and SB2638.

Ms. VanTilburg wrapped up her report with NRIs. She mentioned that the district could model their fees more in line with neighboring districts and add additional services related to the reports. She discussed that RC letters move to \$100, more in line with the work involved and mirroring other district's fee schedules. Ms. VanTilburg discussed that an optional update could include adding a soil information with map only report and an EcoCat Information Only report for \$35 to diversify the district's offerings. Mike Frank motioned to approve that fees and service offerings could be updated to better match the area, Todd Aves seconded. The motion carried.

## **FY25 PFC Guidelines and Components**

Ms. VanTilburg presented the FY25 PFC guidelines and component cost estimates. Jack Ratcliffe motioned to accept the cost list; Mike Frank seconded. The motion carried.

## **FY25 Grant Agreement**

Ms. VanTilburg went over the FY25 grant agreement.

**Adjournment**

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