



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

Josh Franks.....NRCS

Luke Trexler.....NRCS

SWCD Meeting 07/09/2025

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M.

Minutes

The June meeting minutes were approved by Jack Ratcliffe and seconded by Todd Aves. The board made a motion to amend the July agenda to include NRI 1791, Todd Aves motioned and was seconded by Mike Frank.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$255,558.73 in Midland checking account and \$15,076.04 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is \$259,624.66. There was a motion made by Mike Frank, seconded by Todd Aves to approve the finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

District staff discussed contracting work for this year's AFR completion. A motion was made by Todd Aves, seconded by Mike Frank to allow Patty Foster's office to conduct the district's audit for 2025. The motion carried.

Timesheets

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets.

Reports

Josh Franks gave the NRCS report. Mr. Franks reported staffing changes for the area and the NRCS agency overall. He also discussed updates on funding for programs. Mr. Franks briefly went over ongoing programs, with 2 new RCPP Oak Health contracts funded in Boone. He concluded with updates on the next CRP application batching.

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. Ms. VanTilburg talked about upcoming soil health trainings and summer conference coming up in a couple of weeks. She also talked about ongoing PFC projects and funding status, stating that the district will have \$13,470 in cost share to use by December of 2026. Ms. VanTilburg stated that she hopes to hold a sign up period this fall to have some projects lined up.

Ms. VanTilburg went over the soil erosion and sediment control program's active sites and inspections, noting the upcoming projects along North State Street. She concluded her report with a reminder that next month will be employee reviews and Budget/APO finalizing.

NRI 1788 & 1793 A1-A2 Rezone Requests

Heather VanTilburg presented NRI 1788, a rezoning request in Boone Township for the construction of a single-family residence. Ms. VanTilburg shared the plat provided by the applicant, showing that more than 50% of the proposed area falls within the forested area on site. The board reviewed the executive summary, including soils and LE score, and discussed. Todd Aves made a motion to vote favorably due to the minimal impacts to cropland with a majority of the parcel contained in the wooded area. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. VanTilburg presented NRI 1793, a rezoning request in Belvidere Township for the construction of a single-family residence. Ms. VanTilburg shared site photos and explained that the current A1 lot is not farmed but kept a maintained (mowed) open lot with residential housing communities to the north, east and south. Ms. VanTilburg also shared the site plan provided by the applicant with the board. Ms. VanTilburg stated that the LE score for this NRI was 68. A motion was made by Mike Frank to vote favorably due to the low LE score and the current surrounding land use would present a barrier to farming. The motion carried.

NRI 1791 Commercial Solar

Ms. VanTilburg presented NRI 1791, a special use request for commercial solar in Poplar Grove on agricultural land. She shared the LE score for the parcel, 88.3. Ms. VanTilburg discussed the soils on site, noting that some areas contain hydric soils and that there was a mapped wetland (IPaC) within a mile and half of the site. A motion was made by Todd Aves and seconded by Jack Ratcliffe to vote unfavorably due to the LE score and displacement of prime farmland, as well as concerns about the wet soils. The motion passed unanimously.

APO/Budget Review

Ms. VanTilburg presented the draft APO and budget. There was a motion made by Jack Ratcliffe and seconded by Todd Aves to approve the drafts. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. VanTilburg asked if the board would like to move the August meeting by a week due to Boone County Fair obligations. Jack Ratcliffe made a motion to meet on August 13th for next month's meeting, seconded by Todd Aves. The motion carried.

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