



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

SWCD Meeting 10/01/2025: 205 Cadillac Ct #3, Belvidere, IL 61008 *Temporary location during shutdown*

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:17 A.M.

Minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved by Mike Frank and seconded by Todd Aves. No minutes were recorded for the October meeting, which was cancelled due to the government shutdown.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$255, 627.52 in Midland checking account and \$15057.69 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is \$263,471.74. 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.

FY25 AFR

The board reviewed the district's annual financial review with staff. Todd Aves motioned to approve the annual financial review, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion passed.

Donation from James Mulcahy-Consideration & Possible Action

Ms. VanTilburg discussed with the board that the district received a donation from James Mulchay via mail on 10/29/25. The donation was a \$1500 check made out to the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District to "further the work of the District", read from the enclosed letter. There was discussion about how to allocate the funds. Discussion included training programs, adding to the pool of cost share dollars available for projects, and securing a separate internet service for district use and operations (compatible with district owned devices).

At the end of the discussion, the board decided to accept the donation from James M. Mulcahy for \$1500 and defer allocation for the time being. Todd Aves made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Frank and approved unanimously.

NACD Dues

The board discussed contributions to the National Association of Conservation Districts. A motion was made to refrain from contributing at this time by Todd Aves, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe. Motion carried.

Reports

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. Ms. VanTilburg gave an overview of training completed; soil health, stormwater and MS4. She reported on administrative updates: IDOT signs will be installed this spring in April and May, BCCD has the district on their list for fall burns, audit updates and impacts from the government shutdown. Ms. VanTilburg explained that due to lack of access to established login for SAM.gov, they would not be able to renew registration until reopening, but they still have until December 10th to file. She concluded the administrative update noting that winter conference accommodation had been booked and registration complete, and a donation had been received of \$1500.

Ms. VanTilburg gave a brief overview of committee activity, noting that the stormwater technical group was working on reconvening the Stormwater Committee. She discussed current PFC projects and went over the FY24 funds balance of \$4608.11 to be spent by December. Two applications have been received for 2026 project proposals; staff are working on planning. Ms. VanTilburg mentioned the possibility of having to defer the waterway project planned this fall but noted that it would cut into the FY25 funds and the district may have to request additional funds to provide cost share for 2026 applications.

Ms. VanTilburg discussed the status of the NRCS administrative agreement. The 1-year extension contract was signed and submitted but must wait until the government reopens for action to be taken. Upon reopening, the district will assist with CSP payment verification and processing.

Staff discussed regular soil erosion and sediment control program inspections and general erosion concern reports and requests for technical assistance. Ms. VanTilburg concluded the SWCD report with an overview of the NRIs completed since September, 3 full reports and 5 letters.

PFC FY24 Funds & Current Projects

Ms. VanTilburg spoke to directors about an issue getting final clearance to complete a waterway project planned for this fall. After speaking with IDOA regional representative, Ms. VanTilburg explained that the board can decide to defer the project and utilize FY25 funds (already received) to share on the waterway. However, the FY24 funds would still need to be returned by the end of December when they expire. The waterway is waiting on final clearance on Cultural Resources from NRCS, but due to the government shutdown might not happen within the window for construction. Staff said they would know by the next board meeting whether or not a deferment would be needed and could make a final decision then. She also reported that the remaining PFC project for this year is set to be concluded this week and will work on check out.

NRI 1803

Ms. VanTilburg discussed NRI 1803, a request for re-zoning from A1 to A2 on parcel 07-25-100-013 in Flora Township. She reported that the LE score was 93.8, but that barriers to farming were present. Much of the property is forested, and a stream runs through the east side of the parcel. Ms. VanTilburg noted that a couple of building limitations arose during review, mainly regarding septic but that the applicant would ultimately provide a septic report as part of the zoning application. Staff recommended commenting on the preservation of trees and the wetland area, noting that the applicant should seek proper consultation with IDNR or the Corps. A motion was made by Mike Frank, seconded by Todd Aves to vote favorably on NRI 1803. The motion passed unanimously.

NRI 1804

Ms. VanTilburg discussed NRI 1804, a request for a special use permit on parcels 05-19-100-024 and 05-19-201-004 in Belvidere Township for a 5 MW solar farm. She reported that the LE was 81.6 and that wetlands and drainageways exist on the property. Ms. VanTilburg discussed the soil types and slopes in the fields, stating that erosion was a significant concern as well as encroachment into the main drainageway running NW to SE in the middle of the field. She explained that altering the capacity of the wetland may have negative downstream effects, especially concerning several established conservation areas just south of US Business Route 20, which ultimately contribute to the Kishwaukee River and Watershed. The board voted unfavorably in a motion made by Todd Aves, seconded by Mike Frank, due to the displacement of prime agricultural soils and wetland habitat. The motion carried.

NRI 1805

Ms. VanTilburg discussed NRI 1805, a request for a special use permit on parcel 05-31-300-029 in Belvidere Township for mineral extraction, construction material recycling and ready-mix concrete operations. She discussed that the LE score was 69.6 and that wetlands are mapped on the property. Ms. VanTilburg discussed the sensitive nature of the site; it is within about 600 feet of the Kishwaukee River and directly adjacent to conservation areas. About a third of the parcel is in a priority protection zone designated by the Greenways map. Ms. VanTilburg went over the high potential for nutrient leaching due to the sandy soils, and the importance of the geology and underground hydrologic function

of the site regarding aquifers and groundwater recharge. She stated that major concerns lie in the potential for stormwater (and thus groundwater) contamination and dust control from recycling and concrete mix operations. A motion was made by Jack Ratcliffe to vote unfavorably due to the displacement of farmland, high potential for the discharge of pollutants to the Kishwaukee River, and the overall disruption to groundwater function that may result from the proposed use. The motion was seconded by Todd Aves and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Before adjournment, staff discussed that December's regularly scheduled meeting date falls on Winter Training and requested that December's board meeting be moved a week to December 10th, 2025. Todd Aves made a motion to approve the December rescheduled date and to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion carried.