



211 N. Appleton Road  
Belvidere, IL 6108  
815-544-3465 ext. 3

**Boone County SWCD Board**

**Present**

Bill Hall.....Chairman	Aaron Brahmstedt.....Director
Todd Aves.....Director	Jack Ratcliffe.....Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Frank.....Vice-Chairman	

**Absent**

**Attendees**

Heather VanTilburg.....SWCD	Jennifer Becker.....NRCS
Luke Trexler.....NRCS	

**SWCD Meeting 01/07/2026**

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:01 A.M.

**Minutes**

The December meeting minutes were approved by Mike Frank and seconded by Todd Aves.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Finance Report**

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$243,065.72 in Midland checking account and \$15060.35 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is \$265,244.87. There was a motion made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt to approve the finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

**Timesheets**

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets.

## **Reports**

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. Ms. VanTilburg gave a brief overview of administrative and committee activities. She discussed updates on the county's regional stormwater committee stating that the first meeting for the technical committee should be late February. There was a motion made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Todd Aves to approve staff to participate on the technical committee and chairman, Bill Hall to sit on the Stormwater Committee (policy). The motion passed unanimously. Ms. VanTilburg then gave an update on PFC cost share programs, including CPRG, and work done on the NRCS administrative agreement for USDA programs. She also gave an update on the district's co-owned tree planter, which is being stored at the county highway yard for now.

There was director discussion regarding wind projects, Todd Aves asked if anyone had received any solicitation and that there has been some in southern Boone County. Bill Hall replied that there had also been some inquiries in the northern part of the county. Ms. VanTilburg mentioned that she was reviewing NRI policy and fees, and that she would likely be bringing fee updates to the next meeting for director review.

Jennifer Becker gave the NRCS report. Ms. Becker discussed that the district group has been working on processing CSP payments and CRP site visits for renewals in Boone and Stephenson counties. She gave a reminder that the application deadline for CSP and EQIP is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Becker briefly discussed a new Regenerative Ag program (USDA) that would be carried out via EQIP and CSP and involves more extension soil testing and a minimum contract length of 5 years. Bill Hall asked about the IDOA Conservation Planner program and if NRCS expected to get a new planner to fill the current vacancy. Ms. Becker stated that they had no updates thus far but would inquire.

## **Adjournment**

Mike Frank made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Todd Aves. The motion carried.