



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

**Boone County SWCD Board**

**Present**

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

**Absent**

Todd Aves.....Director

**Attendees**

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

**SWCD Meeting 03/04/2026**

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

**Minutes**

The January meeting minutes were approved by Mike Frank and seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Finance Report**

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$250, 575.06 in Midland checking account and \$15060.35 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is \$266,881.79. There was a motion made by Aaron Brahmstedt, seconded by Mike Frank to approve the finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

**Timesheets**

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets.

### **SWCD Donation to NE IL Envirothon Event**

Heather VanTilburg discussed with the board about the district donating to the northeastern IL Envirothon event for purposes of operations and said that typical district contributions range from \$200-250. Mike Frank made a motion to approve a \$250 donation, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe. The motion carried.

### **NRI Fee Schedule & Policy Updates**

Ms. VanTilburg opened discussion regarding the district's NRI policy and fees after talking with other SWCD's in the northern IL region. The board reviewed a spreadsheet provided by DeKalb SWCD that listed each district's fees, and after reviewing decided to raise the full report base fee from \$400 to \$500, and the additional acre fee from \$20 to \$30. There was additional discussion about adding a fee structure for wind projects similar to DeKalb SWCD. Ms. VanTilburg reported that DeKalb is looking to increase significantly from the current fee they charge but wasn't sure exactly what they will approve, and that most districts are looking to have similar fees for continuity. Aaron Brahmstedt suggested that the board could approve a fee for now and make adjustments at a later date. A base fee of \$500 for the first turbine, and an additional \$300 per turbine after that was determined. There was a motion made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt to approve the new NRI fees. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SWCD Annual Report**

Ms. VanTilburg gave the annual report for the SWCD's 2025 activities. She reported on events the district participated in, last year's election, erosion control plan reviews and inspections, cost share programs, NRIs completed, social media followings, trainings, and sales for tree, fish and conservation seed.

### **Reports**

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. She reported on a few administrative updates regarding QuickBooks annual subscription increases and expected instructions from IDOA on the use of Amplifund for future grant reporting. Ms. VanTilburg discussed committees and meetings for development, stormwater, ag, KREP, Envirothon and groundwater. There was some discussion with the group regarding the upcoming review for the 1992 agricultural area in northern Boone County. Jack Ratcliffe asked about the two easements held by the district and if we have the files. Ms. VanTilburg noted that the district does have those on file. Bill Hall asked if the district could look into getting some kind of fireproof safe or cabinet to hold important documents like deeds. Ms. VanTilburg said she could look into it. She went on to report on cost share for CPRG and PFC, noting that Boone has roughly 640 new acres enrolled for the next 3 years for strip till practices. She also noted that she would try to have ranking completed for the next board meeting to review.

Ms. VanTilburg briefly went over the NRCS Administrative Agreement and payments made for last year's local work group meeting. She discussed with the board that this year they might plan to do a meeting after April's board meeting similar to what Winnebago will do, rather than having a joint meeting this year. She wrapped up her report with updates on erosion and sediment control inspections for the 3

active sites in Belvidere, with Belvidere Retail needing fixes. She also gave a quick update on the tree and fish sale for this year.

Jennifer Becker and Luke Trexler gave the NRCS report. Ms. Becker discussed that NRCS is working on ranking for EQIP applications that will be due March 20<sup>th</sup>, and that there is currently open CRP sign up with FSA. Mr. Trexler reported that they are still helping with the CRP review backlogs in Stephenson and now Jo Davies county. Ms. Becker reported that there may be one possible CRP application for Boone.

### **NRI 1811**

Ms. VanTilburg presented NRI 1811, a request to rezone 5 acres of a 37.94 acre parcel from A-1 to RE that was previously a tree nursery on Spring Creek Road in Belvidere. The request is to build 2 private residences, one on the 5 acre rezone and replacing the recently demolished house on the remainder of the A-1 parcel. She reported that much of the east side of the property is in a floodplain and Beaver Creek borders the east parcel boundary, and its tributary borders the northern parcel boundary. Some areas show possible bedrock locations to be within the first 25' of the surface and recommended that in-field soil investigations be completed prior to final construction designs. There was also discussion of proper buffers to the floodways and creek/tributary, as well as preserving native oak and hickory species that were observed on site when feasible. There was a motion made by Mike Frank, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt to approve the NRI with comments. The motion carried.

### **Organization of the Board**

There was discussion by the board for organization. A motion was made by Jack Ratcliffe to keep the organization the same, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Aaron Brahmstedt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion carried.