



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

Todd Aves.....Director

Absent

Mike Frank.....Vice-Chairman

Attendees

Heather VanTilburg.....SWCD

Jennifer Becker.....NRCS

Josh Franks.....NRCS

Luke Trexler.....NRCS

Shelly Stegging.....IDOA

SWCD Meeting 06/03/2026

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Minutes

The April meeting minutes were approved by Jack Ratcliffe and seconded by Todd Aves. There were no minutes for May as the regularly scheduled meeting had been cancelled.

Public Comment

Shelly Stegging gave some updates on the two new IDOA programs, I-Cover and CPRG and asked district staff if there were any questions with assigned contracts; more information would be coming on deadlines for I-Cover as well. She asked if the district had their operations and cost share grants submitted, Ms. VanTilburg indicated that yes, they had been done and were in approved status. Ms. Stegging asked about PFC projects planned with FY25 funds, Ms. VanTilburg indicated that a majority of dollars were allocated and that the two waterway projects were set to go later this year before the

deadline. Shelly concluded with reminders on due dates for upcoming quarterly reports, equipment purchase reports and budgets/APO.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$241,289.65 in Midland checking account and \$15062.95 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is \$269,421.95. There was a motion made by Todd Aves, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe to approve the finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

Timesheets

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets and mileage logs.

Reports

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. Ms. VanTilburg discussed some administrative items related to grant applications for FY26, ADA compliance with district websites, training, and health plan updates. She gave a reminder about the farm breakfast on June 27th and noted that she would be working a booth with the Groundwater Committee. Ms. VanTilburg went over the status of the PFC grant agreement stating that projects are set to go using FY25 funds but that no regular district projects would be available for FY26 due to the allocation of I-Cover dollars. She said she is working on new STAR program forms for PFC, I-Cover and CPRG and that CPRG spot checks would be completed this week for no-till implementation.

Ms. VanTilburg reported on activities related to the NRCS Administrative agreement—a balance of \$6,675 remains for Q1 and Q2, Q3 is in progress. She assisted with recent EQIP contract obligations and will be helping with additional funded applications announced last week. She will also be assisting with CSP ranking as needed and payment processing for EQIP and RCPP. Letters were also sent for compliance reviews and additional funded EQIP.

She concluded her report with a brief overview of NRIs completed, 10 letters for April and May and a full report for solar. There was also discussion about ongoing erosion and sediment control inspections and that new applications should be coming soon for two new projects. Ms. VanTilburg gave an overview of tree and fish sales, stating that the fish sale was about double what they had done last year and was very successful.

Jennifer Becker and Josh Franks gave the NRCS report. Ms. Becker gave an overview of program work they've had recently—compliance checks, CSP contract management and application ranking as well as EQIP obligations. Josh Franks went over some staffing changes, reporting that the NRCS chief had recently resigned and that the assistant chief would be moving into that position for the agency overall. He said that Illinois NRCS has been allowed to hire a few personnel, a couple of DCs and some compliance positions. Mr. Franks gave an update on funds saying that an additional \$20 million was received for EQIP and that CSP and/or EQIP may also receive an additional pool of funds in the coming weeks. He stated that for CRP, everything had been funded between the three counties in the district group besides one application for general signup and that this area is close to the national cap for acres. Mr. Franks concluded with discussion about partnerships and that DCs would be attending the AISWCD summer conference this year like they had a couple of years prior.

NRI 1821

Ms. VanTilburg presented NRI 1821 for a solar field in Poplar Grove Township on the corner of Rt. 76 and North Boone School Rd. The LE score was 85, and there were some soil type concerns related to building limitations for compaction, frost action and anchor systems for solar and noted that she had comments added to the NRI for those concerns. Todd Aves made a motion to vote unfavorably for board opinion on the basis that the LE score was above 69 and for the purposes of prime agricultural land displacement, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Todd Aves made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Aaron Brahmstedt. The motion carried.