Boone County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

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

Jennifer Becker………………NRCS

Luke Trexler…………………..NRCS

Alexa Skirmont…………………………..PCM

SWCD Meeting 08/05/2026

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M.

Minutes

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

Public Comment

Alexa gave a brief update on the Farmers for Soil Health program currently running through PCM, the deadline is August 31st. She also mentioned that there will be a field day on August 19th in Polo and she would share the flyer with the SWCD for anyone interested.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are $283,297.33 in Midland checking account and $15,065.58 in Midland savings. She noted that the district's operations grant was received from IDOA for FY26 and are currently waiting for FY27 agreements to be released. The Illinois Funds account is $271,120.18. 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 and mileage logs.

Reports

Jennifer Becker gave the NRCS report. Ms. Becker reported that NRCS is currently working on EQIP applications including grazing and that the second round of funded applications will be due August 21st, Boone had picked up one application in that round. She noted they are simultaneously working on obligations for CSP, Boone has one application in that program, and the due date is August 14th. Other work includes CRP, Boone has 8 to get signatures on and they are currently working with landowners and FSA to meet those deadlines.

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. She noted that the FY26 operations funds had been received but outside of the FY and they are currently waiting on contracts for FY27. Ms. VanTilburg gave a brief overview of Summer Conference at the new location in Peoria. She also noted that the AFR had been initiated and documents sent that were requested, the accountant noted that they would likely be able to have it done by the September board meeting for review. Ms. VanTilburg has also completed the grant application for CPRG funds through the new grant application portal.

Other reports included work being done in the Stormwater Technical Committee and working with R1 to finalize a scope of work, and that there would be a few "lunch and learn" meetings scheduled with this committee through Extension for additional stormwater learning opportunities. Ms. VanTilburg then went over current PFC funds (FY25) and projects, noting that one of the waterways was just about finished and NRCS was working on the check out process for that. The other waterway project scheduled for fall may be cancelled due to landowner interest but has asked that the landowner contact their construction contractor as soon as possible so they can decide if they would like to proceed or if the district should forfeit the remaining FY25 funds and transfer to another district. Reporting for FY25 PFC funds is due August 15th to IDOA. Ms. VanTilburg said that contracting documents for the I-Cover program had been sent by IDOA and contracts could be signed by the chairman and producer. She is also working on updating the job sheets for cover crops since NRCS sent out recent changes to those seeding rates in July. For the NRCS administrative agreement, she has been assisting with EQIP and CSP obligations as it comes in. She also noted that a 1-year extension to this agreement has been requested and is waiting on national level approval.

She concluded with a brief report on NRIs, mostly letters last month and erosion and sediment control reviews.

APO/Budget for FY27

Ms. VanTilburg presented the draft APO, noting that it mostly remained the same as last year, but additions included the required soil health assessment (countywide) and seeking potential grant funding to do some restoration at MCCA. A motion was made by Todd Aves, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe to accept the APO for FY27. The motion passed. Next, Ms. VanTilburg presented the FY27 budget for review. She noted that previously a line item was not on the income sheet for PFC funds, so one was added. She also noted that income temporarily looks higher due to the 3 year local work group agreement through AISWCD/NRCS but that it would likely be going away after 2027. After review, A motion was made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Mike Frank to approve the FY27 budget. The motion passed.

Annual Employee Reviews

Mike Frank made a motion at 8:46 A.M that was seconded by Todd Aves to enter into executive session for the purpose of annual employee reviews. The motion passed unanimously.

Jack Ratcliffe motioned to come out of executive session at 9:06 A.M, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Jack Ratcliffe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Frank. The motion carried.