



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

SWCD Meeting 09/02/2026

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M.

Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved by Mike Frank and seconded by Jack Ratcliffe.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$316,583.05 in Midland checking account and \$15,065.58 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is \$271,991.74. There was a motion made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Mike Frank 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 EQIP and CSP contract obligations were complete for Boone, staff are now reviewing land control for current contracts in preparation for annual payments. She also mentioned the reorganization in progress for USDA—there would be a district in Area 1 being dissolved and regrouped with other districts, but the Boone-Winnebago-Stephenson group would not experience any changes as of now. Ms. Becker also reported that agreements were in the process of being extended with various partners. The IDOA Conservation Planner agreement was extended for another year.

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. Ms. VanTilburg went over several administrative items. She reported that FY26 cost share money was received from IDOA and that as a reminder it will only be for the I-Cover program—regular PFC projects would resume for FY27 when that cost share amount is decided, but thus far have not seen the new FY agreements from IDOA yet. With this, she also mentioned that there were many changes made to grant reporting and that she will need to retroactively submit performance and financial reports to the new grant system through Euna, and that IDOA is no longer asking for copies of the AFR each year due to the new GATA portal requirements to select a type of audit to complete each year. The districts are also still awaiting CPRG dollars, grants have been approved. Ms. VanTilburg said she is preparing for maternity leave and will be sending a notification email like the shutdown process from last year so that district business could be monitored remotely during that time. She will also submit the district's SAM account renewal this week to make sure it is approved; she mentioned that she will check in with the office periodically through leave. Other administrative reports include the online banking system change for Midland, the county funding request to be submitted shortly, AISWCD annual dues were received, and trees for the 2027 spring sale have been preordered and she is working on the new form/brochure to publish.

Next, Ms. VanTilburg went over committees and meetings. There were not many updates for Development team. She did mention the recent workshop series running for the stormwater technical committee and conversations with R1 about proceeding with an IEPA grant application to assist the committee. These meetings will likely soon move to virtual. For the Groundwater committee she did not have many updates, only that a new financial agent will be needed for this group/grant. She concluded with a report on the Envirothon committee that met yesterday. She has agreed to handle the forestry testing materials and coffee order for each day again this year, and they went over any updates needed for publications/registration packets. Once the updates are complete, she will work on sending those out to various science teachers in the county to encourage participation. The topic for 2027 is Soil Health Management: Ag Principles and Stewardship. Ms. VanTilburg asked the board if they would like to go ahead and approve the \$250 donation to the operating account for Envirothon like they did last year. She also mentioned it was included in the budget that was passed recently. A motion was made by Todd Aves, seconded by Mike Frank to approve the donation from the SWCD.

Ms. VanTilburg went over the PFC grant agreement. She reported that I-Cover was underway and on track, they received the funds for payments but are waiting for further instruction from IDOA and additional seed tags/receipts from participants to verify practice implementation. She also covered the CPRG grant for no-till—payment packets have been submitted for review while they await funds and further instruction. She concluded with the FY25 regular PFC dollars set to expire at the end of this year. One waterway had withdrawn and \$3,208.65 was transferred to Sangamon County SWCD to release the excess funds. The other waterway planned had been completed and payment authorization was approved, so all of Boone's FY25 have now been spent before the deadline.

She briefly went over the NRCS administrative agreement, they are still waiting to hear if the 1-year extension was approved. Ms. VanTilburg also gave an overview of NRIs—there is one solar to review today that is roughly 35 acres and one incoming that is roughly 40 acres laid between two parcels on Marengo Rd. She notified the applicant that due to maternity leave this report will likely not go through board approval until November. There was also one soil map and report request for a few parcels on Beaverton Rd. Ms. VanTilburg concluded her staff report with erosion and sediment control updates. She completed an inspection for Yukon and ComEd as they are preparing to remove most of their BMPs shortly and has asked that they continue to communicate when an NOT has been filed for their permits. There is an incoming application from C.E.S for an expansion of MRS on Industrial Ct. but the full application and fee have not been received yet. September inspections would not be completed prior to staff leave.

FY26 District AFR

Ms. VanTilburg presented the district's annual financial review for FY26 to be submitted to the state comptroller. There was a motion made by Todd Aves, seconded by Mike Frank, to accept the report as presented.

2027 Director Election

There was discussion on the 2027 director election to be held either in January or February. It was decided that Wednesday January 6th, 2027, would be scheduled as election day for the SWCD in accordance with prior years scheduling. Ms. VanTilburg noted that a 90-day notice for nominations would be posted no later than October 8th, 2026. There was a motion made by Todd Aves, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe to set the election date for January 6th, 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter of Support for R1-Stormwater Committee

Heather VanTilburg discussed an item from the regional stormwater committee technical group regarding a partnership with R1 Planning Council on assisting with updates to the County's stormwater plan. R1 is requesting letters of support from each of the agencies on the technical committee, the plan is to send an email first by October and then they will request a formal letter closer to application submittal for an IEPA 604(b) grant stating that we are in support of their efforts in pursuing this grant to assist with the financial costs of the project. Ms. VanTilburg asked the board of directors if they would agree to this. There was a motion made by Mike Frank, seconded by John Ratcliffe to approve the

letter(s) of support for R1 Planning Council pursuing the IEPA grant on behalf of the stormwater committee.

NRI 1833: Solar Application for PIN 05-10-100-007

The board reviewed an NRI for a solar application near the intersection of Town Hall and Beloit Rd. Ms. VanTilburg provided the site plans that were given by the applicant as well as soils and other natural resource information. The LE score was 89.5, the field is currently in corn. There were no wetlands or floodplains in the area. Cultural Resource maps from 1886 and 1905 show a structure right next to the southern boundary. The area is now residential, and no such structure was noted currently. There were a few soil related concerns noted by staff based on the survey soil types—indicating poor ratings for the solar ballast systems, frost action, and corrosion of steel. There were some questions regarding the northern boundary of the parcel and the change in grade heading north to the neighboring crop field. Staff indicated that the Boone County Conservation District would review the landscaping plans and whether the setback can accommodate. There is an existing tree line on the northern boundary, but it is unclear if this will be preserved for screening or taken out and replaced with other plantings. There was a motion made by Todd Aves to vote unfavorably due to the displacement of prime agricultural land, seconded by Jack Ratcliffe. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Ms. VanTilburg asked if the board would like to go ahead and cancel/postpone the regularly scheduled October meeting due to it falling just after staff's expected departure for maternity leave. Bill Hall mentioned that it would be okay to cancel but also leave it open to a later scheduling if pressing matters arose and staff were able to run a meeting later in the month. Ms. VanTilburg agreed to that option, a motion was made by Jack Ratcliffe, seconded by Todd Aves to cancel for October with the possibility of holding a meeting later in the month to accommodate any important business. Mike Frank then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Todd Aves. The motion carried.