

**For County Board Specifically**  
**Farm Committee Minutes Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Small Courtroom of the Ford County Courthouse by Mr. Niewold.

Members Present: Greg Niewold, Sarah Mussman, and Tom McQuinn. Not Present: Cindy Ihrke and Garrett Kerber. Quorum was established. Deputy Treasurer Taylor Burnett was also present.

Mrs. Mussman moved to approved the agenda, Mr. McQuinn Seconded, there was no discussion. **Voice Vote: Unanimous approval**

There was no public comment.

There was no old business.

New Business:

- 1) There was brief discussion regarding investing farm account funds into local bank CD's or other opportunities such as Illinois Funds. This will require a re-write of the Treasurer's Office investment policy. Mrs. Burnett is researching with the Treasurer and hopes to update the committee in the coming month(s). **No action was taken.**
- 2) Mr. Niewold moved to seek bids for an operator to perform maintenance on County Farm #2 and County Farm #3's waterways and terraces. Mrs. Mussman seconded. Brief discussion was held on hiring a qualified entity and well as the work being well past due. **Voice Vote to send to the full board for consideration: Unanimous approval**
- 3) Mr. Niewold moved to hire BCS, LLC to perform soil sampling on County Farms #1 and #2 prior to the 2026 planting season. Mrs Mussman seconded. Discussion regarding BCS being local or having a local office as well as the fact that they also did the testing on Farm #3 in 2025. **Voice Vote to send to full board for consideration: Unanimous approval**
- 4) Mr. Niewold moved to discuss and send to the full board for consideration applying for tax exempt status as it relates to the acres enrolled in USFWS "Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program." Mr. McQuinn Seconded. Discussion was held on if the project would qualify for exempt status and more information was deemed needed by either the county assessor and/or State's Attorney. **Voice Vote to send to full board for consideration: Unanimous approval**
- 5) Mr. McQuinn asked that we recommend to the full board to have all three county farms appraised.

There was no safety report.

The meeting was moved to be adjourned by Mr. McQuinn at 3:44pm, Mrs. Mussman seconded, there was no discussion. **Voice Vote: Unanimous**