

WAYNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

MINUTES – August 11, 2026

The Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly board meeting in the Wayne SWCD office located in the lower level of the County Administration Building, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, Ohio on July 14, 2026. The following Supervisors attended the meeting: Jeff Gochnauer, Randy Tegtmeier, Marissa Dillon, and Tate Emerson. Also in attendance were John Lorson, DPA; Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant; Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer; Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist; Kathy Burley, Secretary; Tom Holmes, ODA-DSWC Area 2 Program Specialist; Jordan Miller, NRCS Acting District Conservationist; and Tom White, Candidate for Board of Supervisor Election.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman, at 8:30 a.m.

John Lorson introduced Zoey Dudte, the new Nutrient Management Technician.

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes for the July 14, 2026, Board Meeting, **Tate Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed 4-0.**

TREASURER'S REPORT (July 1-31, 2026)

The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. **A motion was made by Randy Tegtmeier to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed 4-0.**

7/1-7/31/2026			
	<u>Special Fund</u>		<u>District Fund</u>
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Purchase Orders	\$4,511.94	Vouchers	\$1,459.13
Salaries	\$30,560.12	Sales Tax – 1 st half of year	\$586.45
Medicare	\$411.44	KCRWP - Verdantas	\$14,290.00
PERS	\$4,278.42	Service Charge/ACH Fees	<u>\$65.07</u>
Insurance	<u>\$9,629.58</u>	Total Disbursements:	\$16,400.65
Total Disbursements:	\$49,391.50		
Income:		Income:	
Total Income:	\$00.00	Plat book sales	\$50.00
		KCWRP - Verdantas	<u>\$14,290.00</u>
		Total Income:	\$14,340.00

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Lorson shared information about upcoming events/trainings:

-The OSU Environmental Professionals Tour on Friday, August 21, will feature a stop at the Killbuck Creek Wetland Restoration Project.

-There will be an HR training on September 3 and is open to administrators and board members. John and Tom Holmes encouraged at least one board member to attend. Deadline for registering is August 27.

-Decades of No-Till History and the Future of Soil Health event will be on Tuesday, August 18th at CFAES Wooster.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

-Nomination Committee: The nominating committee will be submitting the signed EL-3 form by August 22.

-Annual Meeting Committee: John Lorson shared that the commissioners have requested our office to take on additional work for Farmland Preservation. Outreach will be a part of that and will include a brief 10-minute presentation during our annual meeting with Becca/John. There has been a change in staff in the planning department, and the direction of that work is still being determined. Tate Emerson inquired about what the additional work entails, whether we have the capacity to complete that work, and if the work is in alignment with the mission of Wayne SWCD. John Lorson reported that we currently have enough personnel and funding available to take on the extra work. Some of the work will include outreach and completing portions of ag easement paperwork like reviewing soils of local significance and rating land.

AGENCIES REPORTS

-NRCS: Jordan Miller thanked Wayne SWCD for completing the Local Working Group meeting. He shared that MOUs are on hold. Tom Holmes inquired about the timeline and whether the old MOU is in effect. Jordan reported that the hold is indefinite and he will have to inquire about the status of the prior MOU.

-ODA: Tom Holmes gave an update on the Riggerbach Ag Pollution Abatement case. Tom shared that there will be new employee training for Area 2 staff on August 27.

-OSU Extension: John Lorson shared that the manure safety day was very successful and well attended. He also shared that John Yost joined our staff to help clean up the fair barn.

OLD BUSINESS

-Marissa Dillon made a motion to offer a \$5 discount for anyone who signed up for our e-newsletter. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

-Progress Report: Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to accept the progress report. Motion passed 4-0.

-Dry Hydrant Certification: John Lorson reported that the commissioners asked for assistance in completing surveys on two ponds to determine the depths and water quantity. This calculation correlates to an ISO rating for fire department, which indicates water availability in rural areas, and impacts insurance rates. There are currently 160 dry hydrants in the county. Rob Kastner shared that these surveys used to be completed with NRCS, ideally as a pond is constructed and before it is filled. It was discussed that the County dive team would get out to do soundings to calculate the depths of these ponds.

-2027 County Budget Meeting: October 27, 1:00 p.m. in Commissioner's Conf. Rm: John Lorson encouraged board members to save the date for the budget meeting and attend if able. He shared that typically the departments are asked to provide a projected budget for the upcoming year in June, but due to property tax issues the budget may likely remain the same. Jeff Gochner requested that this information is reviewed again in the October board meeting. Tate Emerson suggested that the additional work in Farmland Preservation should correlate to an increase in our budget.

-State Match Policy Revisions: Tom Holmes provided handouts with information about the recent state match determinations. Local funds were matched at an average of 80% across the state. Wayne's appropriations are down 0.06% from last year. The current policy was established in 2014. The revisions clarify the policy, particularly on match ability and accountability. There will be office hours to discuss the changes as well as a survey for each district to complete to provide feedback. The survey is due September 15.

-2026 Fair Schedule Signup: John Lorson passed around a sign-up sheet for supervisors to sign up for a shift to help staff the fair barn. Tickets will be provided for each shift. OSU Extension will join our staff and supervisors in the fair barn as they are available.

-2026 Conservation Farm Award: The group reviewed the previous awardees and discussed potential options. Jeff Gochnauer mentioned the last few were no-till grain farms, so perhaps a livestock operation for this year. Jordan Miller recommended Matt Falb. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.

-2026 Educator of the Year Award: John Lorson shared Kelly's recommendation for the Educator of the Year Award: Karla Abele, a teacher at Waynedale, has been working with Kelly since 2010. **Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to approve Karla Abele to receive the Educator of the Year award. Motion passed 4-0.**

-Other New Business

Staff Updates

-Rob Kastner shared that he is conducting site visits for any projects disturbing more than an acre of land, as they are required to complete stabilization before September.

-Ricky Papay is working on getting out and checking on active projects before the weather turns.

-Kathy Burley reported that the CAP process is going well. She also shared the submissions to our poster contest from Madi Underwood went on to win second place in the state competition.

-Ruthanne Bandy shared that shirts and polos have been ordered. Once they arrive new staff and supervisor pictures can be taken.

-John Lorson had no further report.

Marissa Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Leave Records

7/26/26-8/22/26	Annual Leave		Sick Leave		Comp Time	
Employee	Available	Used	Available	Used	Available	Used
John L.	354.00	7.75	2271.00	0.00	13.00	0.00
Kelly R.	204.33	28.25	557.07	29.00	0.38	0.00
Kathy B.	222.92	0.00	268.00	0.00	15.50	0.00
Becca S.	5.79	15.50	31.60	0.00	4.50	0.00
Ricky P.	131.84	0.00	411.98	0.00	2.51	0.00
Robert K.	112.45	12.50	1002.41	5.75	9.88	2.00
Ruthanne B.	15.71	0.25	50.74	3.00	0.13	1.75
Zoey D.	3.10	0.00	43.27	0.00	0.00	0.00

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman

Marissa Dillon, Secretary

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant, Submitted August 11, 2026, minutes. _____