

WAYNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

MINUTES – July 14, 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, Matt Peart (called in to meeting), Randy Tegtmeier, Marissa Dillon. Also in attendance were Rodney Mackey, Associate Supervisor; John Lorson, DPA; Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant; Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer; Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist; Becca Schuch, Ag Conservation Specialist; Kathy Burley, Secretary; Kelly Riley, Education Specialist; and John Yost, OSU Extension.

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

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes for the June 9, 2026, Board Meeting, **Marissa Dillon made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed 4-0.**

TREASURER'S REPORT (June 1-30, 2026)

The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. **A motion was made by Randy Tegtmeier to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay invoices for: Ohio Dept. Taxation (sales tax) \$590.88; Whitaker-Myers (insurance policy renewal) \$3,892.00; Transfer to Wayne County special fund for NMT Grant \$50,000.00; Transfer to STAR Ohio Account for NMT Grant \$450,000.00; Alpha Nurseries (2027 tree order deposit) \$1,459.13. Motion passed 4-0.**

(6/1/25-6/30/26)

<u>Special Fund</u>		<u>District Fund</u>	
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Purchase Orders	\$1,288.05	Vouchers	\$62.50
Salaries	\$30,504.62	NMT Grant Money -> Special Fund	\$50,000.00
Medicare	\$412.82	NMT Grant Money-> StarOhio	\$450,000.00
PERS	\$4,270.65	KCWRP - Mark Haynes	\$109,282.04
Insurance	<u>\$9,632.48</u>	KCWRP - Verdantas	\$8,716.70
Total Disbursements:	\$46,108.62	KCWRP - Mark Haynes	\$67,084.88
Income:		Service Charge/ACH Fees	<u>\$65.07</u>
MS4 Rittman	\$250.00	Total Disbursements:	\$685,211.19
NMT Grant Money	\$50,000.00	Income:	
Total Income:	\$50,250.00	NMT Grant Money	\$500,000.00
		KCWRP - Verdantas	\$8,716.70
		KCWRP - Mark Haynes	<u>\$67,084.88</u>
		Total Income:	\$575,801.58

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Lorson shared information about elections for FSA county committees and that nominations will be due August 3, 2026.

John Lorson reported that our office received a request from our county commissioners to provide details on any unfunded mandates from the state to then share with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. John Lorson shared that there is appropriate funding for the ag related work with the state match from ODA. He referred to Rob Kastner for the urban side of the work done by SWCD. Rob Kastner explained a requirement for the MS4 permit with Chippewa Township that costs both the county and the township \$27,000, as an example of a mandate from the state that is currently unfunded.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

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

AGENCIES REPORTS

-NRCS: John Lorson reviewed the report sent in by Jordan Miller.

-ODA: John Lorson shared that the staff will be taking advantage of upcoming training opportunities through ODA. He also shared information about an opportunity to host a scrap tire collection event at no cost. Timing for the potential event was discussed, and it was decided that Friday would be a good option. John will continue to explore this possibility and report back as he learns more.

-OSU Extension: John Yost reminded the group that on Tuesday, August 4 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., an event on manure safety will take place at Sterling Heights Dairy 4913 E. Easton Rd. Creston, OH 44217. This will include speakers like Glen Arnold, Amber Emmons, Lyndsey Lawlis, and Greg Heiby. There will be a manure spill cleanup demonstration.

OLD BUSINESS

-KCWRP: John Lorson gave an update on the final remaining tasks. Mark Haynes Construction is subcontracting to complete a redline survey to show the actual installed heights of the control structures. Once Verdantas approves, that bill will be paid. The final payments are the 10% retention fee for Haynes and billing for the hours completed by Wayne SWCD staff. In total the project cost \$1.2 million, including \$29,000 for staff hours. A tour for commissioners and other elected officials will be scheduled. A stop at the site will take place as part of the OSU Environmental Professionals Network Tour on August 21. Both John Lorson and Tate Emerson will speak about Killbuck Creek and the Wetland Reconnection Project. Signage will be installed before that tour.

-Besancon Farms: John Lorson reported that a Letter of Resolution was sent to Besancon Farms, meaning the pollution issue has been resolved. However, the solution will require future maintenance, and the farm is not absolved from any future issues that may arise.

-Caterer for Annual Meeting, Election and Breakfast: Ruthanne Bandy shared that she confirmed Joanne Stoller to cater for our annual meeting on Wednesday, November 4.

-Local Working Group Meeting: John Lorson gave an update on the Local Working Group Meeting. The date remains the same on August 6, but it will now be held from 8-10 a.m. at the Buckeye Ag Museum, in conjunction with the Ag Success Team. The AST was already organizing an event to introduce new ag educators in the area to their work and those within the farming community in the county. There will be a round table discussion and the opportunity for attendees to share feedback on our annual plan of work. Wayne SWCD will be providing refreshments.

-Riggenbach APAP Update: John Lorson shared that he and ODA staff met with Dustin Riggenbach on site and discussed solutions for the pollution issue. The farm is a good candidate for EQIP funds. Until funding for additional manure storage is secured, the farm will have to work with other producers to receive access to existing manure storage that is unused.

-Nutrient Management Tech Position: John Lorson reported that we received 20 applications for the position. Applications are being reviewed. Candidates will be contacted this week to schedule interviews for the following week. John would like to purchase a computer workstation with CAD capabilities for the NMT position. He anticipates the cost to be less than \$2,500 and requires board approval. **Matt Peart made a motion to approve the purchase of a computer station for up to \$2,500. Motion passed 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

-Progress Report: **Matt Peart made a motion to accept the progress report. Motion passed 4-0.**

-Tires for Escape: John Lorson shared the various quotes received to purchase new tires for the Ford Escape. After reviewing the options, **Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to approve the purchase of new tires for the Ford Escape from Van's Tire Pros. Motion passed 4-0.**

-E-newsletter/contact list promotion: John Lorson spoke about the increasing cost of our physical newsletter. Discussion with staff led to an idea to promote our e-newsletter during the county fair by offering a \$5 discount for our fish/tree sale for anyone who signs up for our e-newsletter. John confirmed with Tom Holmes that it would be okay to do this promotion. Ruthanne Bandy shared that she is looking into options for an email management system, like MailChimp or Constant Contact. Randy Tegtmeier suggested the option of texting a link to our newsletter. Marissa Dillon will be checking with the marketing team at Centerra to find out what system they use for email management.

Staff Updates

-Rob Kastner has been busy with plan reviews, site inspections, and a new process for CAPs. He explained this new process, which has moved more online, and now only includes stormwater regulations. Rob commended Ricky and Kathy for being nimble to adapt to the new process. He also feels there are now quicker responses from other departments.

-Becca Schuch sent in cover crop information to MWCD. There were 24 producers enrolled from Wayne County. She also submitted information for 2 board supervisors from Stark SWCD. In total there are 4,523 acres submitted. Determinations will be made by the end of the month. Becca met with Erica from ODA to learn more about the H2Ohio program. She is beginning to contact the producers enrolled to start the verification process for this year. Becca met with Jessica Eikleberry to learn about Ag Security and began talking to producers.

-Kelly Riley provided an update on the Big Tree Contest, which has received 3 entries. The deadline to submit is Thursday, July 16. Next week Kelly will be presenting at an OSU ATI horse program on manure management and compost. She plans to visit the location to help prepare. With the county fair coming up, Kelly began planning for the guessing contest and correlating display and educational information. This year the contest will be guessing how many sunflower seeds are in a container. Along with that, there will be a display with different types of cover crops and urban grasses growing in clear containers, to highlight how different root systems grow. Central Farm & Garden will be donating seeds for the display. Kelly reported on the area 2 educators' meeting that she organized and attended last week. There were 16 in attendance. A speaker from the Alison Rose Foundation gave a presentation on food allergies. Each person was able to share an educational activity or event. Kelly is now working to organize training for active shooter protocols sometime in January.

-Ricky Papay has adjusted to the new CAP process. He has been completing field work, managing TRC applications, and wrapping up some construction sites. He sent one NOV and anticipates the issue will improve when he follows up.

-Kathy Burley is also working on CAP forms and reported that the new process is an improvement.

-**Ruthanne Bandy** reported that the initial tree order for 2027 has been submitted to Alpha Nurseries. There will not be American Chestnuts, but there was the addition of Sugar Maples. Ruthanne will be contacting Creekside Native Nursery to begin planning what options could be offered. Work on the fall newsletter is under way, and it will be sent out by the end of August. Ruthanne is working on shirt orders, and will be contacting board members to get sizes, and then updated pictures can be taken.

-**John Lorson** had no report.

Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 a.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Leave Records

5/31/26 - 6/27/26	Annual Leave		Sick Leave		Comp Time	
Employee	Available	Used	Available	Used	Available	Used
Ruthanne B.	3.56	24	37.34	0	2.38	0
Kathy B.	223.08	2	259.28	40	15.5	0
Robert K.	121.35	0	992.26	1	23.13	3.75
John L.	342.9	7.5	2256.78	1.5	13.75	14.75
Ricky P.	127.44	8	393.58	0	2.51	0
Kelly R.	245.78	29	569.67	2	0.38	0
Becca S.	8.89	0	13.2	0	0.75	0

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman

Marissa Dillon, Secretary

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant, Submitted July 14, 2026, minutes. _____