

WAYNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

MINUTES – May 12, 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 May 12, 2026. The following Supervisors attended the meeting: Jeff Gochnauer, Matt Peart, Randy Tegtmeier, Marissa Dillon, Tate Emerson. Also in attendance were John Lorson, DPA; Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant; Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer; Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist; Rodney Mackey, Associate Supervisor; and Jordan Miller, NRCS District Conservationist (acting).

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

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes from the April 14, 2026, Board Meeting, **Matt Peart made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.**

TREASURER’S REPORT (4/11/2026-5/8/2026)

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: Verdantas \$19,002.45; Rathburn Run - \$12,600.00. Motion passed 5-0.**

(4/11/2026-5/8/2026)

<u>Special Fund</u>		<u>District Fund</u>	
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Purchase Orders	\$2,641.75	Vouchers	\$3,240.95
Salaries	\$27,610.30	KCWRP – Verdantas	\$19,002.45
Medicare	\$378.80	KCWRP - Haynes Const.	\$210,603.51
PERS	\$3,865.44	Online Banking Fee/ACH Service Charges	<u>\$65.14</u>
Insurance	<u>\$8,941.93</u>	Total Disbursements:	\$247,312.05
Total Disbursements:	\$43,438.22	Income:	
Income:		2025 Plat Book	\$25.00
MS4 – Milton Township	\$500.00	Tree Sales	\$137.25
Farmland Preservation	\$1,800.00	Fish Sales	\$1,583.90
Health Insurance	\$2,157.96	Transfer KCWRP – Verdantas	\$19,002.45
Life Insurance	\$2.90	Transfer KCWRP – Haynes	<u>\$210,603.51</u>
Total Income:	\$4,460.86	Total Income:	\$244,052.11

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Lorson passed around the following materials:

- Summer Supervisor School will be July 26th-28th, 2026 in Newark, Ohio. The theme is Land of Legend, From Ancient Earthworks to Future Ecosystems.
- A map of the Cascading Waterway Plan located at Barnard Rd, showing the different elevations. This grass waterway project is headed by Rural Action, with money from EPA 319 violations? Once completed this project will be used for field days and teaching events.
- Notes from the April 17 Wayne Co Farm Bureau Policy Development Lunch.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

-Nomination Committee: Matt Peart shared that Clint Carmony and Tom White are interested in running.

AGENCIES REPORTS

-NRCS: Jordan Miller reviewed the March NRCS report. 3 EQIP and 1 CSP application have been pre-approved. Local Working Group Meeting needs to be planned.

-ODA: See May Updates

-OSU Extension: No report

OLD BUSINESS

-Fish Sale [Report](#) & Tree Sale [Report](#)

John Lorson shared the reports on Tree and Fish sales for 2026. He noted that we were in the black, although we did not make a big profit, the goal is to provide access to fish/trees in the promotion of conservation goals. Numbers were down from last year, which is attributed to limited marketing and promotion. This will be improved upon for next year, with Ruthanne and Becca working together.

-H2Ohio NMT grant

John Lorson stated that the contract for the Nutrient Management Technician grant through H2Ohio is signed. Once funds have been received, they will be held in a separate account through STAR Ohio, where we already have an account to hold district funds. John hopes to be able to advertise the position by the end of the week.

-Update on Killbuck Creek Reconnection Project

John Lorson and Rob Kastner will be attending a walkthrough on site on Wednesday. The project is very close to completion. Tate Emerson reminded the group about the opportunity for a press release. Matt Peart recommended getting some or all the county commissioners to the site.

NEW BUSINESS

-Progress Report: Matt Peart made a motion to accept the progress report. Motion passed 5-0.

-OFSWCD State Envirothon donation

In past years Wayne SWCD has donated \$100 for the State Envirothon. **Matt Peart made a motion to donate \$200. Motion passed 5-0.**

-ADA Accessibility Requirements

John Lorson provided information about the recent DOJ ruling regarding ADA Website Accessibility. Our website is accessible and compliant, as we recently switched to Streamline for website design and maintenance. However, all the PDFs within our website must also be accessible. We currently have over 4,000 pages within PDFs that need reviewed. The deadline for compliance is April 26, 2028. The plan is to remove any unnecessary or out-of-date documents first. Streamline offers a remediation service called DocAccess that would be \$250/month. Other options are being researched.

-Local Working Group

Jordan Miller shared that the goal of this meeting is the evaluation of natural resource concerns that identifies areas where conservation efforts are needed. It includes recommended conservation priorities, activities and programs to address natural resource issues. It should also include any recommendations that may help NRCS focus its human, technical, and financial resources toward achievable natural resources solutions. The group discussed possible days and times to hold the

meeting. The Local Working Group Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6, at 9 a.m. at the Wayne County Administration Building on the second-floor meeting room. Members of the board, those involved with the Ag Success Team, and other local stakeholders will be invited to attend.

-Manure Safety Day

John Lorson is working with John Yost of OSU Extension to hold a manure safety day during the week of August 3 and will include Glen Arnold as a speaker.

Staff Updates

-Rob Kastner has been busy with many trainings, meetings, and events, including a litter cleanup on April 20th with a local Boy Scout troop that was very successful. He and Ricky attended the Stormwater Conference May 7 & 8. Rob has been reviewing a variety of plans for a baseball field, a business retreat center, a housing subdivision, and transmission line replacement. Board members Matt, Jeff, and Tate asked for updates on several ongoing projects. Rob provided an overview of the status and processes involved with stormwater regulations for those projects. Rob shared that overall, the purpose of stormwater regulations is to control the peak flow. Any complaints about damage are civil matters, in accordance with Ohio Drainage Laws.

-Ricky Papay has been conducting site visits for TRC and CAP applications. He has sent a couple of NOV's and will be following up with those.

-Ruthanne Bandy thanked the board members for their assistance during the tree wrap.

-John Lorson reported on a complaint from Roger Gwin about township ditch cleaning on Newkirk Rd, that ended up with an entire hillside being denuded, with no reseeding efforts. John is also handling a pollution complaint on Snoddy Rd, where runoff is traveling through to another property's field. Because it is not directly connected to state water, it is unclear what steps can and should be taken. John awaits guidance from ODA.

John Lorson requested the Board move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Tate Emerson made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding employee compensation. Randy Tegtmeier – yes; Jeff Gochner – yes; Melissa Dillon – yes; Matt Peart – yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Entered Executive Session at 9:40 a.m.

Exit Executive Session 9:44 a.m.

General Meeting re-commenced at 9:44 a.m.

Tate Emerson motioned to give Ruthanne Bandy a \$1.00/hr. raise. Motion passed 5-0.

Matt Peart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Leave Records 4/19/2026 – 5/2/2026

Employee	Annual Leave Available	Annual Leave Used	Sick Leave Available	Sick Leave Used	Comp Time Balance	Comp Time Used
Ruthanne B.	18.45	0	21.37	4	7.38	4
Kathy B.	245.24	3.75	289.06	2.50	15.5	0
Robert K.	101.5	0	982.11	0	5.38	.5
John L.	313.60	0	2,237.26	11.25	39	1
Ricky P.	124.50	0	374.72	0	8.64	0
Kelly R.	251.18	6.5	565.27	2.75	0.38	0

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman

Marissa Dillon, Secretary

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant, Submitted the May 12, 2026, minutes. _____