

WAYNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PLANNING MEETING

Minutes – March 10, 2026

The Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their annual Planning Meeting on March 10, 2026, in the Wayne SWCD Office. The following Supervisors attended the meeting: Jeff Gochnauer, Matt Peart, Marissa Dillon and Tate Emerson. Also, in attendance were Rodney Mackey, Associate Supervisor; John Lorson, DPA; Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer; Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist; Kelly Riley, Education Specialist; Cody Beale, Nutrient Management Specialist and Kathy Burley, Secretary.

Jeff Gochnauer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. An agenda and list of conservation priorities were handed out.

Plan of Work: John Lorson reviewed the Plan of Work and Mission/Vision Statement with the Board and Staff. These are the five primary areas of focus: Agricultural Assistance, Urban Assistance, Public Outreach, Administrative Program Assistance and Coordinated Projects with Conservation Agencies.

Agricultural Assistance: Cody went over Agricultural Assistance with the Board. There were a couple of updates made on the Ag Assistance side: MWCD cover crop goals increased from 23 participants to 25; Agricultural Advice will increase from 50 hours to 75 hours and Farmland Preservation will change from 8 individuals in the program to 9. Ag Assistance will grow as NMT position is brought on-board. More Farmland Preservation work will be added to Ag Resources position. Cody stated this number could change to 10 later this year. John noted that the new APAP MOU does not include forestry pollution complaints. Those complaints will run through the Division of Forestry. The Board would like to see something about working with Consulting foresters in our next newsletter.

Urban Assistance: Rob reviewed the Urban Assistance category with the Board. He also went over the number of CAP's, site inspections and plan reviews from last year. CAP applications received in 2025 were 369 with 91% completion. Kathy does follow up on CAP's which has led to a higher completion compared to past years. Ricky and Rob also assist with CAP applications. Ricky had 61 site inspections for 2025. MS4 compliance hours are set for 400 hours in 2026. Rob will also attend local and regional meetings monthly and quarterly. Ricky is reviewing active sites.

Public Outreach and Education: Kelly shared that this category is a "group effort" with the office. The Milkweed Seed Pod Collection limit was changed in 2025 to two (30 gal bags) and now will be one (30 gal) bag in 2026. We will continue our goal to place our District road signs in every township. We now have a policy in place should a landowner request a sign. Kelly has completed her goal to have an Area 2 Educators Network Committee. This committee hosted an event in Columbus during the Annual Partnership Meeting. Kelly also shared that Tom Dilyard, our 2025 Educator Award Winner, received Senate recognition for his recycling efforts. To meet MS4 compliance, Rob, Ricky and Kathy will have a litter collection in Chippewa and Milton Twps. In 2026 the American Sycamore is the tree of choice for the Big Tree Contest. Tate would like to see a greater emphasis on identifying prime farmland, possibly info on website or a link to Web Soil Survey.

Administrative Program Assistance: John shared with the Board that the Administrative Assistance Program is the same as last year. There are no changes due to requirements by ODA.

Coordinated Projects with Conservation Agencies: John updated the Board on this category: KCWRP should be completed soon. The Barnard Rd Cascading Waterway Project will be constructed in July/August, Little Apple Creek NPSIS is underway and will likely lead to more projects. We will be accepting the H2Ohio Nutrient Management Technician Grant and adding that position to our staff. Our agency plans to assist Holmes SWCD with the 5th Grade Farm Tour. They will also assist with our several of our Educational Programs.

All hours are entered in Beehive to track the categories and time.

After further discussion between the board and office staff, **Matt Peart made a motion to accept the 2026 Annual Plan of Work. Motion passed 4-0.**



Other topics discussed at the Planning Meeting:

Annual Meeting: The Board and Staff discussed the Annual Meeting. The breakfast and supervisor election will be held at Sonnenberg Village. However, due to a conflict with scheduling the date will be discussed at our next monthly Board Meeting.

With no further business to discuss, **Jeff Gochnauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**
Motion passed 4-0. Adjourned.

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman

Marissa Dillon, Secretary

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant, submitted the March 10, 2026 Planning Meeting minutes.