

WAYNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

MINUTES – March 10, 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 on February 3, 2026. The following Supervisors attended the meeting: Matt Peart, Jeff Gochnauer, Randy Tegtmeier, Marissa Dillon, Tate Emerson and Rodney Mackey, Associate Supervisor. Also, in attendance were Jordan Miller, NRCS; John Lorson, DPA; Kelly Riley, Education Specialist; Cody Beale, Ag Resources Specialist; Rob Kasnter, Water Management Engineer, Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist; Kathy Burley, Secretary; and Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant

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

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes from the February 3, 2026, Board Meeting **Tate Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.**

TREASURER'S REPORT (1/10/26 – 1/30/26) and (1/31/26-3/6/26)

The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. **A motion was made by Randy Tegtmeier to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay Verdantas (KCWRP) - \$3,367.50, \$8,212.33; Huntington (annual mtg & hotels, AutoZone, quicken, woodland conference) - \$2,810.59; Mark Haynes Construction (KCWRP-Construction) \$227,664.09; Motion passed 5-0.**

		(1/31/26 – 3/6/26)	
	<u>Special Fund</u>		<u>District Fund</u>
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
10 Purchase Orders	\$ 4,359.80	3 Vouchers	\$ 189.50
Salaries	\$ 43,074.70	Transfer for KWRCF	\$ 3,367.50
Medicare	\$ 575.90	Online Banking Fee/ACH Service Charges	\$ 65.00
PERS	\$ 6,030.45	Total Disbursements:	\$ 3,622.00
Insurance	<u>\$ 10,237.24</u>	Income:	
Total Disbursements:	\$ 64,278.09	2025 Plat Book	\$ 50.00
Total Income:	\$ -0-	Tree Sales	\$ 2,832.00
		Fish Sales	\$ 206.00
		Transfer KWRCF	<u>\$ 3,367.50</u>
		Total Income:	\$ 6,455.50

CORRESPONDENCE

- OFSWCD flyer:** John Lorson passed around the informational flyer for review
- Cover Crop Training Day:** John Lorson passed around the OSFWCD Cover Crop Training Day flyer for review.
- Thank you from NACD** for the District's recent donation.
- Conservation by the Numbers:** John Lorson passed around the Annual Wayne SWCD flyer for Year End Reviews which was sent to ODA. OFSWCD followed up with a link displaying all 88 counties.
- County WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System) and building security updates:** John Lorson gave the board an overview of the drill held by the Sheriff's office in the County Building several weeks ago. A follow-up meeting was held and possible changes to the building entrances were discussed.
- H2Ohio Contract Extension:** John Lorson shared a letter and infographic from Chris Pancake, ODA NMT, with the board highlighting a \$20/acre cover crop incentive for cover crops planted in the fall of 2026.
- Ag Success:** John Lorson gave a brief overview of the Ag Success Listening Lunch held at RES Auctions.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

No committee reports

AGENCIES REPORTS

-**NRCS:** Jordan Miller reviewed the December NRCS report (see attached). Jordan Miller reported the agency has received information about funding for FY26. Meetings have been completed for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). State office is preparing to hire 9 critical vacant positions, including a District Conservationist in Wayne County.

-**ODA:** no reports

-**OSU Extension:** no reports

OLD BUSINESS

-**ODA APAP MOU and SOP Approval:** John Lorson stated ODA APAP MOU and SOP has been revised. **Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to approve the ODA APA MOU and SOP. Motion passed 5-0.**

-**Ag Success Team:** John Lorson talked to Jenn in Planning. He sent a letter of support for the grant application.

-**Killbuck Creek Wetland Reconnection Project:** John reported the project is on-schedule with hopes of finishing within a month. The project is also on budget at roughly \$50K below the grant amount, although some changes are being considered with The Division of Wildlife reviewing ideas to use the remaining funds. Tate Emerson asked for a press release showcasing this project.

-**Barnard Rd Cascading Waterway:** John Lorson updated that contract bidding and awarding will take place this spring with construction to commence in July/August.

Administrative Assistant Contract Training: John Lorson requested approval for additional contract training for our new administrative assistant of up to 20 hours. **Marissa Dillon made the motion to move forward on the additional training.**

Motion passed 5-0.

-**Cash Basis:** The annual Cash Basis report has been completed and submitted before deadline thanks to Ruthanne's hard work and Stacey Hiller's guidance.

Tree Sale update: John Lorson stated 3 of the tree species have sold out. Kathy Burley reviewed the orders, and our total tree sale amount is \$5,466.00 to date. This is consistent with past years. The deadline to order trees is March 11, 2026.

ODA Nutrient Management Technician: John Lorson shared updates he had with the Commissioners and Jenn in Planning. Participating in this grant will give us the opportunity to add to existing services. We will work with the planning department to assume some of their current duties involving farmland preservation in the Ag Resources Coordinator position that has recently been vacated. **Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to move forward with this position. Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

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

-**Addition of February financials to February minutes:** John Lorson requested approval for the financials to now be added to the February minutes. The financials could not be completed until Ruthanne Bandy, our new Administrative Assistant, received training. **Randy Tegtmeier made a motion for the February financials to now be added to the February minutes.**

Motion passed 5-0.

Wooster's Tree City USA celebration: John Lorson gave updated information on our annual tree sale. 200 Swamp White Oak trees were purchased by Crow Works, Inc and donated for this event. The city is giving one of these trees away to each person participating. John was contacted regarding the City of Wooster looking for additional sponsors. He asked the Board if this is something we would want to do. We have a supply of our magnets but perhaps some type of reusable bag with our logo. Matt Peart said he thought it would be a positive move. He felt we should donate \$500.00 towards a giveaway, and it would benefit our agency to get more involved with the public. **Matt Peart made a motion spend \$500.00 towards this.**

Motion passed 5-0.

-**MWCD/ODA Update:** John Lorson passed around an email from Chad Amos letting us know that the details of various programs will be forthcoming, but that not huge changes are anticipated.

H2O Ohio conservation Pilot Program: John Lorson said that the grant program is targeted at grazing and pasture lands and could possibly focus on pollinator buffer, livestock exclusion, etc.

Employee Appreciation Day: John Lorson discussed Employee Appreciation Day. The commissioners have allotted \$10.00 per employee for agencies funded through the general fund. Wayne SWCD is not a general fund agency, so John was asking only for permission to grant employees the time for an appreciation lunch in lieu of a monetary stipend. **Tate Emerson made a motion to move forward with Employee Appreciation Day. Motion passed 5-0.**

***Randy Tegtmeier left the meeting for another engagement after this vote.**

Staff Updates: Jeff Gochnauer requested we hold off on staff updates due to the Annual Planning meeting following the Board Meeting.

John Lorson requested the Board move into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, specifically hiring.

Matt Peart made a motion to move into Executive Session. Tate Emerson – yes; Jeff Gochnauer – yes; Melissa Dillon – yes; Matt Peart – yes. Motion passed 4-0. * (*Tegtmeier had excused himself from the meeting prior to this motion.) Entered Executive Session at 9:20 am Exit Executive Session 9:38am

General Meeting re-commenced at 9:38

Tate Emerson motioned to give Ricky Papay a \$1.00/hr. raise. Motion passed 4-0.

Matt Peart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 8:30am.

Leave Records 1/25/2026 to 02/21/2026

Employee	Annual Leave Available	Annual Leave Used	Sick Leave Available	Sick Leave Used	Comp Time Available	Comp Time Used
Ruthanne B.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cody B.	49.65	8	26.22	2.25	.13	0
Kathy B.	223.37	0	287.66	3.50	14.75	0
Robert K.	73.25	0	1044.11	8	6.63	.25
John L.	347.62	0	2334.82	0	27.13	21
Ricky P.	118	8	355.18	0	0	0
Kelly R.	236.48	10	558.60	4.50	.38	2

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman

Marissa Dillon, Secretary

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant, Submitted the March 10, 2026, minutes. _____