

WAYNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

MINUTES – April 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 April 14, 2026. The following Supervisors attended the meeting: Jeff Gochnauer, Matt Peart, Randy Tegtmeier, Marissa Dillon, and Tate Emerson. Also in attendance were John Lorson, DPA; Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant; Kelly Riley, Education Specialist; Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer; Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist; Kathy Burley, Secretary; Tom Holmes, Area 2 ODA-SWCD Specialist, Jordan Miller, NRCS District Conservationist (acting); and Kara McDowell, NRCS Area 2 Conservationist.

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

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes from the March 10, 2026, Board Meeting, **Marissa Dillon made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.**

TREASURER’S REPORT (03/07/26 – 04/10/26)

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: Alpha Nurseries, Inc. \$2,779.69; Fenders Fish Hatchery \$2,498.45; KCWRP Mark Haynes Construction \$210,603.51. Motion passed 5-0.**

(3/7/2026-4/10/2026)

Special Fund

Disbursements:

9 Purchase Orders	\$ 2,315.47
Salaries	\$ 32,762.15
Medicare	\$ 443.22
PERS	\$ 4,321.46
Insurance	\$ <u>11,099.89</u>
Total Disbursements:	\$ 50,942.19

Income:

2nd half appropriations	\$185,793.66
State Match FY26Q4	\$ <u>72,868.00</u>
Total Income:	\$258,661.66

District Fund

Disbursements:

4 Vouchers	\$ 3,226.69
KCWRP – Verdantas	\$ 8,212.33
KCWRP - Haynes Const.	\$ 227,664.09
Online Banking Fee/ACH Service Charges	\$ <u>65.00</u>
Total Disbursements:	\$ 239,168.11

Income:

2025 Plat Book	\$ 25.00
Tree Sales	\$ 1,966.00
Fish Sales	\$ 308.50
Transfer KWRC	\$ <u>235,876.42</u>
Total Income:	\$ 238,175.92

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Lorson passed around the following materials:

- Thank you card: Becca Schuch thanked the board for the opportunity to interview for the Ag Conservation Specialist position.
- Killbuck Watershed Land Trust: Winter 2026 publication from KWLT
- AEP Transmission Line Rebuild: mail from AEP regarding electric transmission improvements along 83 from Wooster to Millersburg and on to Coshocton. New paths are being considered with input from the community. It is anticipated SWCD will be fielding questions about easements and erosion control throughout this project.

-H2Ohio Earth Day Celebration: Friday, April 24th at 11 a.m. at COSI – interactive experiments and hands-on learning for all ages

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

-Nomination Committee: Jeff Gochnauer shared that he will not run for re-election for Supervisor this year. He suggested Michelle Wood as a potential candidate. Matt Peart shared that Clint Carmony is another possible candidate. Matt will reach out to them to discuss their interest.

AGENCIES REPORTS

-NRCS: Jordan Miller reviewed the March NRCS report. EQIP deadline is 4/10. So far 24 applications have been received. 2 CRP Continuous signups applications eligible and submitted. Deadline is 4/17. Conservation Stewardship Program received 3 applications.

Jordan introduced Kara McDowell, the Area 2 Conservationist for NRCS. She is planning to create a quarterly report to be shared with Area 2 districts. On May 21 there is training for conservation planning. On August 12 there is an engineering training course available. Kara stated the goal to have a Working Group Meeting by the end of May.

-ODA: Tom Holmes reviewed the ODA April Update. He shared there will be an all-day training on ag pollution abatement on August 5 at Malabar Farm. Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award nominations are due May 8, 2026. A new category for small farms has been added. There will be a new employee meeting on August 27.

-OSU Extension: No report

OLD BUSINESS

-Update on Killbuck Creek Reconnection Project

- John Lorson was pleased to share that the project weathered the most recent storm. Five of the six structures have been built, and it was great to see it working as intended.
- John Lorson shared updates on the project - Change Order 1 (\$22,689) more stone for causeway and Change Order 2 (\$6,350) addition of gates to prevent access from the timber mat bridge.

Matt Peart made a motion to approve Change Order 1 and 2 for the Killbuck Creek Wetland Reconnection Project. Motion passed 5-0.

-Update on Barnard Rd Cascading Waterway Project

- John Lorson is working with Rob Kastner on this project. Another grant possibility with this project: marginal lands energy production, would be partnering with Steve Lyon/Ohio State. Looks at land that is available (non-production land, e.g. grassed waterways, buffers), smaller scale to power farm and sell back excess

-ODA Nutrient Management Technician

- John Lorson stated we are waiting for a contract from ODA, hoping to have it for May's meeting. He has put together a position description.

Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to approve the position description for Nutrient Management Technician. Motion passed 5-0.

-MWCD DRP, Rathburn Run

- John Lorson would like to front the payment of \$12,600; we will be reimbursed by MWCD

Tate Emerson made a motion to approve the payment of \$12,600. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

-Annual Meeting date: Wednesday, November 4 - board meeting to follow. Jeff Gochnauer requested the same caterer from the previous year. Board members agreed to the date of Nov. 4 for the annual meeting.

-Position Description: Agricultural Conservation Specialist

Tate Emerson made a motion to approve the position description for Agricultural Conservation Specialist. Motion passed 5-0.

-Ag Conservation Specialist candidate: John Lorson shared that the interview with Becca Schuch went very well and recommends hiring her. Jeff Gochnauer agreed that she is an excellent candidate.

Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to hire Becca Schuch as Agricultural Conservation Specialist. Motion passed 5-0.

-H2Ohio 2026 Technical Assistance Agreement MOU: John Lorson said the document remains essentially the same, but board approval is needed again because of minor changes in verbiage.

Tate Emerson made a motion to approve the H2Ohio 2026 Technical Assistance Agreement MOU. Motion passed 5-0.

-Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair (Saturday, May 2, 2023) Due to being short staffed, SWCD will not be attending the event this year.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

-Rob provided an update on the Stream Name Design Contest that took place last year. He passed around the two winning designs that will be made into signs and posted at the respective streams. The County Engineer will install the signs, two for each stream. The Townships are paying for this work, but SWCD is fronting the cost and will be reimbursed. The total is \$660 per township.

Randy Tegtmeier made a motion to approve fronting the cost of signs. Motion passed 5-0.

Staff Updates

-**Ricky Papay** is busy visiting sites and conducting inspections. He also assisted Rob Kastner with filing the MS4 reports that were due April 1st and wrote an article on stormwater management for the upcoming newsletter.

-**Rob Kastner** submitted the MS4 Annual reports. A new plan will be due next year. He attended two Sterling sewage treatment plant meetings. There are 3 streams that have devices that provide real time readings of water levels every 5 minutes. It was put in place to help with notification of road flooding. The County Engineers and Commissioners pay the \$2k/year, but are discussing whether the program should continue, because the data is not currently being used. Matt Peart suggested that the townships could pay for the services.

-**Kelly Riley** is providing many school programs. She will be attending a meeting for the FFA advisory committee for Norwayne.

-**Ruthanne Bandy** is excited for tree and fish pickups this week. Tree wrap will follow the board meeting. Pickup is Wednesday, April 15 from 12-4:30 pm. Fish pickup is Friday, April 17 from 8-9:30 am. Ruthanne put together bags for the Tree City Earth Day celebration that included a packet of native Midwest wildflower seeds, and an SWCD pen and magnet. The spring/summer newsletter has been completed, thanks to everyone on staff for working with a quick turnaround time. It will be mailed the last week of April.

-**John Lorson** had a pollution complaint come through a Health Department employee. Ed Shoup's swine operation on Paradise Rd, had employees forget to pull the plug when washing out a farrowing barn, so the materials drained out through the cover crop field but found a field tile and then flowed straight into the stream. It was able to be resolved quickly without involvement from ODA.

Matt Peart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourned.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Leave Records 3/22/26 - 4/4/26

Employee	Annual Leave Available	Annual Leave Used	Sick Leave Available	Sick Leave Used	Comp Time Balance	Comp Time Used
Ruthanne B.	12.40	0	4.92	0	3.75	0
Kathy B.	238.25	0	295.20	0	14.75	0
Robert K.	87.70	0	1053.91	0	6.13	.50
John L.	295.22	0	2249.12	0	34.63	0
Ricky P.	123.30	4	365.98	0	0	0
Kelly R.	249.08	3	559.90	2.50	.38	0

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman

Marissa Dillon, Secretary

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant, Submitted the April 14, 2026, minutes. _____