2025 – BOARD MEETING MINUTES – PICKAWAY SWCD
REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 15, 2025

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE PICKAWAY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 8:00 A.M. ON THIS DATE AT THE PICKAWAY COUNTY SERVICE CENTER BUILDING, 110 ISLAND ROAD, CIRCLEVILLE, OH 43113 IN THE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

DEWEY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:00 A.M.

Dewey Mann – Yes, Matt Anderson – Yes, Liza Musselman –Yes, Bill Black – Yes, Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes

THE FOLLOWING SWCD PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT:

Tawn Seimer – Yes, Katerina Sharp – Yes, Brad Hughes – Yes, Adriahna Karr – Yes, Jade Collie – Yes, Katherine Shauger – Yes

THE FOLLOWING NRCS PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT:

Justin Armintrout – Yes, Megan Sweeney – Yes, Matt Mauzy – No, Hayley Perkins – Yes

THE AREA 5 PROGRAM SPECIALIST WAS PRESENT: Cody Hacker – Yes

VISITORS OR GUESTS PRESENT:

County Engineer, Chris Mullins and County Commissioners, Gary Scherer & Jay Wippel

MINUTES RECORDER: Jade

PUBLIC/AGENCY COMMENTS:

County Engineer Update – The County Engineer (Chris Mullins) has been working on road and bridge projects. All new development projects are developer driven. The intersection at 762 & 23 slated to be a full interchange and the construction window is 2027-2029. Any drainage project outside of the right of way is directed to Soil & Water. He shared that Ditch petition projects are Soil & Waters biggest partnership effort.

County Commissioners Update – The Commissioners shared updates on the solar projects in the county. Three projects were Grandfathered in; the rest have been denied. One of the three projects appealed the ruling to the Ohio Supreme Court. Any solar project less than 50 MGW goes through townships and their zoning. Anything above the 50 MGW goes through OPSB. There is a lot of commercial growth taking place in the northern part of the county. The commissioners shared that Anduril will produce over 4,000 jobs in the next 10 years.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Bill moved, seconded by Matt to approve minutes for the regular board meeting held March 18, 2025. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE DISTIRCT FUND BILLS/STATEMENT:

Matt moved, seconded by Jonathan to approve the March 2025 District Fund Financial Statement ***(Attachment A).*** Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE SPECIAL FUND BILLS/STATEMENT:

Bill moved, seconded by Matt to approve the 2025 March Special Fund Financial Statement ***(Attachment B).*** Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEWING THE DISTRICT STAFF ACTIVITY REPORTS:

The board reviewed the district staff activity reports.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEWING NRCS UPDATES:

Justin, Hayley, and Megan gave an update for NRCS. Justin and Megan have been helping a lot in Ross County due to the DC being on paternity leave. The county level is still waiting to hear if and when a Reduction in Force (RIF) will occur. Megan's last day will be on April 30, 2025. Due to this, Hayley will be helping in Pickaway more. There are no CRP signups yet. Pre-approvals for EQIP have started coming in and will continue through August. Still waiting on CSP pre-approvals to come out. Currently, NRCS Ohio has about 15-20 million in funding through the Farm Bill confirmed. If NRCS was to receive the IRA funds NRCS Ohio would have 45-60 million in funding. The state is still waiting to hear from national if NRCS will get IRA funds or not.

IN THE MATTER OF FISH AND TREE UPDATE:

Fish sale – 20,371 total fish sold, 130 other items & 36 customers.
Tree Sale – 5,857 total trees sold, 55 other items, 660 flags & 80 customers.

IN THE MATTER OF DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE:

Pickaway SWCD had a total of 78 producers eligible to sign up for the program, and all participants completed signups before the original April 1, 2025 deadline. The district planned a Mental Health and Grazing Event for the drought assistance program participants on April 7, 2025. PSWCD partnered with Pickaway County Farm Bureau and PCCF Ag Committee to host the event. 47 people in attendance. Checks were handed out at event. The remainder of check were mailed the following day. Deadline for signups was extended until June 30, 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PICKAWAY SWCD & FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEEING UPDATE:

Katerina shared an update. We have booked The Old Barns at Dry Run Farms as our location for the annual meeting being held August 13, 2025. The $15 cost per ticket has been confirmed with Farm Bureau. Ty Higgins with OFBF has confirmed he can attend as our speaker to talk mental health in the ag community. We will also be doing the 'Soil Your Undies" challenge leading up to the annual meeting to encourage discussions regarding soil health.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE DONALD E. MINOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

PSWCD received 21 scholarship applications. Jonathan moved, seconded by Matt to approve three $1,000.00 scholarships and three $500 scholarships. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF CHOOSING THE 2025 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR:

Matt moved, seconded by Liza to approve the 2025 District Conservationist of the Year award recipient. After discussion from staff and board, Alan Ett was chosen for the award based on his participation in programs and projects he has worked with the district on throughout the years. Brad will contact Mr. Ett for an interview. Delbert Neff, Jr. will be contacted to present the award as he was last year's recipient. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNSHIPS:

PSWCD received nine internship applications. Interviews are scheduled for this week. Jonathan moved, seconded by Liza to approve to hire two interns, one college student and one high school student. Pay range of $14-$16/hour for up to 40 hours per week. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF CHOOSING AN OHIO FARM FAMILY NOMINATION:

Matt moved, seconded by Jonathan to approve to elect Delbert Neff, Jr. for the Ohio Conservationist Farm Family Award. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF ENVIROSCAPE MODELS:

Jonathan moved to table the purchase of the Enviroscape Model for five school districts.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GREAT PLAINS DRILL REPAIRS:

Matt shared a couple options for repairs on the drill: Millersport AG, Apples Farm Service in Washington Court House, and Liza will reach out to some private mechanics regarding future interest in helping with drill repairs.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR POLICY OF PARTICIPATION IN OHIO ACE PROGRAM:

Jonathan moved, seconded by Matt to approve the Policy of Participation in Ohio Ace Program. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF EDUCATION COMPUTER, TECHNICIAN COMPUTER & EMAIL UPDATE:

Jonathan moved, seconded by Liza to approve purchase of Education Computer, Technician Computer & updated Email without exceeding the amount of $7,500.00. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF PICKAWAY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BUYERS CLUB DONATION:

Liza moved, seconded by Matt to approve the donation of $1,000.00 to the Pickaway County Farm Bureau Buyers Club. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE LEAVE REPORTS:

Bill moved, seconded by Jonathan to approve the Employee Leave Reports as of pay period end dates 3/22/2025 and 4/05/2025 ***(Attachment C & D).*** Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman– Yes Bill Black – Yes
Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

FYI – Brad received instructions on Trailer Liner.
FYI – Invited the Board Members to the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.
FYI – Brad gave an update on Fellows Program & invited the Board to the Fellows graduation reception on May 13 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Crown Hill Golf Course.
FYI – State Match Report
FYI – Calendar of Events
FYI – ODA Updates for Area 5 SWCD Board Meetings – April 2025 Report

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:15 a.m., Matt moved, seconded by Bill to go into executive session.

Roll Call: Bill – Yes, Matt – Yes, Liza – Yes, Dewey – Yes, Jonathan – Yes, Cody – Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING THE PICKAWAY SWCD BOARD MEETING:

It was moved by Matt, seconded by Liza to adjourn the April 15, 2025 Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District meeting of the board at 11:08 a.m. Motion passed.

Vote on Motion (Y, N or A): Matt Anderson – Yes Liza Musselman – Yes Bill Black – Yes Jonathan Lohstroh – Yes Dewey Mann – Yes

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Conference Room located at the Pickaway County Service Center, 110 Island Road, Circleville, OH 43113.

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Dewey Mann – Chairperson Date Matt Anderson – Secretary Date

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Minutes Recorder Date