

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

April 1, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Bob Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mr. Dean Hettinger and Ms. Mary Feragli, WTNS.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the minutes from the last meeting as presented.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Resolution 2026-021, National County Government Month

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-021, a resolution recognizing National County Government Month – April 2026, Whereas the nation's 3,069 counties, serving more than 330 million Americans, provide essential services that foster healthy, safe, and vibrant communities.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Approve Bills

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the bills per computer printout.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Mary Beck

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Mary Beck, county employee, use of the Commissioners Community Room on April 5, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a family Easter gathering.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Mary Beck

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to Mary Beck, county employee, use of the Commissioners Community Room on April 19, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for a fundraiser

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Mary Beck

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Mary Beck, county employee, use of the Commissioners Community Room on May 31, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a graduation party.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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Resolution 2026-022, Food for CPT Meeting

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign Resolution 2026-022, to provide food for the staff of Coshocton Public Transit for 2026 staff development trainings/meetings to be held on Friday, May 22, 2026 and Friday, October 9, 2026, not to exceed \$600.00 per meeting.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Young Private Road Subdivision

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Young Private Road Subdivision, the creation of a 3-lot private road subdivision located on County Road 54 in Washington Township on property owned by Ronald D. and Cheryl A. Kiger, Auditor Parcel Number 040-00000061-06, as requested by Mrs. Kiana Bradford, Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Employee Resignation-Preston Bair-Airport

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the resignation of Preston Bair from his position at the Richard Downing Airport effective March 30, 2026, as requested by Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Manager.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden Report

Received the Dog Wardens Report for the week ending March 30, 2026 with 3 dogs picked up by the warden, 3 dogs brought in as strays, 2 dogs euthanized, 2 dog licenses sold, 2 dogs sold, 2 dogs redeemed, 3 dogs surrendered by owner, and 23 calls handled for a total of \$160.00 in fees collected.

Advertise for Bid-Engineers Office

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to amend the following motion from March 25, 2026: granting permission to Mr. Joshua D. Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer, to advertise for the Adams Township TR 247 Bridge 1 & Newcastle Township CR 367 Bridge 2 Replacements on April 2 and 9, 2026 with a bid opening to take place on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Coshocton County Commissioners Office. Journal: 58, Page 578 Dated March 25, 2026 to granting permission to Mr. Joshua D. Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer, to advertise for the Adams Township TR 247 Bridge 1 & Newcastle Township CR 367 Bridge 2 Replacements on April 9 and 16, 2026 with a bid opening to take place on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Coshocton County Commissioners Office.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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Consent to Collateral Assignment of Tax Increment Financing Agreement

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Consent to Collateral Assignment of Tax Increment Financing Cooperative Agreement between the County of Coshocton, Ohio, a county duly organized and validly existing under the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereby consents to the foregoing Collateral Assignment of Tax Increment Financing Cooperative Agreement between Coshocton Port Authority, an Ohio Port Authority and body corporate and politic and Director of Development, State of Ohio, acting on behalf of the State of Ohio.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Load Change for Township Road 404, (White Eyes Township), Bridge 1, SFN 1630415

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the recommendation for load rating change for Township Road 404, (White Eyes Township), Bridge 1, SFN 1630415 to a reduction of the legal load as listed: 3 tons, as requested by Mr. Joshua Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Load Change for County Road 365, (Tiverton Township), Bridge 1, SFN 1630016

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the recommendation for load rating change for County Road 365, (Tiverton Township), Bridge 1, SFN 1630016 to a reduction of the legal load listed: CLOSED, as requested by Mr. Joshua Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Employee Hire-Emma Nelson-FCFC

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the hiring of Emma Nelson as a Temporary-Visitation Specialist Unit Support Worker 2 with Family Children First Council, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District – Project Updates

At 9:00 a.m., Ethan Zucal and Craig Butler, Executive Director of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), attended the Commissioners' meeting to provide updates. Josh Kempf was also present.

Craig Butler discussed MWCD's ongoing engagement efforts across the 18 counties they serve, noting their commitment to meeting with local officials and community members to better understand regional needs.

MWCD reported a successful and unique 2025, operating with a \$25 million budget heavily focused on recreation. Their parks welcomed approximately 5 million visitors, supported by more than 3,000 campsites. Continued improvements are being made through a combination of upgrades to existing facilities and investments in new technologies.

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Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District – Project Updates (continued)

Although revenue projections initially lagged, adjustments were made, and a strong summer season helped offset early concerns. Fall attendance exceeded expectations, resulting in recreation revenue surpassing projections by \$2 million. This additional revenue supports ongoing and future projects.

The oil and gas program, now in its 11th year, continues to be a significant revenue source, with EOG serving as MWCD's largest partner. Recent work at Tappan Lake is nearing completion. While oil and gas revenue supports capital improvements—such as dredging, shoreline stabilization, and infrastructure maintenance—MWCD emphasized that it does not rely on these funds for daily operations. Exploration efforts continue to evolve with more advanced technologies, and MWCD is cautiously monitoring developments. There is potential to establish a private endowment to secure long-term financial stability.

A major highlight included the acquisition of approximately 900 acres near Marietta in partnership with Broughton Nature Preserve. This marks MWCD's first new park in 50 years and will remain open to the public as a natural area. Plans include 20 miles of biking and mountain trails. The Broughton family contributed \$2 million toward the \$3 million they received from the purchase of the property to the foundation investment supporting the project.

Looking ahead to 2026, MWCD outlined several key initiatives:

- **Valley Renewed Initiative:** In partnership with Malone University, this effort will build upon MWCD's history and define its future direction.
- **Flood Infrastructure:** Identification of five priority areas for targeted investment and solutions.
- **Recreation Grants:** Expansion of the Partners in Watershed Program and introduction of a new recreation-focused grant program, with \$1 million allocated to support smaller community recreation projects.
- **Carbon Credit Program:** Exploration of carbon credits as a potential revenue stream.
- **Capital Projects:** A total of \$354 million in projects planned through 2030.
- **Facilities Development:** Construction of a new building on Tech Park Drive in New Philadelphia.
- **Recreation Enhancements:** Expansion of water trails, including the Stillwater Watershed, and construction of treehouses at Atwood Lake (this year) and Tappan Lake (next year), to be available via Airbnb and VRBO.

Additional topics included legislative developments related to contract indemnification, growing interest from data centers and their water demands, and emerging cooling technologies. MWCD also highlighted improvements at Skip's Landing and ongoing collaboration with AEP at Wills Creek, where approximately 4,000 acres may be developed for trails and remote camping.

Commissioner Bigrigg expressed appreciation for the presentation, particularly commending MWCD's approach to separating oil and gas revenue from operational funding. He also raised concerns about drainage and flooding issues near Wills Creek Lake. Mr. Josh Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer noted he had recently discussed the issue and emphasized the importance of collaboration on mitigation efforts.

Craig Butler recommended pursuing MWCD's Critical Infrastructure Program and reapplying for the Partners in Watershed grant, with applications due in September. He noted strong board support for flood mitigation projects beyond the five priority areas already identified.

Discussion included flooding impacts at Piedmont Lake and Reda Run, where road access issues affect residents. While acknowledging that not all problems can be solved, MWCD aims to address key concerns.

Commissioner Bigrigg also raised interest in ATV trails as a potential economic development opportunity. Craig Butler agreed, noting the strong tourism potential but emphasized the need for large land areas due to the impact such use can have on terrain. MWCD is in the early stages of evaluating this opportunity.

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Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District – Project Updates (continued)

Commissioner Shryock highlighted the strong partnership between the County and MWCD, expressing appreciation for improvements such as Skip's Landing, managed by Project Manager Mary Beck. He also emphasized the importance of MWCD's role in flood control, noting that the district manages approximately 67 billion gallons of water and protects an estimated \$10 billion in assets.

Josh Kempf reiterated the urgency of addressing flooding issues on the road leading to Wills Creek Dam, noting it is the only access point and critical to dam operations. He is currently working to obtain cost estimates for repairs.

The meeting also included mention of a partnership with Kent State University, with plans for a new space that will benefit both the institution and the broader community.

Updates - Mary Beck, County Administrator

Mary Beck reported that she received a call from Chrissy at Granger regarding a quote of \$162,108.00 for a butterfly valve at Skip's Landing. An alternative option, a gate valve requested by Dave Kadri, would cost approximately \$90,000 more and carries a lead time of 16 weeks. After consulting with Mayor Mills and Safety Service Director Crown, it was determined that the gate valve option was not feasible due to both cost and delivery time. Given the low-pressure conditions at the site, the butterfly valve is considered an appropriate and effective solution.

Mary also noted that work on the playground is expected to begin in approximately two weeks.

Regarding boat ramp maintenance, coordination will take place with the County Engineer's Office to utilize their water truck for cleanup efforts following flooding events.

Meeting attended

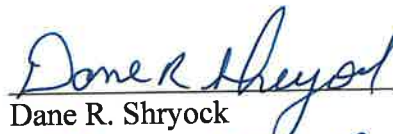
No meetings were attended by any Commissioner.

Adjourn

Mr. Bigrigg adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk

