

THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, met in regular session, with Lenny Eliason presiding, Chris Chmiel and Charlie Adkins in attendance.

Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following agenda:
Athens County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, May 12, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes May 5, 2026

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
Fund to Fund: Comm \$33,000.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfers Out to 572.2572.422101 CSEA Transfers In
New Line Item: Comm - 19 Bldg Bd
Receipts: Other 579.2579.417100
New Line Item: Comm - Co Capital Improvement
Receipts: Other 493.2493.417100

- 9:30 Amitkunir Bhavsar- Quality Inn
- 9:45 DJFS - Weekly Updates
- 10:00 EMS - EMS Week (Call Amber)
- 10:45 Jeff Jenkins HAPCAP-CDBG project selections
- 11:00 Merchant McIntyre
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Utility Permits (3-AEP)
- W&S Extensions/Payment Agreements (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- Burr Oak Water Board Property Purchase
- County Engineer Credit Card Resolution
- New Request for Leave Form
- WIAO Resolution
- Surplus - Clerk of Courts
- Resolution - Ellen Martin
- IRS form 8879-TE - (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's signature)
- DJFS - Enterprise Agreement # 9985821 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- EDC- Revised CCC EZA
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Request
- add- EPA Response
- add- Move June 2nd Meeting to June 1st
- add- Letter of Support Little Cities of Black Diamond
- add- Auditor - Athens County Unclaimed Funds

~TRAVEL

Treasurer: Taylor Sappington; OLBA Conference, Toledo OH; 04/21 - 04/24/26 Amended Request
W&S: Owen Arix; Water Reclamation Test 1, Columbus, OH; 05/19/26

ADJOURNMENT

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the minutes of May 5, 2026.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Comm \$33,000.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfers Out to 572.2572.422101 CSEA Transfers In New Line Item: Comm - 19 Bldg Bd, Receipts: Other 579.2579.417100, New Line Item: Comm - Co Capital Improvement, Receipts: Other 493.2493.417100 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 04/30/2026 To: 05/05/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 05/05/2026 To: 05/07/2026 and the bills are hereby the same and authorize the County Auditor to issue warrants on the County Treasurer for payment in the same. Complete list of bills maintained in the Auditor's office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

**Amitkunir Bhavsar - Quality Inn
Hotel Lodging Tax Late Fee Appeal**

The meeting opened with discussion regarding a hotel owner's appeal to waive late payment fees associated with county hotel lodging taxes. The owner (Amitkunir Bhavsar) explained that the late payments were caused by mailing delays from Columbus rather than any intentional failure to pay taxes on time. He emphasized his commitment to improving the business and contributing positively to the county economy.

The owner stated that when the business was acquired in 2023, annual gross revenue was approximately \$1.3 million. Since taking ownership, substantial investments have been made into the property and guest experience, resulting in increased revenues:

- 2024 revenue increased to approximately \$1.65 million
- 2025 revenue increased to approximately \$1.9 million

He further noted that county tax contributions had increased significantly under his ownership, rising from approximately \$30,000-\$35,000 annually under the previous owner to nearly \$57,000 in the prior year.

The appeal involved two quarters:

- Quarter 2 of 2025: payment received six days late
- Quarter 4 of 2025: payment received one day late

The owner explained that:

- Checks were mailed from Columbus
- Delays were due to mail transit issues
- There was no intent to delay payments
- Real estate taxes are consistently paid on time through online banking
- Procedures have since been changed so hotel management now delivers payments in person to avoid future delays

County Auditor staff (Leah Allen) clarified:

- This matter involved hotel lodging taxes, not real estate taxes
- A prior request for waiver related to Quarter 2 had already been denied
- The late fee from Quarter 2 remained unpaid
- Quarter 4 penalties were subsequently assessed after another late payment occurred

Board members expressed concern that:

- Other businesses comply with deadlines and penalties
- Granting exceptions could create unfair treatment
- The applicant had not complied with the previous denial ruling

Commissioner Chmiel stated that compliance, rather than intent, was the governing issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to deny the waiver request from Quality Inn (Amitkunir Bhavsar) for the Hotel Lodging Tax Late Fee.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

**DJFS - Weekly Updates
No Show**

Utility Permits

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Utility Permits:

Permit No. 26-706
From: AEP Ohio
700 Morrison Rd
Gahanna, OH 43230

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.

Location of work: Co Rd # 24, Co Rd Name: Canaan Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Crossing Rd & Utility Pole Installation
Estimated Project Schedule: 05/11/2026 - 11/11/2026
Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle & Michelle Provandie, AEP Ohio

Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Chris Chmiel
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-707
From: American Electric Power
300 BF Goodrich Rd
Marietta, OH 45750

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.

Location of work: Co Rd # 6, Co Rd Name: Old State Rt 56
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd & Utility Pole Installation
Estimated Project Schedule: 05/01/2026 - 09/30/2026
Agreed to by: /s/Stephen Bullman, American Electric Power

Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Chris Chmiel
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-708
From: AEP Ohio
700 Morrison Rd
Gahanna, OH 43230

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.

Location of work: Co Rd # 20, Co Rd Name: Strouds Run Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Crossing Rd & Overhead Line Parallel to Rd
Estimated Project Schedule: 06/08/2026 - 12/31/2026
Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle & Michelle Provandie, AEP Ohio

Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Chris Chmiel
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

W&S Extensions/Payments

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Gage Coler for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$248.02 with \$96.44 to be paid 05/15/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Laura Plotner for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$247.09 with \$127.63 to be paid 05/15/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Stacey Valentine for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$461.91 with \$244.44 to be paid 05/22/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Rita Howland for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$109.55 with \$60.00 to be paid 05/14/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Burr Oak Water Board Property Purchase

The board discussed a proposed sale of approximately 106 acres valued at \$326,000.

Discussion included:

- Current annual lease income of approximately \$27,000
- Potential loss of future lease revenue if the property were sold
- Commissioner Chmiel stated whether the county should negotiate a higher sales price
- Commissioner Chmiel proposed a modest counteroffer of \$350,000 to offset future lost lease income.

Additional discussion clarified:

- The county had already received the current year's lease payment
- The county was effectively six months ahead financially on the lease

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to accept the offer from Burr Oak Water Board to purchase approximately 106.5 acres of property from Athens County in the amount of \$326,000.00. See documents on back of page 168.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, no; Mr. Adkins, yea.



May 7, 2026

Athens County Commissioners
Athens County Courthouse
1 South Court Street
Athens, OH 45701

Re: Proposal to Purchase Approximately 106.5 Acres

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Burr Oak Regional Water District (the "District"), I am writing to formally express the District's interest in purchasing approximately 106.5 acres of real Property currently owned by the Athens County Board of Commissioners (the "Property"). The District is pursuing this acquisition to support its public-purpose mission of providing reliable water service and to enable future infrastructure planning and the protection of critical water-supply assets.

The Property has been appraised at **\$326,000**. Based on this appraisal, the District proposes to purchase the Property for **\$326,000**, subject to the terms and contingencies outlined below and the completion of any approvals required of the District and Athens County.

For clarity, the District anticipates the following customary terms as part of a purchase agreement:

- Mutual agreement on the legal description and boundaries of the Property, supported by a survey.
- District completion of title review and acceptance of title, including resolution of any liens, encumbrances, or easements that would materially interfere with the District's intended use.
- Negotiation and execution of a purchase agreement acceptable to both parties, including standard closing conditions and allocation of customary closing costs.

- Approval by the District's governing body and any other approvals required by applicable law.

If the Commissioners are amenable to proceeding, the District will proceed to order the survey and the necessary documentation.

Please feel free to contact me at (740) 767-2558 or elliott@burroakwater.org with any questions or to coordinate next steps. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of our District.

Sincerely,

Michael Elliott
District Manager
Burr Oak Regional Water District
9860 Monserat Ridge Rd
Millfield, OH 45761
(740) 767-2558
elliott@burroakwater.org
Enclosure(s): Appraisal, Property Sketch



April 3, 2026

ATTN: Michael Elliott
Burr Oak regional Water District
9860 Monserat Ridge Road
Millfield, OH 45761

Dear Michael Elliott,

I have completed a Restricted Appraisal Report of property located on State Route 13, Chauncey, Ohio (Proposed new split of Parcels #G010010039500 & G010010048500). The property appraised includes approximately: land (106.50 acres-actual acreage may vary slightly based on actual survey). The effective date of this appraisal is April 1, 2026, which is the date of inspection.

Data was gathered, summarized, and analyzed for the purpose of estimating a value for the subject property. An onsite inspection of the property was completed, with additional market research conducted online, at the county courthouse, and with information provided by local real estate offices. The market approach to value was utilized by analyzing recent sales and listings in the area.

Estimated Market Value of State Route 13 (approx. 106.50 acres): \$326,000

Should you need supporting documentation for this report, a Self-Contained Appraisal Report is available for an additional fee. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Sweeney
MS Appraisals
Cert. #418363 Exp: 02/26/2028

NOTE: This confidential report is limited in scope and discovery and for the use of the client only. There are no other intended users as the appraiser's opinions and conclusions may not be understood properly without additional information in the appraiser's work file. Under no circumstances will court testimony be provided for this report. Under no circumstances should a lending decision be based on this report.



Boundary to be finalized by survey - approximately 106.5 acres.

County Engineer Credit Card Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the County Engineer Credit Card Resolution: Whereas, the Board of Athens County Commissioners desires to authorize the use of credit cards pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 301.27; and

Whereas, the Board, on April 24, 2024, adopted formal policies and procedures concerning credit card usage and oversight, including, but not limited to, a list of authorized employees, which may be amended from time to time, custody of the cards, allowable and authorized purchases, penalties for improper usage, and reconciliation of purchases; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that this Board hereby approves the applications for issuance of a credit card, subject to the adopted policies and stated credit limits, of the following departments/employees:

Engineer's Department Card \$5,000
County Engineer, Jeff Maiden \$5,000

Signed this 12th day of May 2026

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

I, JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator for the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board May 12, 2026, and appears in the Commissioners' Journal 123.

/s/JoAnn Rockhold,
Administrator, Board of Commissioners
Athens County, Ohio

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

New Request for Leave Form

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the revised employee leave request form as presented. See document on back of page 169.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

WIOA Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the execution of Amendment I to the subgrant agreement. See documents on back of page 169.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Surplus - Clerk of Courts

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the following Clerk of Courts Surplus to Redistribute or Destroy:

Description:	Model #
4-Transfer Roller	ALTALINK C8155
3-Transfer Belt Cleaner	ALTALINK C8155
4-Drum Cartridge	ALTALINK C8155
8-Waste Toner Container	ALTALINK C8155
2-Black Toner	ALTALINK C8155
1-Magenta Toner	ALTALINK C8155
1-Cyan Toner	ALTALINK C8155
1-Yellow Toner	ALTALINK C8155

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Employee Name: _____ Date: _____

- Leave Requested:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sick | <input type="checkbox"/> Compensatory Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Leave with Pay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation | <input type="checkbox"/> Court | <input type="checkbox"/> Military, Long-term |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal | <input type="checkbox"/> FMLA | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Separation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave of Absence without Pay |

Reason for Leave: _____
(Attach a copy of the subpoena, court order, military order, obituary, or physician's statement verifying reason for leave.)

Request leave beginning (Time): _____ (a.m./p.m.) (Date): _____
and ending on (Time): _____ (a.m./p.m.) (Date): _____ TOTAL HOURS: _____

- SICK LEAVE ONLY (give details of reason for sick leave usage):
- Medical/Dental/Optical appointment of employee (date and time): _____
 - Illness of employee (state exact nature of illness): _____
 - Injury of employee (state exact nature of injury): _____
 - Medical appointment of family member (please state date & time of appointment and why your presence was necessary): _____
 - Illness or injury of family member (please state nature of illness or injury and why your presence was necessary): _____
 - Death of family member (state name and relationship of deceased): _____
Date of death: _____ Date of funeral: _____
Number of hours of sick leave requested [minimum amount of one-quarter (.25) hour]: _____

I certify all statements herein to be complete and true and that the leave requested is in full compliance with the Employer's policy. I understand that falsification is cause for discipline up to and including termination of employment. I understand that insufficient leave balances will result in rescission of approval and that it is my responsibility to ensure that leave balances are adequate.

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Supervisor: Recommended Not Recommended _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Department Head: Recommended Not Recommended _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Appointing Authority: Approved Not Approved _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Board of Athens County Commissioners
AMENDMENT I
Subgrant Agreement

RECITALS:

This Subgrant Agreement is entered into between the Board of Athens County Commissioners (hereafter referred to as "BOARD") and the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services (hereinafter referred to as "SUBGRANTEE"). The following are the terms of the Subgrant Agreement:

The parties agree to amend the subgrant agreement as follows:

AMENDMENT I:

ARTICLE IV. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SUBGRANT: This amendment is effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, unless otherwise amended or terminated.

Original term: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026
Amendment I: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

This Subgrant Agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, unless this Subgrant Agreement is suspended or terminated pursuant to ARTICLE VIII prior to the above termination date. In accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, BOARD reserves the right to extend this Subgrant Agreement for up to two (2) years at one-year intervals through June 30, 2028, upon mutual agreement, based on performance, continuity of services and availability of federal, state and/or local funding.

ARTICLE V. AMOUNT OF SUBGRANT/PAYMENTS

This grant will be in the total amount of WIOA Youth, Ohio Means Jobs Center Operations, and Career Services funds allocated to Athens County, Ohio for the Subgrant period. Amounts are based on the Area approval of allocations distributed to Area 14. Actual amounts may vary throughout the subgrant period based on need and approval.

This amendment is incorporated into the respective Articles as provided in the Subgrant Agreement that became effective July 1, 2024. All other provisions of the original Subgrant Agreement shall remain in effect during the remainder of the Agreement term.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

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Charlie Adkins
cadkins@athensoh.org
Chris Chmiel
cchmiel@athensoh.org
Lenny Eliason, MPA
leliason@athensoh.org



JoAnn Rockhold
Administrator
jrockhold@athensoh.org
Telephone (740) 592-3298
Alison Pierson
Clerk
apierson@athensoh.org
Telephone (740) 592-3200

WHEREAS, The Athens County Board of Commissioners are part of the three-county Local Workforce Area 14 comprised of Athens, Meigs and Perry Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Local Workforce Area 14 is governed by the Area 14 Workforce Development Board, and the Area 14 Board of Chief Elected Officials; and

WHEREAS, the Area 14 Workforce Development Board and the Area 14 Board of Chief Elected Officials previously selected Athens County Job & Family Services to serve as the provider of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services, including One-Stop Operations, Adult and Dislocated Worker Services, and Youth Services, for the contract period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the original subgrant agreement allows for up to two (2) one-year extensions, through June 30, 2028, upon agreement of all parties; and

WHEREAS, the Area 14 Workforce Development Board has approved Amendment I to extend the subgrant agreement for an additional one-year period, from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Athens County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the execution of Amendment I to the subgrant agreement between the Board of Athens County Commissioners and Athens County Job & Family Services, extending the agreement through June 30, 2027, and authorizes the Board of Commissioners to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this amendment.

Signed this 12th day of May 2026

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins

Chris Chmiel

The Board of Athens County Commissioners is an Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate for reasons of race, gender, age, religion or disability.



By signing this Subgrant Agreement, the SUBGRANTEE acknowledges, certifies, and agrees to the requirements in providing services as detailed in the Subgrant Agreement.

Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

Keith Wiens, Interim Director

5-12-26
Date

Athens County Commissioners

Commissioner

5/12/26
Date

Commissioner

5-12-26
Date

Commissioner

5-13-26
Date

Approved as to form:

Athens County Prosecutor

5/14/26
Date

Suspend Rules

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to suspend the rules and declare an emergency and add the following to the agenda:

W&S - EPA Response

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

W&S - EPA Response

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the response as presented:

May 1, 2026

Dear Brandon,

Here is our response to the notice:

1. New Gearbox ordered and will be installed when it arrives. Expected time frame should not exceed 45 day.
2. The headworks have been re-evaluated by Oscar Carson and he indicated that everything is in good order with no holes or gaps in the screens.
3. The grit chamber will be cleaned by June 1, 2026
4. Discharge Chute will be installed according to the permit requirements as soon as it can be obtained.
5. Waiting on parts but expect that it should be restored by June 15, 2026.

We have stressed the importance of resolving these issues with our operator.

Regards,

See documents on back of page 170.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Resolution - Ellen Martin

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to adopt a Proclamation recognizing Ellen Martin:

WHEREAS, Ellen C. Martin, M.A. has dedicated more than twenty-five years of outstanding service to Health Recovery Services and the citizens of Southeastern Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Martin served as Chief Operating Officer from June 26, 2000 through August 14, 2017, and as Chief Executive Officer from August 14, 2017 to the present; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, she provided exceptional leadership through the development of innovative programs, successful implementation of grants exceeding ten million dollars, and guidance of the agency through the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Martin helped maintain Health Recovery Services' reputation as a leader in community-based behavioral healthcare services while providing continuity, stability, and compassion to those served;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Ellen C. Martin, M.A. for her years of dedicated service and congratulate her upon her retirement.

ADOPTED this 12th day of May 2026

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Gmail Ask Gmail 18 of 23

Compose

Mail 1

Inbox 16

Starred

Snoozed

Sent

Drafts 1

Categories

Purchases

More

Labels

911

AHSWD

Associations

CCAO 1

NACO 5

Author

B O C 2

One Ohio Athens County

Notice of Violation for The Plains Sewer District No. 1, permit number: OPJ00005*JD External inbox

May 1, 2026, 9:03 AM (11 days ago)

ebiz@epa.ohio.gov
to cardins, ma, cthreml, scott.sheerin, oscarson, brandon.atwood

Please review the attached Notice of Violation (NOV) letter for facility The Plains SD No 1 Buidnal (SP-200009-20) issued by Ohio EPA. Please respond in the requested timeframe outlined within the NOV.

To view your electronic submissions and permits please log on to the Ohio EPA's eBusiness Center at <https://ebiz.epa.ohio.gov>.

If you need assistance or have questions, please call (614) 644-2001 or visit our website at [Surface Water/Ohio Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.ohio.gov).

This e-mail was auto-generated by Ohio EPA's eBusiness Center. Please do not respond to this e-mail.

(PROD-839600)

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May 1, 2026

Transmitted Electronically

Athens County Commissioners
15 South Court Street
Athens, OH 45780

Re: The Plains Sewer District No. 1
Notice of Violation (NOV)
NOV
NPDES
Athens County
OPJ00005

Subject: Notice of Violation

Dear Commissioners:

On March 24, 2026, Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water (DSW) conducted a reconnaissance inspection of The Plains Sewer District No 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 11308 Jackson Drive in The Plains, Ohio. Aaron Pennington from Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office and Oscar Carson, Professional Operator of Record (ORC) were present during the inspection. As was discussed, the goal of our review was to determine your facility's compliance with Ohio's environmental laws and regulations and the terms and conditions of The Plains Sewer District No. 1 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #0PJ00005 issued on March 2, 2023.

Violations

Ohio EPA DSW observed the following five violations of Ohio's environmental laws and regulations and The Plains Sewer District No. 1 permit terms and conditions. It is recommended you promptly address the violations.

- Violation Description:** The Plains Sewer District No 1. #2 sludge rake drive gear box is leaking gear oil. This is a violation of 6111.07(A), and Part II Section E., and Part III, 3. A of your permit.
Additional Information: At the time of Ohio EPA DSW March 24, 2026, reconnaissance inspection the operator had not replaced any oil in the gearbox since the leak began. Failure of the rake drive will presumably occur if an adequate level of gear oil is not maintained.
Additional Information: Ohio EPA DSW received an email from the Professional Operator of Record indicating the gear assembly will not be repaired or replaced due to cost and a future project the district is planning, which will involve retrofitting tanks #1 and #2 with new sludge drive assemblies.
Requested Action: Please repair or replace the #2 sludge rake drive gear box to prevent complete failure of tank #2 sludge drive.

Southeast District Office 740 | 385 8501
2195 E. Front Street epa.ohio.gov
Logan, Ohio 43138 U.S.A.

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services

The Plains Sewer District No. 1
Notice of Violation
Page 2

- Violation Description:** The Plains Sewer District No 1. headworks screening is not good working order. This is a violation of 6111.07(A), and Part II Section E., and Part III, 3. A of your permit.
Additional Information: The influent bypass bar screen had a considerable amount of wipes and rags stuck across it for multiple feet of height. The bar screen requires screening to be manually removed from the bar screen.
Additional Information: A significant number of rags/wipes were observed throughout the treatment tanks during Ohio EPA's March 24, 2026, reconnaissance inspection. On April 23, 2026, the Professional Operator of Record provided notification to Ohio EPA that Tank #2 sludge return line had become plugged. To clear the plug the clarifier and re-aeration chambers had to be drained. Once the tanks were drained the Operator of Record found an abundance of rags /wipes and grit had accumulated in the chambers. Four dump truck loads of rags and grit were ultimately removed.
Requested Action: Please evaluate The Plains Sewer District No 1. headworks screening to ensure all screening components are in good working order and remove all grit and rags/wipes that have accumulated in treatment tank #3.
- Violation Description:** The Plains Sewer District No. 1 influent grit catchment basin was inaccessible during Ohio EPA's March 24, 2026, reconnaissance inspection. The Professional Operator of Record stated that grit had not been removed from the chamber in the past ten years. This is a violation of 6111.07(A), and Part II Section E., and Part III, 3. A of your permit.
Requested Action: Please restore access to the grit collection basin and remove all grit from the basin.
- Violation Description:** Permit-to-Install (PTI) #957820 issued to The Plains Sewer District No. 1 on December 17, 2013, approved the installation of a screening discharge chute to direct screenings directly into a dumpster. A screening discharge chute was never installed. This is a violation of ORC 6111.04(A) and PTI 957820.
Additional Information: During Ohio EPA's March 24, 2026, reconnaissance inspection the wheelbarrow used to collect screenings was overflowing, allowing screening to drop back into the screened wastewater.
Requested Action: Please install a screening discharge chute as approved by PTI #957820.
- Violation Description:** The Plains Sewer District No. 1 influent lift station was not in good working order during the inspection. This is a violation of 6111.07(A), and Part II Section E., and Part III, 3. A of your permit.
Additional Information: During the inspection influent pump(s) were pulling air and had to be turned off on the H.O.A.(Hands/OFF/Auto) starter panel. Mr. Carson stated that there is an electrician replacing the transducer setup with a new float system.

The Plains Sewer District No. 1
Notice of Violation
Page 3

Requested Action: Please return the influent lift station to good working order by repairing the station's automated setpoint controls.

Conclusion

Within 14 days of receipt of this letter, please provide documentation to Ohio EPA DSW of the actions taken and/or will be taken to resolve the violations cited above. Documentation of steps taken to resolve these violations includes but is not limited to written correspondence, updated policies, and photographs, as appropriate, and may be submitted via the postal service or electronically to Brandon.Atwood@epa.ohio.gov. If circumstances delay resolution of the violations, The Plains Sewer District No. 1 is requested to contact Ohio EPA DSW to discuss the situation and propose an alternative schedule to resolve the violations in a timely manner.

Failure to comply with Chapter 6111 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules promulgated thereunder may result in an administrative or civil penalty.

Please note that the submission of any requested information to respond to this letter does not constitute a waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek administrative or civil penalties as provided in Chapter 6111.09 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (740) 380-5211 and/or Brandon.Atwood@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Brandon Atwood

Brandon Atwood
District Representative
Division of Surface Water
Southeast District Office

BA/aa

cc: Scott Sheerin, DSW, CO
Oscar Carson, The Plains Sewer District No. 1

IRS forms 8868-8879-TE

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature for the IRS forms 8868 & 8879-TE.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS - Enterprise Agreement #9985821

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the DJFS - Enterprise Agreement #9985821.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

EDC - Revised CCC EZA

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the revised Enterprise Zone Agreement Amendment for CCC Plastics USA Inc. The Original was approved on April 28th. See Revised Document on back of page 171.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Request

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a \$450.00 request for Memorial Day Supplies associated with the American Revolution Organization.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Travel

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following travel:

Treasurer: Taylor Sappington; OLBA Conference, Toledo OH; 04/21 - 04/24/26 Amended Request
W&S: Owen Arix; Water Reclamation Test 1, Columbus, OH; 05/19/26

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Meeting Date Change

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve moving the June 2nd meeting to June 1st.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS Hearings and Staffing

1. Discussion Regarding Hearings and Staffing
 - Commissioner Adkins discussed concerns about:
 - Reduced hearing numbers compared to prior years
 - Declines from approximately 680 hearings annually to significantly lower projected totals
 - Staffing shortages and operational priorities
 - Commissioner Adkins expressed concern that:
 - Hearings generate revenue for the county
 - Interim leadership attendance at conferences and meetings may be less critical than addressing backlog and staffing issues
2. Director Interview Scheduling
 - Conduct interviews on May 19 and May 20
 - Rank all applicants numerically
 - Average scores to determine finalists
 - Conduct interviews primarily in the afternoons, with flexibility for morning sessions if needed

Letter of Support – Little Cities of Black Diamond

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve sending a letter of support for Little Cities of Black Diamond. See Letter of Support for Little Cities of Black Diamond on back of page 171.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

EMS Week Employee Recognition

Chief Pyle addressed the board regarding EMS Week activities scheduled for May 18–24.

She requested approval to purchase Walmart gift cards for EMS employees, similar to the prior year's recognition effort.

Details:

67 employees

Total cost approximately \$3,350

Funds were confirmed available

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the request by Chief Pyle for EMS Week Employee Recognition in the amount of \$3,350.00 for 67 EMS Employees.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Jeff Jenkins - HAPCAP - CDBG Project Selections**CDBG Allocation and Critical Infrastructure Funding Discussion**

*HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins discussion regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation process and related funding opportunities:

* Jeff distributed spreadsheets outlining:

* Funding requests from various communities

* Proposed allocation amounts

* Potential Critical Infrastructure (CI) projects

* The county's total allocation was identified as approximately \$218,000, with approximately \$174,400 available specifically for projects.

* Critical Infrastructure (CI) Requests

* Two primary CI requests were discussed:

* City of Nelsonville – flood and drainage improvements

* Village of Chauncey – flood and drainage improvements

* Jeff noted:

* Nelsonville's project was more "shovel-ready"

* Nelsonville already had engineering plans completed

* Existing design work would strengthen the competitiveness of the application

* Discussion of Community Allocation Projects (See back of page 172)

* The board reviewed several allocation requests from various communities, including:

* Trimble street paving projects

* Glouster projects

* Appalachian Athletic Alliance project at The Plains / Fed Hock area

* Discussion included prior years' funding allocations:

* 2024 allocation funding supported the Alexander accessible playground and Jacksonville revitalization projects

* Previous water, sewer, flood, and drainage projects were referenced in Chauncey and New Marshfield

* Noted that:

* Trimble had not received allocation funding since approximately 2016–2018

* Several current requests represented communities that had not recently received major allocation assistance

* Trimble Street and NRG Funding Discussion

* Commissioners discussed prioritizing:

* Mine Street

* Lookout Street

* Other Trimble paving and infrastructure projects

* A proposal emerged to:

* Allocate approximately \$53,203 to Glouster

* Use the remaining approximately \$116,000 toward Trimble projects

* The discussion then shifted to the possibility of pursuing a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant (NRG) for Trimble.

* NRG Opportunity

* Key points discussed:

* NRG grants can provide up to approximately \$750,000

* The county currently has one available NRG slot

- * Applications occur only every two years
- * Timing is compressed due to an earlier application deadline this cycle
- * Nathan Simons explained that the county could:
 - * Use allocation funds as matching funds or backup funding
 - * Combine multiple improvements into a larger competitive project
- * Potential NRG activities discussed included:
 - * Street improvements
 - * Sidewalks
 - * Park improvements
 - * Tomcat Trail enhancements
 - * Demolition projects

CDBG Allocation and NRG Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the CDBG Allocation and pursue an NRG project with the Village of Trimble and use allocation funding as match or fallback funding:

- * Allocate approximately \$53,203 to Glouster
- * Use the remaining approximately \$116,000 toward Trimble projects

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

CI Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the CI Application for City of Nelsonville and Village of Chauncey. Commissioner Chmiel requested additional engagement with the new mayor of Chauncey due to concerns regarding cooperation on hazard mitigation planning and county coordination.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Appalachian Athletic Alliance – Targeted Opportunity Grant

HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins explained the possibility of pursuing a:

- * Targeted Opportunity Flexible Grant Program
- * Up to approximately \$250,000 available
- * Statewide competitive funding pool of approximately \$2 million

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve support for pursuing the grant application should the organization choose to move forward with the application process.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

RPIG Application

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the public infrastructure grant application related to Stewart Guysville Sewer.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Merchant McIntyre

Brent Merchant, Matt McIntyre, and Will Hong

1. Federal Grant Consulting / Lobbying Services Discussion

- * Ongoing federal grant advocacy efforts
- * Congressional earmark requests
- * FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) opportunities
- * Future federal funding opportunities

Brent Merchant stated they had:

- * Assisted the county with federal advocacy efforts
- * Conducted congressional engagement meetings
- * Submitted earmark requests
- * Continued advocacy through the appropriations process
- * Status of Congressional Earmark Requests

Brent Merchant reported:

- * Congressman Balderson and Senator Husted did not include the county project in their submitted funding requests
- Senator Moreno's office had not yet issued a final decision
- * Commissioner Adkins expressed frustration regarding:
 - * Approximately \$30,000 already paid for services
 - * Lack of confirmed funding results
 - * Concerns about political realities affecting Athens County due to partisan differences

Brent Merchant responded:

- * Federal funding work is inherently competitive
- * No funding outcomes can be guaranteed
- * Success requires long-term persistence and strategic alignment with congressional priorities

Brent Merchant emphasized that:

- * The quality of the submitted work met professional standards
- * The county's projects remained fundable
- * Federal agencies distribute billions annually to local governments

2. Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Discussion

- * The original proposal involved:
 - * A countywide interoperable radio communications system
 - * Participation from multiple fire departments
 - * A regional application through the Firefighters Association
 - * Emerging Challenges
- * Will Hong explained that:
 - * Many fire departments withdrew participation
 - * Departments were concerned about future MARCS radio user fees after grant funding expired
 - * Only a few departments remained interested
- * As a result, consultants recommended:
 - * Switching to a county-only EMS application
 - * Focusing solely on county EMS communication equipment
 - * Pursuing a more competitive "non-affiliated EMS organization" funding category
- * Will Hong noted:
 - * This funding category receives fewer applications
 - * Competition may therefore be reduced
 - * Including additional fire departments could weaken competitiveness and place the application in a more difficult funding category
- * Commissioner Concerns Regarding AFG Direction
 - * The original contract focused on countywide fire department participation
 - * The proposal had shifted to a county-only EMS application
 - * Fire departments may perceive they were excluded by county commissioners
 - * Additional discussions with local fire departments and EMS leadership were needed before final decisions
- * Commissioner Chmiel stated:
 - * The county should complete the already-contracted grant submission
 - * Further lobbying contract renewals were not currently supported
 - * More county discussion was required before changing the structure of the application
- * Commissioner Adkins noted:
 - * Several fire departments had already independently obtained MARCS radios
 - * Some departments appeared reluctant to participate in the countywide proposal
 - * Township trustees may be more important decision-makers than fire departments themselves
- * Discussion included:
 - * Possibility of separate township applications

- * Maintaining a county EMS application
- * Need for additional meetings with 911 Director Teresa Fouts-Imler and township leadership
- * Commissioner Eliason reiterated their desire to:
 - * Maintain good communication with participating departments
 - * Ensure the grant application already paid for is completed

Suspend Rules

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to suspend the rules and declare an emergency and add the following to the agenda:

Auditor - Athens County Unclaimed Funds

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Auditor - Athens County Unclaimed Funds

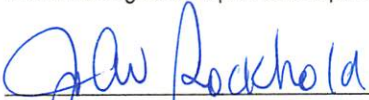
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Auditor Jill Davidson to pursue unclaimed funds through the State of Ohio and authorize for legal counsel (TL Warren) to assist as needed. Commissioners also clarified the effort should pursue unclaimed funds countywide, not solely auditor-related funds.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.


Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to adjourn the above meeting.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.




 JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



 Alison Pierson, Clerk



 Lenny Eliason, President



 Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



 Chris Chmiel