Oak Harbor Conservation Club

975 S. Gordon Road P.O. Box 364
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Minutes for 10/12/26
Trustees & Officers meeting

President Terry Rudes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
Present; Jason Destatte, Mike Gargac, Don Hunter, Ben Lacy, Keith Kralik, Troy Overmyer, Cindy Reedy, David Roepke, David Witt, and Chuck Yarletts.
Absent; None

Terry Rudes called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Read a statement that lasted eleven minutes. Terry demanded a Trustee leave the Trustee seating, requested a Deputy to remove him. Numerous Officers & Trustees openly objected, the Trustee remained in place. Terry read from a prepared statement. Terry tried to appoint Terry Warner to Trustee position. Numerous Trustees & Officers objected that there is no vacancy and the President can only nominate for an open position, and not appoint. Terry went on for over eleven minutes.

Reading of Minutes: Don Hunter read the September minutes Terry Rudes asked if there were any objections to the minutes. None made, Terry Rudes then demanded and ordered that the Trustees & Officers Insurance comment be stricken from the minutes, the Secretary cannot make inquiries. Terry admitted that the he did not complete the Directors & Officers Insurance citing there are no requirements that provides the President has to complete an application by a specific time. No vote taken on the minutes. Note Terry Rudes completely overstepped his bounds by giving orders and directives about the minutes.

VP report: David Witt – I will give a presentation during the members' meeting.

Treasurer's report: Cindy Reedy financial report accepted.

Secretary reports: Don Hunter stated that a Court Notice was time stamped 2:41 pm and came in later than that this afternoon with notification that the Annual meeting could not take place today and would be rescheduled at a date to be determined by the courts. Notice was sent out immediately to members after receipt of the Court Order was received. We will know more when the Court of Common Pleas of Ottawa County lets us know after the hearing date scheduled for October 28.

President's report: Terry read from a prepared statement. Spoke of Darr membership, bullet holes on short range. FOB class there should have been a range inspection.
Terry said he was appointing Richard Rudes to CRSO 2nd C. Yarletts. Discussion followed roll call vote called. K. Kralik – No, D. Roepke – No, J. DeStatte – No, T. Overmyer – No, D. Hunter – No, D. Witt – No, C . Reedy – No, M. Gargac – Yes, C. Yarletts – Yes,; Don Hunter - Ben Lacy you are a Trustee

what is your vote? Terry Rudes – You can abstain. Ben Lacy – Abstain.
There were 7 – No votes, 2 – Yes votes, and 1 – Abstain, motion failed.

Darr report: Bud read the Darr report.

Terry Rudes – Called a short recess walked to that back of the room, spoke to the Deputy.
Note the Police report at the end of the minutes.

Range Report: No report

Old Business:
Executive session called by David Witt, all left for executive session.
Trustees & Officers returned from executive session.
K. Kralik Made motion to remove Terry Rudes as President. Charges presented in writing. 2nd T. Overmyer.
Terry Rudes – We are tabling that motion. There was objection by Trustees & Officers.
Terry Rudes – Persisted that the motion is tabled.
Trustees & Officers said that there is a motion on the floor.

1. Violation of Club Policies and Procedures
In November 2025, the President unilaterally suspended two members without consultation or approval from the Officers and Trustees. This action directly violated the Club's Policies and Procedures, which clearly state:
"Termination of club membership or a suspension will only be done by the Trustees and Officers."

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2. Attempt to Misrepresent Budget Information
In late summer 2025, the President inserted a line-item exceeding $200,000 for shooting range upgrades into the Club budget without authorization or prior discussion. This discrepancy was identified during a budget review by the Officers and Trustees.
When questioned, the President stated that the addition was made "to see if anyone was paying attention," and subsequently corrected the document. Regardless of intent, this action demonstrated poor judgment and undermined confidence in the President's integrity and stewardship of Club resources.

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3. Pattern of Disrespectful Conduct at Meetings
The President has repeatedly failed to maintain a respectful and professional environment during monthly meetings, contributing to decreased member participation and engagement.

- January 2026 Meeting: The President spoke dismissively to a member presenting information related to a business plan.
- February 2026 Meeting: The President appointed two members to oversee equipment maintenance at the Darr without prior discussion with the Officers, Trustees, or the Darr Chairman. This decision created confusion and division within the Club.
- March 2026 Meeting: The President refused to allow a member to provide input regarding a Shores and Islands Ohio partnership and raised his voice in anger multiple times. This behavior discouraged member participation and collaboration.

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4. Intimidating and Aggressive Behavior Toward Officers

During the July 2025 budget meeting, the President engaged in aggressive and intimidating behavior toward the Club Secretary. While discussing the Darr budget, the President leaned into the Secretary's personal space and used an angry tone to shut down discussion.
Such conduct is unacceptable and undermines the ability of Officers and Trustees to ask questions, perform their duties, and participate in governance without fear of intimidation.

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5. Aggressive Behavior During Executive Session (December 2025)

A Trustee called an executive session, and the President became confrontational with a Trustee, advancing aggressively and raising his voice.
During this same session, the President attempted to remove the Secretary from office without proper process.
These actions contributed to a hostile and divisive environment.

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6. Public undermining of incoming leadership
In the November 2025 Club Newsletter, the President publicly criticized the newly elected Vice President and a Trustee for their absence from a meeting, despite prior notice that the Vice President would be out of state and had offered to attend virtually.
The President wrote:
"It is disappointing that these people who want to lead the club did not attend the trustees meeting to learn what is going on that they will be dealing with next year."
This statement undermined the credibility of incoming leadership, violated professional courtesy, and damaged trust within the organization. The terms of these individuals were not set to begin until January 2026.

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7. Division Within the Club

The Club operates two properties: the Gordon Road facility and the Darr property.
The President has demonstrated favoritism toward the Gordon Road facility and has repeatedly expressed interest in selling the Darr.
These actions have created division among members and concern that the interests of all club assets are not being represented equally.

Terry Rudes – Rebuttal lasted for ten minutes never addressing the charges, but attacked the Trustee & Officers. During Terry's rebuttal Terry raised his voice saying to VP David Witt **"F***ing Idiot".** (In Terry's opening remarks he said swearing will not be tolerated and he was the swearing.
The Trustees & Officers said no swearing. Terry Rudes – Don't interrupt me I'm not done with my resignation.

Discussion followed Roll call vote
K. Kralik – Yes to remove
David Roepke – Yes to remove
Jason DeStatte – Yes to remove
Troy Overmyer – Yes to remove
Don Hunter – Yes to remove

David Witt – Yes to remove
Cindy Reedy – Yes to remove
Chuck Yarletts – No
Ben Lacy – Yes to remove
Mike Gargac – Yes to remove
9 votes to remove Terry Rudes from the position of President. Motion to Remove Terry Rudes from President carries.

Terry Rudes left the Trustees and Officers table.

Matches: Mike Gargac – SR Rifle Tm Postal matches will start Nov 10th thru March 16th every Tuesday 7 – 8:30 pm on the 25-yard range.

Jason DeStatte – Motion to remove the Darr membership cap. 2nd Cindy Reedy. Discussion followed motion carried

New members: One applicant withdrew his application citing "OHCC has an egotistical manic for President". New applicants Deb Roggeman, Faith Mehalic, Bernie McAllister, Revonnel Storrer, Skyler Shively, Dustin Myers, Tyler Sanders, Gary Nipper and Sherri Kleinhans Motion to accept new members Keith Kralik, 2nd David Roepke motion carried

Good of the Order:
Don Hunter – Earlier this month I attended a dinner with Governor Mike DeWine. There will be hundreds of millions of dollars that will become available to ODNR due to the oil & gas leases on state lands. Don said he spoke with the Chief of Ohio Division of Wildlife Kendra Wecker and mentioned the Conservation Club Competitive grant request far surpassed the available funds. In the future any additional funding to the Ohio Conservation Club Competitive Partnership Grant would be very beneficial.

Motion to Adjourn: Cindy Reedy, 2nd Troy Overmyer motion carried 8:30 pm.

Secretary Don Hunter President David Witt

Narrative

Entry Information

Created By	Morton, John	**Created On**	10/13/2026	**Modified By**	Shark, Matt	**Modified On**	10/14/2026
Superv... Approval	Shark, Matt	**Approved Date**	10/14/2026	**Print With Incident**	Yes		

Narrative

Narrati... CR#: 2026- 42980

Deputy: John Morton 6217

Type: DISORDERLY

Date: August 12th, 2026 at approximately 19:11 hours

This report has been prepared based upon the observations of this officer and/or those of other officers relative to the instant offense(s). The facts contained herein are intended solely to give the prosecuting authority a basic understanding of the facts pertaining to this case. The facts contained herein are not intended to be an exhaustive recitation of the facts pertaining to the pretrial or trial issues. Instead, this anticipates that during the pretrial proceedings in this case, both the prosecutor and defense counsel will take the opportunity to interview this officer in order to ascertain any and all relevant facts which might be the subject of this officer`s testimony in court proceedings.

Below is an interview summary. It is not intended to be a verbatim account and does not memorialize all statements made during the interview, interaction, or contact with an Ottawa County Deputy. Communications by the parties in the interview, interaction, or contact with an Ottawa County Deputy were electronically recorded using office issued Axon Body Cameras; if the conversation was not recorded there will be notation in the report for which conversation was not recorded and reason why. The recording captures the actual words spoken by all parties and if indicated by the Deputy in their narrative, a body worn camera was uploaded into Axon Evidence on cloud-based storage. Body worn camera was activated during all interactions with the public and was only turned off for side bars with law enforcement, prosecutor side bars, during significant periods of inactivity such as breaks from direct participation in the incident, or for running personal information on my MDT. The Axon Body camera retrieves data 30 seconds prior to the activation. These 30 seconds will contain no audio and will show video only. "Axon Capture" can be utilized to take photographs, record audio only files, and video setting is also available and can be used if the Axon body camera is not working properly or as an emergency backup to the body camera. A verbal connotation was given on the recording for the reason of the device recording was suspended by the deputy.

On August 12th, 2026 at approximately 19:11 hours, I responded to the Oak Harbor Conservation Club at 975 S Gordon Road. Dispatch advised Deputy Hammer who was present and on duty for a special project at the Conservation Club was requesting another unit. Dispatch advised that Deputy Hammer indicated that the things were escalating between club members in the meeting that was being held. Upon arrival I spoke with Deputy Hammer as well as other deputies who responded.

During this time, I was informed that the it seemed that the President of the Club (learned to be Terry Rudes) was wanting people removed from the property. During this time, I was provided paperwork from the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas that was given to deputies. This paperwork appeared to address a civil matter pertaining to the conservation club. After reviewing this and gathering some information from other deputies, I came to a conclusion that these matters before me did not constitute anything that law enforcement could remove any conservation members of any capacity from the property. I spoke briefly with the prosecutor regarding this to which we confirmed that my conclusion was correct. I advised the prosecutor that I would explain this to Terry, and make it known that anyone becomes disorderly and requires the response of law enforcement, anyone found to be in violation of disorderly conduct would be cited and or summoned. After speaking with the prosecutor, he requested this matter be forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review. After this, Terry came outside to speak with me upon my request.

In speaking with Terry, I asked what the issue at hand was tonight. Terry advised me that they were having a meeting and everything was going "very smoothly". I asked Terry about the desire of having people removed. Terry advised me that an individual was improperly appointed and they were asked to leave. The individual was reported to be "Ben Lacey". Terry advised that "Ben Lacey" refused to leave and a disruption had transpired. Terry also indicated that the disruption has since calmed down, advising that the "peanut gallery has been behaving pretty well". I confirmed that Terry was referring to the individuals who were in the meeting. Another individual who also came outside advised me that "Ben Lacey" was appointed as a Trustee in August. I then explained to Terry and the other subject that we would not be affecting any request to remove subjects from the property. I expressed that this matter was civil and was not anything that I would take action on. I did explain that if people became disorderly, I would cite or issue summons for disorderly conduct should be deemed fit for the situation. I also explained that if I were to have to come back after that instance, individuals would be arrested for persistent disorderly. I advised that at the request of the prosecutor this report would be forwarded to them. Concluding the conversation with Terry, he asked for me to forward a copy of the report to him. I advised Terry that should he wish for a copy of the report, he can contact the Sheriff's Office and request a copy. After this, I then returned to patrol.

Investigating Deputy

Deputy John Morton 6217