

Association of Ohio Recyclers Board Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026

Date: April 21, 2026

Members Present: Jeff Montavon, Ken Lewis, Katy Rees, Michael Darling, John Woodman, Chris Talarek, Jacob Heffron, Molly Kathleen, Erin Oulton, Mary Copenbaker, Emily Walker. Other Members Present: Michelle Balz, Alexa Schwaderer, Rob Egbert, Noah Luiken, Logan Gould, Doug Snyder, Hannah Lubbers, Lindsey Grimm, Anne Dudley, Liz Van Deusen. NP: Robert Kurtz, Carol Giulitto, Chase Axelson, Mike Hall.

Call to Order: John Woodman called the meeting to order ~ 9:59 am

Minutes from the March 2026 Meeting: Emily Walker motioned for approval, Jeff Montavon seconded the motion. March minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report for the month of March was presented by Chris Talarek. Mary Copenbaker motioned for approval of Treasurer's Report. Mike Darling seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business: - Met at Madtree Brewery in April as previously discussed. Also discussed June and August for tours. June 16th, August 18th.

New Business: - John Woodman discussed AOR branded pint glasses. Securing a quote for 144 glasses. Discussed whether to have the horizontal or vertical stack. Most board members preferred the vertical stack styled logo.

Grants – John Woodman reported that AOR received nine applications. Funding has initially been approved for five applications.

Riverview School – Non-member -battery boxes -came in after deadline – declined.

Defiance County – Recycling education and outreach items – declined – Awarded same things as before.

Williams County – Larger magnets for recycling trailer and recycling bins and containers - \$1,000 - Approved

Logan County – Member – Battery Packs and chargers for AA batteries for giveaway to residents - \$991.38 – Declined (Not as impactful as Williams)

Summit/Akron Reworks – Member – Tire collection dolly - \$1,000 – Approved

Adams Brown Recycling – Member – Decals for eleven community drop-off sites and curbside programs - \$1,000 – Approved.

Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne – Member -Opening a new drop-off for recycling to reach 70,000 residents - \$1,000 – Approved

Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub – Member – Storage containers for lithium batteries, blankets, fire suppression equipment, and marketing material. -\$1,000 – Approved

Rustbelt Riders – Member - Education and after school programs, engagement tools. Microscopes, compost bins, raised bed purchases, and plant starts. – Declined

Molly Kathleen motioned for approval of grants, Michael Darling seconded the motion. Motion to approve grants passed.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning: No report

Communications Committee: Erin Oulton discussed a possible tour for Rustbelt Riders. The headquarters are approximately 40 minutes away from the compost piles. Maybe June meeting for a tour. Getting an okay from Rustbelt Rider members to okay tour.

As a backup Mahoning County – doing some innovative things with composting.

Working on a glass recycling facility to provide a tour. Maybe Johns Mansville for August glass tour?

Erin Oulton discussed additional plans for Autumn Workshop. Two roundtable sessions. Morning would be classic recycling topics; Afternoon would include “Beyond the Cart” recycling topics. Main moderator would be responsible for calling on tables to share information in front of the group.

Finance Committee: Money was successfully transferred (\$5,000).

Membership Development Committee: Same as March report: Reported by Chris Talarek; discussed membership. Sort paid memberships from unpaid memberships and courtesy call unpaid memberships. Spreadsheet on Google Drive; numerous committee members have been assigned to start calling potential members. Mary Copenbaker is working on questionnaire sheets. Chris Talarek asked where the committee should focus; Erin Oulton suggested focusing on Solid Waste Districts to attract businesses within each district. Carol Giulitto recommended having a full schedule prepared so members can plan according to their interests. John Woodman discussed ideas for purchasing promotional items. (Etched AOR pint glasses)

ROC – Jacob Heffron – No Update

Meeting Adjourned: Mary Copenbaker motioned to adjourn meeting, Emily Walker seconded the motion. John Woodman adjourned the meeting promptly at 11: 00 am.

Future Meetings:

May Meeting: Virtual – June 19 TBD

Action Items:

Jacob Heffron: Continue to reach out to Owens Corning & Owens Illinois for tour. Keep going.

Chase Axelson: Continue to reach out to Integrity Fiber for tour for future tour. Also let Board know if possible. Summer tour so far.....

Chase Axelson: Continue to reach out to Greif & Techniplex & Sofidel for future tours.

Jacob Heffron: Reach out to Worthington Industries for tour for December meeting.

John Woodman: Pursue glass etching/ color printing quote. (144 glasses)

Molly Kathleen – Check with Johns Mansville for tour.

John Woodman – Send Molly Kathleen close out reports from 2025.

Tour:

AOR Members were treated to a tour of Madtree Brewing where numerous recycling and sustainability initiatives were demonstrated.