

Roche de Boeuf Committee Meeting

Friday, May 15, 2026, 1:30pm; ODOT District 2 Office

Attendees: Pat McColley, David Geckle, Joanie Cherry, Kacey Young, Mayor Tim Pedro, City Administrator Jon Gochenour, John Pautz, Bill Vermes (via Teams), Rex Childers

Meeting Minutes

- Pat McColley and Tim Pedro thanked everyone for coming together.
- Pat McColley summarized where the group was to date. Kokosing, ODOT and Waterville met on Monday 4, 2026. ODOT passed along Craig Wing's from Kokosing contact information to Bill Vermes and John Pautz for them to coordinate. As of today, when Kacey Young called Craig Wing, Bill Vermes had not reached out yet. Kokosing does not have an estimate currently, but hopes to have one prepared by next Wednesday, May 20, 2026.
- Bill Vermes stated he called Craig Wing before this meeting and they will be following up next week.
- Tim Pedro talked to City of Waterville Council. He told them Kokosing was preparing an estimate for the partial demolition of the bridge and explained the timeline of needing an ownership decision no later than June 15, 2026.
- Pat McColley updated the governor's office. Pat McColley sent them the AI image Kacey Young prepared, discussed the ownership/technical/cost items which need to align, the June 15th deadline, Kokosing wanting to start construction on July 1st, and summarized ongoing conversations with City of Waterville and the STBA.
- Rex Childers discussed a recent meeting with SHPO. They discussed the history and possibilities of the Roche de Boeuf bridge location including Fort Deposit and possible future engagement activities with the Native American groups and BGSU.
- Pat McColley stated the Native American Shawnee Tribe does not agree with leaving the bridge in place and will need to investigate further memorialization of tribal history is needed.
- Rex Childers said the bridge site has many opportunities and perspectives.
- Pat McColley asked what SHPO's opinion of the historic determination of the bridge if the partial demolition takes place.
- John Pautz said they discussed with SHPO and they stated they would reevaluate. Their concern was the loss of main spandrel wall elements. A variation of the original Lutten design could affect historic determination. There was also a

discussion about not revising the NRCP and notifying of changes to the demolition project.

- Pat McColley stated any future grants would require coordination with SHPO and they would be notified of changes at that time.
- Rex Childers stated although not required, SHPO was happy to be part of ongoing discussions. Pat McColley stated Erica Schneider from ODOT Central Office remains in contact with them as well.
- Rex Childers presented a planning board which included information and pictures of the bridge. Rex showed pictures and talked about how minimal vertical reinforcing in the spandrel shows there is not much resistance to them being removed.
- Pat McColley pointed out in the drone videos taken by ODOT, there are areas where vertical reinforcing in the spandrel walls pulled out into the arches in some areas where the walls have already collapsed. This shows the vertical reinforcing does provide a level of resistance.
- Rex Childers spoke to a property owner who stated there was a recent collapse of a portion of a spandrel wall. Pat McColley added due to the pattern of spandrel wall collapse, an additional collapse could possibly happen.
- John Pautz added non-deformed bars do not bond to concrete as much as deformed bars which may make partial demolition easier.
- Pat McColley said it is good Bill Vermes and John Pautz are coordinating with Kokosing. ODOT does not want to dictate means and methods to the contractor.
- Rex Childers will be sharing the planning board with the group and Kokosing. Pat McColley stated ODOT has shared the drone video with Kokosing.
- Bill Vermes talked about pictures which show there are transverse ties which secure the spandrel walls together. This may be why minimal reinforcing is in the walls. From the photos, it appears there may be up to three transverse ties per wall. Also, in the spandrel wall coping, only one reinforcing wall is present. John Pautz added there are no reinforcing stirrups in the coping.
- Bill Vermes stated he is creating elevation and cross section details showing the reinforcing pattern and will share with Kokosing on Monday along with loading patterns.
- Pat McColley said the information will be useful to Kokosing and may help them prepare a more accurate cost estimate.
- Tim Pedro and Pat McColley discussed next steps which included receiving Kokosing's cost estimate for partial demolition next Wednesday, an assumption the arches are okay to leave, and the next City Council meeting is June 8th. Tim Pedro stated a special meeting can be set up if needed.

- Kacey Young stated Kokosing did not express strong interest in the test demolition on the last span on the Wood County side discussed last meeting.
- Tim Pedro set up the next meeting to be Tuesday May 26, 2026, at ODOT D2 at 1:30pm.
- Pat McColley offered to have ODOT attend the next City Council meeting to explain and answer any questions Council may have. Jon Gochenour added a special meeting would be helpful so Council could concentrate on what is being presented.
- Pat McColley cautioned putting any updates out to the public before receiving Kokosing's cost estimate. Pat McColley also added City Council can decide whether they want to discuss the acquisition of the bridge in executive session or in an open meeting. Pat is having ODOT hold the next City Council meeting on their calendars.
- Rex Childers stated the bridge is important to the community and although there have been different ideas in the past, the STBA wants to act now.
- Pat McColley asked if all members of the STBA understand the current discussions between the ODOT, City of Waterville and some members of the STBA. Rex Childers confirmed STBA knows the City of Waterville is the principle.
- Rex Childers shared the goal is to save the bridge now and improve later. The City of Waterville is the potential new owner of the bridge, not the Toledo Metro Parks. The STBA is aligned and wants to work with City of Waterville and ODOT. Any concerns the STBA have will be brought to the City of Waterville. The STBA would like to investigate fundraising for future improvements after the bridge is saved.
- Pat McColley stated it helps politically, City of Waterville Council and externally when all parties are aligned in a goal.
- Meeting Adjourned