

AGENDA
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
December 10, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2025
4. Correspondence
5. Public Comments, Audience Members are allowed 3 minutes to discuss items not on the Agenda (5 minutes for groups)
6. Approval of Agenda
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A) Affordable Housing Updates
 - B) Short Term Rental Updates
 - a. Granicus
 - b. Inspections
 - C)
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A) Approve 2026 Board Meeting Schedule
 - B) Approve appointment of Jill Sanborn as Deputy Treasurer
 - C) Planning Commission recommendation for PUD Rezone
 - D) Budget Amendment Resolution
 - E) Reappoint Planning Commissioner for new term – Grant Nicol 2026 – 2028
 - F) Reappoint ZBA Liaison to Planning Commission for new term – Lowell Tippman 2026 - 2028
9. REPORTS
 - Airport
 - Building/Electrical/Mechanical
 - Building Committee
 - Fire/Ambulance
 - Library
 - Park Committee
 - Planning Commission
 - Roads
 - Senior Services
 - Water/Sewer Authority
 - Zoning Board of Appeals
10. TREASURER’S REPORT
11. BOARD COMMENTS
12. ADJOURNMENT

SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Present: Stein, Bertorelli, Poole, Lewandowski, Wiatrowski and DeGrandchamp

Absent: Fisher

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Stein at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Wiatrowski, supported by DeGrandchamp, to approve the Minutes of the October 8, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Brandon Hinz was in attendance and gave a report for SHAES. Gail Gladney reported for VBC Commission.

Motion by Poole, supported by DeGrandchamp, to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Stein reported that the apartments on 73rd Street will be approaching the Planning Commission next month for their final approval. Trustee Wiatrowski reported there have been 46 STR inspections completed.

Motion by Lewandowski, supported by Poole, to adopt Resolution 25-29 Adopting Ordinance #171 to Rezone property on 73.5 Street. All voted in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Wiatrowski, supported by Lewandowski, to open the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Stein explained the process and Clerk Bertorelli pointed out budget highlights. Payroll will see a 3% increase. The increase in property taxes was pointed out. State Revenue Sharing is expected to decrease. Mid-term elections increase election spending. Transfer Station increases are due to the level of recycle. The township included Domestic Violence in their budget. There were no questions from the audience.

Motion by DeGrandchamp, supported by Wiatrowski, to close the Public Hearing. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Poole, supported by Lewandowski, to adopt Resolution 25-30 Adopting the Budget for 2026. All voted in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

Kalli Marshall from VBC Conservation District was in attendance to explain the new Styrofoam recycling program.

Motion by DeGrandchamp, supported by Wiatrowski, to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding for Styrofoam recycling and move forward even if Geneva Township doesn't want to participate. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Reports from various committees and authorities were received. W.C. Askew was in attendance for the Road Commission.

Motion by Bertorelli, supported by Wiatrowski, to approve payment of anticipated bills in the amount of \$59,912.60. All voted in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Brenda Bertorelli, Clerk

Ross Stein, Supervisor

Township Board
Meeting Schedule 2026

Regular Meetings of the South Haven Charter Township Board will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m., at the South Haven Township Hall, 09761 Blue Star Memorial Highway (southwest corner of Blue Star & M-140)

January 14th

July 8th

February 11th

August 12th

March 11th

September 9th

April 8th

October 14th

May 13th

November 11th

June 10th

December 9th

Memo: South Haven Charter Township Board
From: Tasha Smalley, Zoning Administrator
Date: December 2025
RE: Rezone PUD

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 3, 2025 to review an application and site plan for a PUD, rezone to HDR on 73rd St, to construct apartment complex, 52 units

Owner, James Bard and Applicant Wallick (Graham Welling) have petitioned for Final PUD (Planned Unit Development) review to rezone the property (MFR) and construct 52 units (2-16 unit and 1-20 unit apartments) at V/L (*approx. 09000*) 73rd Ave 80-17-014-039-20/25/30-00; approx. 13 acres.

The motion was to recommend approval of the PUD rezone to the Township Board with conditions:

1. All required permits/approvals are obtained: Federal, State, County, local
2. Must comply with all the standards in the PUD ordinance (Article 16)

And a second. Roll call 6-0yes

This is a rezone, Zoning Map amendment. Please prepare for 1st reading Jan meeting (*ZA will provide the proper paperwork*)

Side note Resolution

The Planning Commission expresses strong concern of 73rd Street. During multiple meetings for different projects 73rd St had been brought up as a concern. Possible solutions:

Safety – traffic flow is too fast, speed limit lowered to 35MPH

Pedestrian traffic – install sidewalk or wider shoulder for pedestrians

Truck traffic – prohibit thru truck traffic, the signs posted are not per an enforcement ordinance

Deceleration lanes – add decel lanes in high turning areas

Slow traffic – add rumble strips at cross streets to slow traffic

Improve road – rebuild road to handle to high volume of traffic

SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY
BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION #25-31

At a Regular Township Board meeting of the South Haven Charter Township Board, Van Buren County, Michigan, on December 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution was offered by _____ and Supported by _____.

WHEREAS, the Township Board adopted a Budget for 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board is required to Amend the Budget to meet the actual income and expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board is required to adopt a Resolution to Amend the Budget; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is required for the General Appropriations Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Budget Amendments for income and expenses through 12/31/2025 is attached as Exhibit A and reports over budgeted allocations;

WHEREAS, the proposed Budget Amendments attached as Exhibit A will amend the Budget for 2025 to actual income and expenses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that adoption of this Resolution adopts the Budget Amendments for 2025 at 12/10/2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon passage by the Township Board.

RECORD OF VOTE:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Brenda Bertorelli, Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and completed copy of a resolution adopted by the South Haven Charter Township Board at a meeting held on the 10th day of December, 2025 at which meeting a quorum was present, and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Brenda Bertorelli, Clerk

Budget Amendments

12/10/2025 Exhibit A

Acct#	Name	Amount Increase	Amount Decrease
101-000-447.000	Property Tax Admin Fee	\$ 81,000.00	
101-000-479.000	STR Fees		\$ 12,350.00
101-000-569.100	Metro Act		\$ 4,500.00
101-000-657.000	Delinquent E/W/S	\$ 760.00	
101-000-665.000	Interest Income	\$ 55,000.00	
		<u>\$ 136,760.00</u>	<u>\$ 16,850.00</u>
		Income Total Increase	
		\$ 119,910.00	
101-171-704.000	Supervisor Dep Pay		\$ 3,420.00
101-171-715.000	Supervisor FICA		\$ 260.00
101-171-861.000	Supervisor Mileage		\$ 70.00
101-215-704.000	Clerk Deputy Pay	\$ 9,000.00	
101-215-715.000	Clerk FICA	\$ 690.00	
101-215-861.000	Clerk Mileage	\$ 80.00	
101-247-703.000	BOR Wages	\$ 150.00	
101-247-715.000	BOR FICA	\$ 15.00	
101-253-704.000	Treasurer Dep Pay		\$ 4,600.00
101-253-715.000	Treasurer FICA		\$ 350.00
101-253-901.000	Treasurer printing	\$ 2,850.00	
101-253-962.000	Treasurer education	\$ 900.00	
101-257-728.000	Assessor Office Supply	\$ 750.00	
101-257-730.000	Assessor postage		\$ 5,360.00
101-257-808.000	Assessor contract	\$ 22,000.00	
101-257-808.100	Amar Review		\$ 2,500.00
101-265-728.000	Township Hall Office supply		\$ 700.00
101-265-778.000	Township Hall Equip Maint		\$ 18,000.00
101-265-811.000	Township Hall Grounds	\$ 25,000.00	
101-265-812.000	Township Hall Cleaning	\$ 800.00	
101-265-853.000	Township Hall Telephon		\$ 2,200.00
101-265-921.000	Township Hall E/W/S		\$ 200.00
101-265-922.000	Township Hall Gas Util		\$ 300.00
101-272-728.000	Gen Gov office supply		\$ 1,000.00
101-272-730.000	Gen Gov postage	\$ 300.00	
101-272-801.000	Gen Gov Legal		\$ 5,000.00
101-272-804.100	Gen Gov STR Expenses		\$ 5,000.00
101-272-900.000	Gen Gov Publishing	\$ 4,500.00	
101-272-901.000	Gen Gov Printing	\$ 200.00	
101-272-956.000	Gen Gov Insurance	\$ 2,225.00	
101-272-957.000	Gen Gov Membership/Dues	\$ 250.00	
101-272-965.00	Gen Gov Bank Fees	\$ 480.00	
101-528-818.000	Transfer Station	\$ 5,000.00	
101-572-816.000	GIS Mapping		\$ 200.00

101-701-703.000	PC Wages	\$	600.00
101-701-715.000	PC FICA	\$	45.00
101-705-805.000	PC Professional Fees	\$	13,000.00
101-751-703.001	Parks & Recs - SHARA	\$	25,000.00
101-751-728.000	Parks & Recs office supply	\$	100.00
101-751-931.000	Parks & Recs grounds	\$	1,900.00
		\$	115,090.00
		\$	49,905.00

Total Expense Increase
\$ 65,185.00

SOUTH HAVEN AREA REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MINUTES

November 19, 2025

Pursuant to Act 267 of 1976, as amended (Open Meetings Act), the Board Members of the South Haven Area Regional Airport Authority (SHARAA) met at the South Haven Area Regional Airport, 73020 C.R. 380, South Haven, Michigan on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Jon Woodhams Called a regular meeting of the South Haven Area Regional Airport Authority Board to order at 7:30 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Woodhams, Geneva Township, Chairman
Brent Nichols-City of South Haven, Vice Chairman
Mary Hosley, City of South Haven
Todd Jensen, South Haven Township
Mike Gillian, Covert Township
Julian Allen, Covert Township
Ross Woodhams, alternate for City of South Haven

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Sankofski, Casco Township
Fred Bower, alternate for Covert Township

- I. **Agenda:** Mary Hosley motioned to approve the agenda for the November 19, 2025, Airport Board meeting. Todd Jensen seconded this motion. **All voted in favor. The motion to approve the agenda carries. YEA 6 / NA 0**

II. Public Comments:

Mrs. Goldner expressed concern regarding upcoming tree-removal work affecting her property and requested further clarification on the specific scope of removal. She added that she has reached out to Mead & Hunt for clarification and has yet to hear back, airport management to follow up.

Brent Nichols motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Todd Jensen seconded this motion:

Consent Agenda:

Expenses from:

- September 2025 totaling: \$81,746.17 and October 2025 totaling: \$38,142.49
- Manager's reports dated: October 15, 2025 and November 19, 2025
- Minutes of September 17, 2025

A roll call vote to approve the consent agenda was taken and **all voted in favor. The motion carries. YEA 6 / NA 0**

III. **Committee Reports:** None

IV. **Old Business:** None

V. **New Business:**

Airport management provided an overview of the deer strike from 10/5/2025 and outlined initial steps to mitigate future hazards. After discussion, Todd Jensen motioned to approve up to \$30,000 in funding for vegetation and brush clearing along the sides of runway 5/23 at manager's discretion. Brent Nichols seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken: **all voted in favor. The motion carries. YEA 6 / NA 0**

It was also noted that airport staff will utilize the airport's loader and equipment to assist where feasible. Airport management will continue to explore the path towards FAA approved wildlife fencing and/or barriers.

Airport management presented a brief presentation on a used broom truck that Benton Harbor Airport (Southwest Michigan Regional) is looking to sell. Following discussion, Mary Hosley motioned to authorize airport management to make an offer of \$8,500 for the broom truck plus surplus parts, contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Verification that the vehicle's weight will not negatively impact Runway 5/23
2. Confirmation from the manufacturer that part support remains readily available.
3. A satisfactory inspection of the engine.

Jay Allen seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken and **all voted in favor. The motion carries. YEA 6 / NA 0**

IV. **Member Comments:** None

Jon Woodhams moved to adjourn the meeting Brent Nichols seconded this motion.
The meeting was adjourned at: 8:28pm

SOUTH HAVEN AREA REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Jonathon Woodhams, Chairman
Brent Nichols, City of South Haven, Vice Chair
Todd Jensen, South Haven Township
Mary Hosley, City of South Haven
Ross Woodhams, alternate for City of South Haven
Mike Gillian, alternate for Covert Township

Julian Allen, Covert Township
Jim Sankofski, Casco Township
Fred Bower, Covert Township
Nancy Kelley, Treasurer
Dan Sanborn, Secretary

**SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Approved December 3, 2025

Workshop meeting 6p

Brad Kotrba, Williams and Works – ZO update – General Provisions

Reviewed new article 13, General Provisions

Regular meeting

1) Call to Order: 7:00 PM

2) Role Call:

Tippman - present

Kiry – present

Odland - present

Meyer – present

Poole – present

Dibble – present

Nicol – present

Zoning Administrator: Tasha Smalley

Audience:

Applicants

Township resident(s)

3) Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Tippman to approve the agenda as presented , second by Dibble, 7-0 yes, motion passed.

4) Approval of the Minutes

Nicol, the motion for agenda and minutes need to be corrected, Kiry was not in attendance for the motions.

Motion by Grant to approve the minutes as correction, of October 1, 2025, second by Meyer, 7-0, yes motion passed.

5) Public Comment non-agenda items -Kiry stated the number one priority is to sell this community, all come together. Work together on Affordable House. Nicol stated he disagrees and thinks job is to protect the community.

6) Communications / Correspondence - none

7) Public Hearing – none

8) New Business –

- a. Amend already approved Site Plan, proposed new hotel, 71751 Phoenix (CR 388) 80-17-012-047-01 relocating the driveway entrance off Phoenix from west to east side

Smalley briefly went over the project: PC approved amended plan May 2025, this amendment is to relocate the driveway from west to east side and amend detention pond(s)/swales.

Brian Biskner, Ulmor Group went over project: was not able to work out the shared driveway / shared easement with the development to the west so the driveway is being moved to the east side of the property and detention areas reconfigured.

PC went over the site plan and discussed the detention area(s). No further questions.

Motion by Tippman to approve the revised site plan to relocate the driveway and detention areas for proposed hotel with the following condition: 1. Obtain permit approvals from all required agencies. Second by Poole. No further discussion. 7-0yes, motion passed.

9) Unfinished Business

- a. Zoning Ordinance updates, continue general provisions, Brad Kotrba, Williams and Works, continue from workshop meeting at 6p; went thru new general provisions to 13.21 private roads. Special meeting December 3 at 5p to continue.

10) Staff & Subcommittee report

- a. ZBA report- Tippman – met oct 23rd, 2 applications -Natalie Thompson to construct a detached garage at 75746 14th Ave (80-17-022-049-00). Required side setback is 15ft; request is for 8ft of relief (7ft from property line); request was approved.
-Scott and Karine Whiteford to construct a sunroom and deck at 74764 24th Ave (80-17-084-075-00). Required side setback is 10ft; request is for 5ft of relief (to be 5ft from property line); request approved.
- b. Board report – Poole – Supervisor Stein is back from leave, doing great. Signed snow plow contract.
- c. Zoning report – Smalley – final plan for apartments 73rd has been submitted for Dec meeting.

11) Commissioner Comments and Public Comment – The U-haul project is looking good, the road is nice.

12) Adjournment

at 7:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tasha Smalley

Zoning Administrator/Recording Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Planning Commission Regular Meeting Schedule 2026

Regular meetings of the Planning Commission will be held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, at the South Haven Township Hall, 09761 Blue Star Memorial Highway (southwest corner of Blue Star & M-140).

January 7
February 4
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3

July 1
August 5
September 2
October 7
November 4
December 2

Special meetings of the Planning Commission are called by the Chairperson and notice will be posted on the door of the Township Hall and Township website at least 48 hours prior.

Monthly scheduled meetings may be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to the meeting if no agenda items or lack of quorum.

All meetings of the Planning Commission are open to the public. Written comments on agenda items may be mailed to the Township Hall 09761 Blue Star Highway, e-mailed to shtwp.zoninga@gmail.com, or delivered to the Township Hall by 4:00 PM the day prior to a meeting.

12/09/2025
04:29 PM

CHECK PROOF FOR SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TWP
BANK ACCOUNT CODE: GEN - CHECK DATE: 12/09/2025
INVOICE POST DATE 12/09/2025 - 12/09/2025

Page: 1/1

Check Date	Bank	Check #	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Invoice Total	Credit Total	Total Amount	# Invoices
12/09/2025	GEN	32232	00148	ASSESSING SOLUTIONS	4,375.00	0.00	4,375.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32233	0006	BEST WAY DISPOSAL	3,984.00	0.00	3,984.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32234	00159	BLOOM SLUGGETT, PC	978.90	0.00	978.90	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32235	0007	BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNICATIONS	200.94	0.00	200.94	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32236	0009	BRENDA BERTORELLI	157.00	0.00	157.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32237	0015	CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN	1,274.85	0.00	1,274.85	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32238	00116	CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN	22,897.81	0.00	22,897.81	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32239	00165	COUNTY OF VAN BUREN	3,837.02	0.00	3,837.02	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32240	00117	ELEVATE LANDSCAPE COMPANY	568.00	0.00	568.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32241	0026	FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C.	2,975.00	0.00	2,975.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32242	0029	HAVEN MAID	800.00	0.00	800.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32243	00120	HERALD-PALLADIUM	1,169.25	0.00	1,169.25	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32244	00122	KCI	56.40	0.00	56.40	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32245	00154	MORENO AND SONS INC	390.00	0.00	390.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32246	00132	PAT'S PRONTO	219.88	0.00	219.88	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32247	0065	SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS CO. INC.	1,625.00	0.00	1,625.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32248	0070	SOUTH HAVEN AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES	375.00	0.00	375.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32249	0071	SOUTH HAVEN AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32250	00155	STEIN, DANIEL	675.00	0.00	675.00	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32251	00161	TASHA SMALLEY	56.15	0.00	56.15	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32252	0093	VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION	42,363.01	0.00	42,363.01	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32253	00157	VERIZON BUSINESS	20.02	0.00	20.02	1
12/09/2025	GEN	32254	0111	WILLIAMS AND WORKS, INC	619.50	0.00	619.50	1

Num Checks: 23 Num Stubs: 0

Num Invoices: 23

Total Amount: 114,617.73 = Actual amount before Est. amount

1.) Auto pay - City of SH - Utility - est \$1300.⁰⁰

2.) - Mich GAS - est \$300.⁰⁰

3.) - MTS

\$116,957.⁰⁰

\$18,557.⁰⁰
due Est.

Total for Dec 2025
\$133,174.⁷³



Van Buren Conservation District

November 2025 Program Update

Submitted by Emily Hickmott, Executive Director

The VBCD staff has returned to the office with the reopening of the federal government. We are grateful to all of the partners that lent us and offered their meeting space and assistance during that time. We are writing many grant applications right now and planning upcoming events. Contact information is available at VanBurenCD.org/about to find out how our team can best help you. Our full board reports can be found on our website as well.

Did you know? Conservation districts are designed to address *local* resource concerns. We depend on input from the people of Van Buren County to address the most important issues in our own backyards. To help guide us, we conduct a Conservation Needs Assessment at least every five years. Our latest from 2025, indicated that the top five resource concerns in Van Buren County are:

1. Proper use and disposal of farm chemicals/fertilizers
2. Forest/woodland loss due to housing, business, and farmland development
3. Drinking water/groundwater
4. Pollinator populations
5. Recycling/proper garbage disposal

Didn't get a chance to complete the survey? Send us your concerns, questions, and ideas for conservation anytime!

Upcoming Events (Details available on [our website](#)):

- Staff training: Michigan State University Facilitated Meeting Workshop | December 2-4
- Staff training: Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference | December 7-10
- Staff training: Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, & Farm Market Expo | December 9-11
- Small Grower Meeting | December 10
- Van Buren Conservation District Board Meeting | Wednesday, December 17, 2025 | 10:00 AM | VBCD Office / USDA Service Center | 1035 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Office Closed for Christmas | December 25 and for New Year's Day | January 1

Program Updates:

- **Ag Conservation/Water Quality Projects** (*Erin Fuller and Colleen Forestieri*) - Staff coordinated the planting of nearly 300 new native trees and shrubs in southwest Michigan as part of a grant project through the Van Buren Conservation District and Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. This project offers landowners on six lakes in southwest Michigan (Round, Gravel, and Eagle Lakes in Van Buren County and Harwood, Birch, and Baldwin Lakes in Cass County) the opportunity to have native trees and shrubs planted on their properties. These plantings will reduce runoff, improve the quality of water in our lakes and



Van Buren Conservation District

November 2025 Program Update

Submitted by Emily Hickmott, Executive Director

streams, and provide valuable wildlife habitat. This project is made possible by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- **SWxSW Corner Cisma (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) Team** (*Abbie Bristol, Alex Florian, Jena Johnson*) – We have wrapped up the year’s field season work and are pivoting to planning for 2026. We completed Road Commission management in record time, treating and monitoring over 500 Phragmites and Japanese knotweed sites in Van Buren County. All despite the challenges presented by the government shutdown. Based on the Watch List invasive species concerns from 2025, we have synthesized the necessary responses into three projects, submitted to the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.
- **Coastal Resilience Outreach and Education Project** (*Jena Johnson*) – We completed the “Protecting Van Buren County Coastal Areas Through Outreach and Education” grant project, funded by EGLE and NOAA. This included hosting a “Dune Day” educational event; designing and distributing an educational mailer to over 5,000 households; and designing, building, and hosting an event centered around an educational library display, all for coastal residents of Van Buren County. Jena also attended municipal meetings for the coastal communities of VBC and collaborated with Covert Township officials.
- **Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and Regen Ag Program** (*Kyle Mead*) – The specialist set goals for the upcoming year, including 12 soil health tests, 18 soil health assessments, and 120 completed risk reductions. He is available to work with landowners to adopt practices that reduce risk, improve prosperity and ecosystems, and increase food systems in our region.
- **National Association of Conservation Districts (NRCs) Technical Assistance** (*Lucas Hartman, Gabriel Francisco*) – The technicians met with producers and developing EQIP plans to ensure that, once federal operations resumed, all materials were ready for timely submission helping to minimize further delays for participating farmers. In addition to these efforts, they are working on the grant application that funds their positions.
- **Outreach** (*Jacob Diljak*) – Work on the annual report is well underway, along with the 2026 Food, Farm, & Fun Guide. Additionally, VBCD staff held the fall Volunteer Water Monitoring event – an event where we monitor water health throughout the county with volunteers.
- **Resource Recovery & Recycling** (*Kalli Marshall, Jacob Diljak*) – The team held public educational events like Sustainable Samplers and Battery Safety Day with South Haven Area Emergency Service. We concluded the collection season with the Lawrence Recycle Roundup – serving over 180 households for recycling and safe disposal of a variety of materials. Kalli concluded the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Showcase Pitch Competition, and was awarded \$5,000.00 for recycling improvements in Van Buren County.