**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2022

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:35AM at the Young People’s Community Center (YPCC), 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Tom Kakabar Joe Turano Ray Gorman Randy Datsko  
Eugene Kupchella Chuck Gironda Richard Bloom Vicki Vasile   
Tom Fritz Dennis Ritko

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Jim McCann Brad Clemenson Renee Daly  
Chris Koren

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Attorney Chris Gvozdich   
Commissioner Thomas Chernisky Amanda Datsko, Mainline Newspapers  
Katie Smolen, Tribune Democrat

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Gorman added a discussion item regarding the next meeting date on Good Friday to be added as agenda item # 13 b.
2. **Floor Open to Public Comment on Agenda Items (including additions or corrections to the Agenda)**
   1. None.
3. **Commissioner’s Representative Report**
   1. Commissioner Chernisky provided an update on the county.
4. **Correspondences:** 
   1. None.
5. **Approval of February 18, 2022 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to approve the February 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.
   1. Corrections or Changes: None.
6. **Approval of the Treasurer’s Report and Bills to be paid for the month of March 2022  
   Action:** Motion by Joe Turano, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Eash reported that he went to remove a fallen tree from the Jim Mayer Trail but a volunteer had already done it. He expressed appreciation for volunteers that step in to assist with tasks. Mr. Eash reported an issue with the truck while driving it and took the truck for brake repairs.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails total to date is $1,390. She reported that a trail cleanup has been scheduled for April 23rd at 9AM along the to-be-constructed corridor along Beulah Road. Ms. Lusk finalized information on the registration page of the Chernisky Ghost Town Trail-a-thon to include an Athletes with Disabilities Division. She reported that Laurel Medical Solutions is donating their complimentary entries to athletes with disabilities. Ms. Lusk shared that an event named the Couch Potato 0.0k is going to take place on September 24th during Potatofest. This event is to raise money for both CCCRA and the Cambria County Regional Firefighters Association. Ms. Lusk shared that the final boots for the ski rental program are in.
   3. Rock Run
      1. No update on investigation for forest management.
      2. Mr. Kakabar reported that all permits have been submitted. DCNR has provided their concurrence relative to the property transitions that need completed to allow the project to move to construction.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we are waiting for the certificate of title from our solicitor. Once it is completed, we will be able to get the bid package ready for the 3-mile addition to the C & I Trail that parallels Beulah Road.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that PennDOT is resurfacing Cardiff Road. It will not impact the trail.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. No update on the garbage at Mineral Point.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that he is still working with the engineer to get the RFP ready for building out to the breast of the dam.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we have an underground diesel fuel tank on the Sheesley property that needs to be removed. DEP stated it needs to be registered with the state. Mr. Kitner is working with the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority for a grant opportunity to cover the cost of removal.
   7. Duman Lake Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that there are 4 known washouts on the single track section of trail that connects the C & I Trail to Duman Lake County Park. He is trying to gather volunteers to remediate the issues if possible, as the budget does not permit for additional maintenance. They are looking at ways to improve the area to hopefully avoid this in the future.
   8. Mr. Kitner had a discussion with NCCDC to provide guidance with the Carrolltown to Patton Trail. Mr. Kitner stated that ownership of the trail would be critical if this is something CCCRA would take on.
   9. Mr. Kitner was approached by an employee of Prince Gallitzin State Park regarding the rail line that goes from Prince Gallitzin to Cresson along Route 53. The rail line has been abandoned and initial discussion was held about possible rail banking of this corridor.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. RFP for Rail Salvage  
      **Action:** Motion by Tom Fritz, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve a proposed bid to remove rail lines from Ebensburg to Munster Road subject to review of the Trails and Executive Committee and our solicitor. Motion carried.
   2. Advertisement for Employment  
      **Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to approve the advertisement of one part time maintenance employment opportunity to reflect the hours of CCCRA’s one current part time maintenance employee with annual hours not to exceed 1,000. Motion carried.
   3. Advertising/Fundraising Committee  
      **Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Joe Turano, to appoint Julie Doyle, Joshua Yoder, Christina Schrengost, and Melissa Davis to the Advertising/Fundraising Committee. Motion carried.
   4. Commonwealth Financing Authority Local Share Account Grant Resolution  
      **Action:** Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to ratify an application for Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant of $1 million from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for trail construction and equipment for local economic benefit, job creation and retention, and tourism generated from the Ghost Town Trail development. Motion carried.
   5. Commonwealth Financing Authority Greenways Trails and Recreation Program Grant Resolution  
      **Action:** Motion by Ray Gorman, seconded by Tom Fritz, to apply for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant of $250,000 with a 15% match from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for trail construction for local economic benefit, job creation and retention, and tourism generated from the Ghost Town Trail development. Motion carried.
   6. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources DCNR  
      **Action:** Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Randy Datsko, to apply for a grant from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources for the Church Street underpass portion of the Ghost Town Trail Loop Extension project. Motion carried.
9. **Any further public comment**
   1. None.
10. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. The next regularly scheduled meeting and reorganizational meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, April 22, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Young People’s Community Center (YPCC), 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931. Telephone No.: (425) 436-6317; Access Code: 298266
    2. Mr. Gorman addressed the fact that the April 15, 2022 meeting is Good Friday. Discussion was held over changing the meeting date Friday April 22.  
       **Action:** Motion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Joe Turano, to change the April meeting date from the 15th to the April 22nd. Motion carried.
11. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
    Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Tom Fritz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA