**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2022

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:34AM 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 Renee Daly  
Tom Fritz Jim McCann

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Brad Clemenson Chris Koren Dennis Ritko   
Vicki Vasile

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Attorney George Gvozdich   
Amanda Datsko, Mainline Newspapers Katie Smolen, Tribune Democrat  
Megan Friedhof, Wessel & Co. Stephanie Stohon, Wessel & Co.   
Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Kakabar added a resolution regarding the DCNR grant application and the Ghost Town Trail.
2. **Floor Open to Public Comment on Agenda Items (including additions or corrections to the Agenda)**
   1. None.
3. **2021 Auditor’s Report**
   1. Wessel & Co. presented the 2021 Auditor’s Report.
4. **Commissioner’s Representative Report**
   1. Commissioner Chernisky provided an update on the county.
5. **Correspondences:** 
   1. None.
6. **Approval of April 22, 2022 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to approve the April 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.
   1. Corrections or Changes: None.
7. **Approval of the Treasurer’s Report and Bills to be paid for the month of May 2022  
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Joe Turano, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
8. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Eash reported that the trail cleanup on April 23rd collected 100 tires. He repaired a broken bench on Rexis branch. Mr. Eash checked on the gate on the Path of the Flood trail after the recent fire and reported that the gate will be fixed. Mr. Eash mowed Path of the Flood from Ehrenfeld to Mineral Point and the Stineman section. He fixed a section of fence on the original piece of the Path of the Flood. He reported that an environmental assessment was done in the Roberts property. Mr. Eash anticipates to get out and complete the piping project at the Duman section of trail sometime this week.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance is now $2,120.00. She shared that exactly 100 tires were removed during the tire cleanup along the undeveloped C & I Extension on Celebrate Trails Day, and approximately a ton of trash. Ms. Lusk reported that a live presentation by Smart Outdoors will be available soon for committee members to learn more and ask questions before additional steps are taken. Ms. Lusk shared that the 1889 Foundation will be sponsoring the entire race series at an appropriate level to allow all youth entries ages 17 and under to be free of charge. Ms. Lusk reminded board members that the Path of the Flood Historic Races takes place next weekend on May 28th.
   3. Rock Run
      1. No update on forest management.
      2. No update on status of permits.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner has been working with Streamline Engineering on a Highway Occupancy Permit for the crosswalk across Beulah Road. It should be finalized by June 16th. The granting agencies have given us permission to put the project out for bid.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that CCCRA has to be the co-applicant of the EDA grant. DCNR is requiring different information on the grant application this year. He stated that DCNR is requiring the board chairman sign the resolution on DCNR letterhead, this has been added to the agenda by Mr. Kakabar.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported some stream bank deterioration along the Rexis Branch. There is no money currently available for emergency repairs, so Mr. Kitner is now going through granting process. We are looking at next summer for repair. Indiana County has put up snow fencing for safety at this location.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that the rail line removal from Ebensburg to Munster Road has begun and should take 4-6 weeks to complete the process.
      5. Mr. Kitner was contacted by Brandon Sliko who would like to restore the communication shack at the switch in Ebensburg. He will share the email with the board regarding what Mr. Sliko wants to do.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. No update on garbage at Mineral Point.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the drawings for construction of the Path of the Flood to the breast of the dam are with the National Park Service for approval. We are starting on the HOP. Will have alternate routes when we bid the project.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that PennDOT came back with drawings. PennDOT and the city are approving the drawings with bike lanes on Washington Street. Bike lanes will be painted on as part of paving project.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that the installation of top coat and concrete swell along the Stineman section of the Path of the Flood is currently being worked on.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that there was a brush fire along the Path of the Flood in Mineral Point. The gate was torn down by the fire company. They are replacing the gate for us. Mr. Eash mentioned this in his report as well.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that he is still working with the Brownsfield Committee and the process to get the underground tank taken care of.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the Mayer family has expressed interest in a pavilion. They are seeking our interest in financially contributing to a pavilion along the trail at Cleveland Street.
   7. Duman Lake Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that multiple washouts are on the single track. He reached out to Danchanko to look at possible remediation as a permanent solution. This would be August at best.
   8. Mr. Kitner received a phone call from Jess at Prince Gallitzin. RJ Corman is seriously looking at moving the rail banking project forward.
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Hiring of Maintenance Specialist 2  
      **Action:** Motion by Joe Turano, seconded by Ray Gorman, to authorize Maintenance Specialist 2 position to be hired at the recommendation of the hiring committee pursuant to the interviews being completed. Motion carried.
   2. DCNR Grant  
      **Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to re-resolve the resolution to apply for the grant funding to DCNR for the Ghost Town Trail 4-mile extension of the C & I Extension naming the board chairman as signature authorization and putting that resolution on appropriate DCNR letterhead. Motion carried.
10. **Any further public comment**
    1. None.
11. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. The next regularly scheduled meeting and reorganizational meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, June 17, 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. Bloom shared information on Active Transportation Plan Meetings being held in Indiana County hosted by C & I Trail Council. C & I Trail Council received grant from a bicycle enthusiast for safety programming. They are looking at adding signage for safety on the trail.
12. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
    Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA