**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2022

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:32AM 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 Chuck Gironda  
Richard Bloom Vicki Vasile Eugene Kupchella Tom Fritz   
Renee Daly Chris Koren Brad Clemenson Dennis Ritko

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Jim McCann Randy Datsko

**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  
Art Martynuska, Cambria County EMA Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Kakabar added New Business item d. regarding the NPS Path of the Flood Extension.
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 August 19, 2022 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the August 19, 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 September 2022  
   Action:** Motion by Renee Daly, seconded by Tom Fritz, 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 and Mr. Kitner put some directional signs up on the Duman connection of the Ghost Town Trail System. They installed a sign at the Stineman parking area of the Path of the Flood Trail. Mr. Eash reported a few washouts on the Stineman area of trail, and used the tractor to remediate the issue. He mowed part of Path of the Flood and most of the Jim Mayer Trail.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance is now $3,188.00. She reported that the Jim Mayer Family Fun Run brought in 60 participants and was a great morning. The Couch Potato 0.0k is on September 24th and the Trail-a-thon will be October 1st and 2nd. Ms. Lusk shared that a possible race at Rock Run will be added to the Trails Series in 2023 or 2024. Ms. Lusk stated that Indiana County is moving forth with a contract with Smart Outdoors to cover the Indiana County side of the Ghost Town Trail and the Hoodlebug Trail. We are still waiting for our solicitor to review and revise our contract as needed before we can enter a formal agreement with Smart Outdoors. Ms. Lusk shared that an article was written in National Parks Magazine about the Path of the Flood Historic Races.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Kakabar stated that a summary of Summer Blast was emailed to board members prior to today’s meeting for review.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that a ground breaking was held earlier this week. The signed contract for the 3-mile segment from Beulah Road to Springfield Street is in the mail. Upon receipt of contract, construction will begin. The contractor will start Monday with clearing and grubbing.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we received a DCNR grant in the amount of $1 million, which still requires a $1 million match. He is actively working to find a match through DCED and AMLER. DCNR will hold the contract until June 30, 2023.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that the sale of the Front Street property is still being prepared.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported he has not yet heard back from Rosebud about the mudslide at Fifficktown. South Fork and Croyle township are willing to repair the mudslide. Mr. Kitner wants to hear back from Rosebud and see if there is anything we can fix up top to prevent this from becoming a recurring event.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that an action item is in place, and a groundbreaking will need to take place very soon.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Ms. Daly reported that an application is going in for a coalition grant. The plan is to include this project in the next round. The grant is for testing and tank removal.
      2. No update on garbage at Riverside.
      3. Mr. Kakabar reported that the Somerset Street properties are being recorded today.
   7. RAISE Grant
      1. Mr. Kitner reported there is $3 million set aside from the City of Johnstown’s RAISE grant for trail development. CCCRA is involved through the Urban Connectivity project. Mr. Kitner is engaging in conversation to share insight on how this can be best utilized.
   8. Duman Lake Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that the Center for Metal Arts bridge will be constructed in October.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the wayfinding signs to Duman Lake County Park are installed.
   9. Report on status of Route 53 Rail into Cresson
      1. No update.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Path of the Flood Trail Connection  
      Motion by Renee Daly, seconded by Rick Bloom, to accept the bid from Berkebile Excavating, 907 Tire Hill Road, Johnstown, in the amount of $145,000 to construct the connection from the end of Amsite Road to the south abutment of the breast of the dam along the Path of the Flood Trail. Motion carried.
   2. Hiring of Maintenance Specialist 2  
      Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Brad Clemenson, to authorize Maintenance Specialist 2 position to be hired at the recommendation of the hiring committee with a starting pay of $12/hr under a 90-day probation. Motion carried.
   3. Cost of Living Adjustments  
      Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Vicki Vasile to approve cost of living and performance incentive adjustments for all CCCRA staff members at a minimum of 3.5% due to cost of living increases, exemplary performance and economic inflation, to begin on the next regular pay cycle, September 16, 2022. Motion carried.
   4. NPS Path of the Flood Extension   
      Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Rick Bloom, to assist with facilitation of construction partnered with the National Park Service and Cambria County to extend the Path of the Flood Trail within the property boundaries of the National Park Service, subject to a release from the National Park Service to allow our contractor to do said work. Motion carried.
9. **Any further public comment**
   1. Mr. Martynuska shared information about the 911 radio tower that is being added to the county near the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. The National Park Service asked that they to do a project at the park in exchange for placing the tower on the property. The Path of the Flood Trail will be extended through the breast of the dam to the south abutment parking lot. Mr. Martynuska stated that last week’s commissioner’s meeting approved $50,000 to go toward this project.
10. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. Mr. Clemenson shared that the Concert for Conservation takes place tomorrow at 4:00PM at People’s Natural Gas Park.
    2. Mr. Kitner reported that he had a PA Pedalcycle meeting earlier this week and shared some feedback from the meeting.
    3. Ms. Daly shared that demolition of 101 Ferndale Avenue will be soon, they are opening bids very soon.
    4. The next regularly scheduled meeting and reorganizational meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, October 21, 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
11. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
    Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA