**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2023

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:31AM at the Young People’s Community Center (YPCC), 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Richard Bloom Tom Kakabar Chuck Gironda Joe Turano   
Ray Gorman Eugene Kupchella Vicki Vasile Chris Koren  
Dennis Ritko Brad Clemenson Jim McCann

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Renee Daly Randy Datsko

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Alex Cruley, Maintenance Specialist  
Attorney George Gvozdich Breanna Berkebile, Mainline Newspapers   
Eric Kuzo, public Lisa Kuzo, public   
Katie Smolen, Tribune Democrat Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Clemenson added informational item h regarding the river walls in Johnstown.
   2. Mr. Ritko added informational item f (v) regarding a status update on the Jim Mayer Trail park project.
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. Mr. Kitner shared that we received an LSA (local share) grant for $172,000 to purchase trail maintenance equipment.
   2. Mr. Kitner received an email regarding the Rexis branch project. The permits have been approved for the restoration work and they will be starting by next week.
5. **Approval of February 17, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to approve the February 17, 2023 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 2023  
   Action:** Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Dennis Ritko, 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. Cruley have removed a lot of trees from the trails recently. He stated that there is a piece of chain link fence that the contractor did not remove at the Roberts property during demolition, Mr. Eash and Mr. Cruley will remove it at a later date.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the 2023 Friends of the Trails balance is currently $2,725.00. Race planning is going smoothly, a 1-mile, non-timed, inclusive event will be added to the Chernisky Ghost Town Trail-a-thon. Ms. Lusk thanked Dr. Kupchella, Dr. Turano, and Mr. Ritko for representing CCCRA at the NatureWorks program last weekend.

* 1. Rock Run
     1. Mr. Gironda reported that they will be meeting next Thursday, no further update at this time.
  2. Ghost Town Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that we are down to the final stretch of the 3-mile extension of the C & I Trail, when the weather breaks they will finish up. Nanty Glo Fire is mapping the trail for emergency services.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that conversations have been had with DEP regarding the AMLER grant submission. He anticipates hearing results in a month or two.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that the restoration efforts still need done with the First Energy power line replacement project.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that we are waiting on the insurance check for the Edwards Street traffic accident.
     5. Mr. Kitner reported that remediation will begin next week on the Rexis branch streambank restoration project.
  3. Path of the Flood Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that a construction meeting will be held next week for the extension to the breast of the dam.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that 11 people came out to help cut trees and remove brush from Franklin to the Staple Bend Tunnel.
  4. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
     1. No update on the underground tank.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that Penelec came back and completed all necessary repairs on the trail in Riverside and put in the new pipe.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that the sewer is now capped and paperwork is complete for the Roberts property demolition.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that we will attempt to get the Sheesley property removed in the near future.
     5. Mr. Ritko reported that they were successful in obtaining the permit from the city of Johnstown for the project on the Jim Mayer Trail led by the Gunter Leadership Program.
  5. Route 53 Corridor
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that he will be meeting with the Route 53 Corridor Committee soon. He has not yet heard back from the rail company about railbanking yet.
  6. Mr. Clemenson shared information about a habitat restoration project that involves the river walls in Johnstown. CCCRA could be a possible grant applicant to provide match dollars for this project.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Wessel & Co.: Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to accept the engagement letter with Wessel & Company for the audit year 2022 in the amount of $7,500 for the audit and $3,500 for a single audit if needed. Motion carried.
   2. E-Bike Policy: Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Joe Turano, to accept e-bike policy as presented. Motion carried.
   3. North Branch Blacklick Restoration Agreement: Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Dennis Ritko, to sign the habitat restoration agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Motion carried.
   4. Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for Conservation: Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Brad Clemenson, to sign the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for Conservation. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. None.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. Mr. Clemenson shared information about Growing Outdoor Recreation meeting in April.
   2. Mr. Bloom reported that the C & I Trail Council applied for an essentials grant to assist with the trail surface restoration after the stream bank is remediated.
   3. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, April 21, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Young People’s Community Center (YPCC), 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931.
4. Executive Session
5. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
   Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to adjourn the meeting at 9:56AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA