**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2023

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:30AM 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 Chuck Gironda Joe Turano Renee Daly

Ray Gorman Vicki Vasile Randy Datsko Eugene Kupchella  
Brad Clemenson Rick Bloom Jim McCann

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Dennis Ritko Chris Koren

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

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Kitner added New Business item d; a motion regarding the agreement of transfer of a piece of property at Twin Rocks.
   2. Mr. Clemenson added Informational Item f (iii) regarding the Jim Mayer Trail.
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 emails received from the PUC approving the use of three bridges and a DCNR support letter for the wind farm.
5. **Approval of March 17, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Randy Datsko, to approve the March 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 April 2023  
   Action:** Motion by Renee Daly, seconded by Joe Turano, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Cruley reported that he and Mr. Eash removed many trees along the trails due to recent weather and fixed some fences. They are preparing for spring and summer mowing, they changed the oil in the tractors. Mr. Cruley stated that horses were on the Duman connection trail so they placed “No Horses Permitted” signs on the trail. They also dragged and groomed the trail in that area.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the 2023 Friends of the Trails balance is currently $3,070.00. She is seeking volunteers for the Path of the Flood Historic Races which takes place on May 27th. An announcement was made that this will be the first year for the race to utilize the full Path of the Flood Trail. Ms. Lusk stated that Conemaugh Valley High School is walking the trail in the Vintondale area to clean trash and tour sites with DEP. Ms. Lusk shared that the porta johns are now placed on the Ghost Town Trail for seasonal use.

* 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 Winters will be out sometime next week to complete the 3-mile extension of the C & I Trail. It is currently 85% complete.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that he received an email from DEP with information about the AMLER grant. We are still waiting on an announcement of grant recipients.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that the only thing left to do is resurface the trail. They should be starting today and working into early next week.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that the Police Chief in Nanty Glo is looking into the insurance check regarding the traffic accident at Edwards Street as we still have not received it.
     5. Mr. Kitner reported that the Rexis Branch streambank erosion project is complete. He thanked all project partners and noted that it cost approximately $100,000 in repairs to do this.
     6. Mr. Kitner reported that there is a minor washout at the bridge in Nanty Glo over the Blacklick Creek. He will be meeting with the Conservation District to plan correction and go after a grant.
  3. Path of the Flood Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that the trail extension to the breast of the dam should be complete by May 1. The trail is not yet complete but is usable.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that there are a lot of tree issues from Fifficktown to Mineral Point. One recently fallen tree tore the hillside out. We may need to do a major repair in that location.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that Croyle Township donated millings from the Route 53 corridor. Richie Potter laid the millings and wants to build a bridge to connect the Ehrenfeld ballfield to Mainline Memorial Park. Volunteers will be utilized. The project should cost under $2,000.
  4. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that the sewer bill for the Roberts property was received for $0, so the project is officially complete.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that the Gunter Leadership program and Johnstown High are projected to work on the trusses of the building next week. They are currently gathering a material list.
     3. Mr. Clemenson shared that the city has a RAISE grant for numerous projects in the area for trail work. They are assessing options for how to better connect the Jim Mayer Trail with downtown.
  5. Route 53 Corridor
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that we, as well as Prince Gallitzin, have reached out to RJ Corman to express interest in getting the Route 53 corridor railbanked. They are aware of our interest.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Goose Mitigation: Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve the agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, at the request of Nanty Glo Borough, to use approved PETA and Humane Society methods to mitigate the geese problems affecting the athletic fields in Nanty Glo. Motion carried.
   2. Materials for Bridge: Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Brad Clemenson, to approve the purchase of materials to build a bridge connecting Ehrenfeld ballfield to Mainline Memorial Park. Motion carried.
   3. MOU with Federal Communications Commission (FCC): Motion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Joe Turano, to approve a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that we will work collaboratively with the National Park Service to complete the trail from our property through the lakebed. Motion carried.
   4. Agreement for Twin Rocks  
      Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Brad Clemenson, to accept the agreement of transfer from DEP pending solicitor review for 10.667 acre parcel adjacent to Red Mill. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. None.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Young People’s Community Center (YPCC), 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931.
4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
   Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Randy Datsko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA