**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2023

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 Chuck Gironda Joe Turano Rick Bloom

Ray Gorman Vicki Vasile Randy Datsko Eugene Kupchella  
Dennis Ritko Chris Koren

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Jim McCann Brad Clemenson  
Renee Daly

**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   
Commissioner Thomas Chernisky Katie Smolen, Tribune Democrat  
Megan Friedhof, Wessel & Co.

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. None.
2. **Floor Open to Public Comment on Agenda Items (including additions or corrections to the Agenda)**
   1. None.
3. **2022 Auditor’s Report**
   1. Megan Friedhof of Wessel & Co. presented the 2022 audit.
4. **Commissioner’s Representative Report**
   1. Commissioner Chernisky provided an update on the county.
5. **Correspondences:** 
   1. Mr. Kitner received interest from Michael Tatarko about naming a bridge on the trail after his late father.
6. **Approval of April 21, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Randy Datsko, to approve the April 21, 2023 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 2023  
   Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Randy Datsko, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
8. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Eash reported that he and Mr. Cruley mowed the Mayer Trail and Path of the Flood Trail. Berkebile Excavating donated a box drag for trail maintenance, Mr. Eash and Mr. Cruley have been able to clean up much of the Path of the Flood Trail with it. Mr. Cruley put some signage at Stineman to direct users to the new segment of the Path of the Flood Trail.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the 2023 Friends of the Trails balance is currently $3,470.00. She stated that the Path of the Flood Historic Races are taking place on May 27th, 608 individuals have pre-registered for this race. The Ghost Town Trail Challenge is looking to have around 200 participants this year, registration is open until June 1st. Ms. Lusk assisted Mr. Patterson of Indiana County Parks and Trails with an article about the Ghost Town Trail and its recent development, as well as a highlight of the Ghost Town Trail Challenge, in the recent Leader Vindicator’s Trail Guide.

* 1. Rock Run
     1. None.
  2. Ghost Town Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that the safety fencing and the gates have been installed along the 3-mile addition of the C & I Extension. They still have to do the parking area at Springfield Road and finish the road crossing at Beulah Road.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that he is meeting with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), regarding the AMLER grant, to review the project on site.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that First Energy is in the process of digging ditches and putting the stone in.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that we have not yet received the insurance check from the Edwards Street accident.
     5. Mr. Kitner reported that he visited the Blacklick Creek washout with Mark Stockley of the Conservation District. Mr. Stockley feels the project may be roughly $30,000-$50,000 to fix, we would have to write a grant. Mr. Kitner reached out to Fish and Wildlife to see if this is something they would be able to assist with.
     6. Mr. Kitner reported that Ebensburg Borough had applied for and received approval for signage through the TODs program to get signs along Route 22 that would direct motorists to the Ghost Town Trail.
     7. Mr. Kitner reported that he met with DEP on the Red Mill property. They removed the bony pile but have to drop the water down the mine into the active treatment plant. HRI is the contractor doing the work. DEP wants to make stream access for fishing, kayaking, etc. Mr. Kitner stated that there is a large, flat spot with minimal trees that would make a good parking area or possible camping area. They are providing a significant donation to build this area out. The road is also getting a topcoat of 2A modified.
  3. Path of the Flood Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that the trail is complete. A ribbon cutting will be held on Tuesday May 23rd at 12:30PM. A couple of directional signs were leftover that we can use on this new segment, but we are out of posts. South Fork is looking for sign posts for us to use.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that we have one bank erosion issue between Fifficktown and Mineral Point. Mr. Kitner spoke with DEP to meet and see what can be done. Croyle Township is helping clean the area out in combination with the box drag that Mr. Eash and Mr. Cruley are using.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that Croyle Township has been working on the extension to the ballfield. They want to lay millings from Fifficktown to Oak Street. Mr. Kitner is still trying to get donations for the wood.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that he has secured a donation of 12 signs from the 9/11 Memorial Trail and South Fork Historical Society to install along the Path of the Flood Trail. These signs will mark miles but also depict the history of the Path of the Flood as you follow the course. Mr. Kitner added that the signs have been ordered, we just need to design and purchase the panels.
  4. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
     1. Mr. Ritko reported that the pavilion has made much progress. The students at Johnstown High are doing great and the trusses are up. The metal for the roof and ceiling has been delivered, they are currently working on that. Mr. Ritko stated that they are nearly done with the Gunter portion of the project. Leftover funds will be used for landscaping and to fix up the parking lot. A cement truck left some ruts in the yard, they will be fixing. Mr. Ritko reported that signage is drafted for future approval by the board and Mayer family.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that we received a donation of paving stones, secured by Brad Clemenson, for boat access to the river from the Jim Mayer Trail. Benscreek Canoe Club will be building the river access.
  5. Route 53 Corridor
     1. None.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Trails Series Expenses: Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Ray Gorman, to authorize normal expenses associated with the Cambria County Trails Series for the 2023 year. Motion carried.
   2. Memorandum of Understanding for Trail Mowing and Maintenance: Motion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Chris Koren, to approve the memorandum of understanding for the 2023 year with Indiana County Parks and Trails, at a cost of $27 per hour, for the maintenance and mowing of the Ghost Town Trail main stem from the Indiana County line to the Borough of Nanty Glo, and the Rexis Branch from Vintondale to Route 422. Motion carried.
   3. Auditor’s Report: Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Joe Turano, to accept the 2022 Auditor’s Report as presented by Wessel & Co. 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, June 16, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at Sandyvale Memorial Gardens, 80 Hickory Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Joe Turano, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA