**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2023

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:45AM at Rock Run Recreation, 1228 Saint Lawrence Road, Patton, Pennsylvania.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Tom Kakabar Rick Bloom Ray Gorman Dennis Ritko

Vicki Vasile Jim McCann Randy Datsko Joe Turano

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Renee Daly Chuck Gironda  
Chris Koren Brad Clemenson Eugene Kupchella

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

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. **Commissioner’s Representative Report**
   1. Commissioner Chernisky provided an update on the county.
4. **Correspondences:** 
   1. Mr. Kitner spoke of a letter from the Route 53 committee that will be sent to RJ Corman with interest in railbanking the Route 53 corridor.
5. **Approval of July 21, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve the July 21, 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 August 2023  
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, 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 the truck was in the shop for 2 weeks after the last board meeting and is now operating properly. They were able to borrow a truck from the county maintenance department in the meantime. Mr. Cruley reported that he and Mr. Kitner had removed 20 trees this past Monday on the Duman Trail and C & I Extension as result of the recent tornado, and 2 more trees on Tuesday. He noted that he and Mr. Eash have been cutting fallen trees in different locations every week so far this season. Mr. Cruley stated that they recently had mowed the C & I Extension, the Stineman portion, and the lots in Johnstown. They had removed a bees nest on the Beulah bridge.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance is $5,604.00. The Jim Mayer Family Fun Run will be taking place on September 2nd. She shared that a ribbon cutting will take place next Friday in Nanty Glo for the recent 3-mile addition of the C & I Extension. Ms. Lusk reported that photos were shared with her and Mr. Kitner of benches that were thrown down the hillside on the Stineman section of the Path of the Flood Trail. Ms. Lusk received a draft copy of a brochure from Ed Patterson of Indiana County Parks and Trails regarding the Slow and Say Hello campaign. This brochure was made by the Indiana County Tourist Bureau, free of charge.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that it is time for the termination of the existing NPDES permit, as Rock Run has a sufficient number of best management practices in place. The Conservation District is recommending termination of a formal permit in lieu of a long-term maintenance plan.
      2. Mr. Bloom reported that Summer Blast has taken place since we last met and went very well.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that no official announcement has been made regarding the AMLER grant, but we have received enough information to move forward. We will soon be bidding out for engineering services.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we have not seen payment yet from the traffic accident at Edwards Street.
      3. Mr. Gvozdich reported that he is working on the indemnity language for the agreement at Red Mill Road.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that a 36” pipe was pushed straight in the air along the trail in the Twin Rocks/Vintondale area. He had received two bids from contractors around $19,000, each, to repair. Mr. Kitner reported that WEBCAMR has emergency money that may possibly be used to help repair this, but we would need a GP11 permit due to the strip mine up the hill. Estimated cost for engineering is between $15,000-$30,000. Mr. Kitner is working with Andy McCallister of WEBCAMR and Brandon Diehl of PA Watersheds to find engineering money. Indiana County was able to push the pipe down, place a big rock on it to hold in place, and lay some top coat down as a temporary fix.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that the tornado touched down on the Pressier Crossing portion of trail. That is an undeveloped section of trail, but a lot of trees are laying down there.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we received an additional $250 from the 9/11 Memorial Trail for signage. Mr. Kitner ordered mile marker signs for along the Path of the Flood Trail.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that South Fork is working with Impala Motors to purchase the property for future trail development. They may approach us with a price of $4,000 to purchase the property. He stated that South Fork may pitch in a little money for purchase and/or development.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that the South Fork Historical Society went to retrieve and replace the benches that were thrown over hillsides along the Stineman section of trail. Mr. Kitner has worked with local police departments to police the areas.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. No update on the Gunter Leadership/Johnstown High project.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that Ed Tuberville removed some items from the Sheesley property and sent a $400 donation to CCCRA. Mr. Tuberville wants to help sweep and clean up the property.

* 1. 9/11 Memorial Trail
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that a potential extra $25,000 was offered to us for maintenance equipment. He and our maintenance staff researched and prepared to purchase equipment. Mr. Kitner was then notified that the money could not be used for maintenance equipment, so we were not able to purchase the equipment.
  2. Route 53 Corridor
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that a letter is being prepared to request the railbanking of the Route 53 corridor.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Rock Run AgreementMotion by Ray Gorman, seconded by Randy Datsko, to sign the Rock Run maintenance agreement to eliminate the NPDES permit, pending solicitor review. Motion carried.
   2. Washout Engineer  
      Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Joe Turano, to hire an engineer with trail committee review, with solicitor approval, for a required GP11 permit to repair the washout between Vintondale and Twin Rocks. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. Mr. Bloom reported that at noon today there is a dedication at Sandyvale Memorial Gardens for a new section they are building next to the Jim Mayer Trail.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, September 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Young People’s Community Center, 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA