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

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:31AM at Duman Lake County Park, 157 County Park Road Pavilion #10, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Tom Kakabar Chuck Gironda Rick Bloom Ray Gorman

Vicki Vasile Eugene Kupchella Randy Datsko Dennis Ritko  
Chris Koren Joe Turano Brad Clemenson

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

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

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Ms. Lusk amended item 13A Announcements to show next month’s meeting date and location as August 18, 2023 at Rock Run Recreation, 1228 Saint Lawrence Road, Patton, Pennsylvania.
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 June 16, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the June 16, 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 July 2023  
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Chris Koren, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Eash reported that they were able to mow the Path of the Flood Trail and Ghost Town Trail over the past month. He reported a washout on the lower portion of the Ghost Town Trail near Twin Rocks. Mr. Eash shared that the truck has been in the garage a few times recently, they believe it is an exhaust issue and it is going in to be fixed again today.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we had received a grant in the amount of $172,000 to purchase maintenance vehicles. We are running into the issue of insuring them. He is working with the county to see if they can be insured under the county’s insurance policy.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that there were 248 registrants for the Ghost Town Trail Challenge last month. Proceeds for this event were just under $8,000. She shared that volunteers are needed for the upcoming Jim Mayer Family Fun Run on September 2nd in Johnstown. Ms. Lusk reported that the YPCC received the CFA grant to purchase two e-bikes for the bike rental program, those bikes have been received and are ready for reservations. She is working with Indiana County and the C & I Trail Council to create brochures and possible future events to promote trail safety and etiquette.

* 1. Rock Run
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that Somerset Engineers stated that Rock Run can eliminate the NPDES permit and change it to a permit to simply maintain trails. We may need an agreement with Rock Run on stormwater management.
     2. Mr. Bloom reported that Rock Run recently joined the Cambria County Chamber of Commerce. They added tablet computers for scanning passes at the park. Mr. Bloom stated that Jeff Mitchell will be attending the Greenways and Trails Conference in Scranton. Rock Run recently got a new emergency vehicle. Mr. Bloom stated that Summer Blast is taking place on August 10th this year, it is the 10th anniversary of the event.
  2. Ghost Town Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that the 3-mile extension is now officially complete, he is doing the closeout paperwork now. We are working on scheduling a date for a ribbon cutting.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that there is no official word about the AMLER grant now. He spent time with the GAO office last week discussing the grant process.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that the gentleman responsible for the traffic accident at Edwards Street pleaded guilty at court. The officer is working to get our restitution for the damage.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that we received updated documents for the agreement for the property at Red Mill Road. We are waiting for an opinion from our attorney on the red lines.
     5. No update on Joseph Dushaw bequest.
     6. Mr. Kitner reported that there is a washout between Twin Rocks and Vintondale, we are getting an excess amount of water from the mine. This looks to be a $20,000-$25,000 repair, Mr. Kitner is waiting on official estimates. Andy McCallister from WPCAMR said they have about $20,000 they can contribute to the repair.
     7. Mr. Kitner reported that an individual reached out asking for a bench to be moved due to streambank erosion in the Twin Rocks area. This looks to be a $100,000 erosion project in the future.
     8. Mr. Kitner reported that he met one of the owners of Legends Gym near the extension to Loretto. They want to discuss helping get the trail dust out to their location and do a potential fundraiser.
  3. Path of the Flood Trail Report
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that there is continued erosion along the Path of the Flood Trail in Fifficktown. He met with DEP to talk about remediation.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that he is working with the 9/11 Memorial Trail and the South Fork Historical Society on the mile marker signage for the Path of the Flood Trail corridor. Signs will be stored at the National Park Service until we have the designs for the panels done.
     3. Mr. Kitner reported that Impala Motors has agreed to sell part of the property for a trail. The South Fork Historical Society has asked us to purchase this property. Mr. Kitner reported that this purchase may be around $4,000.
     4. Mr. Kitner reported that he is continuing to get complaints from neighbors about property use at Front Street. He proposed donating the property to East Taylor Township, if they are willing to accept it. If not, he proposed listing the property to sell.
     5. Mr. Kitner reported that Penelec is doing their every 3-year maintenance trimming/off trail vegetation management around powerlines.
  4. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
     1. Mr. Ritko reported that the 2023 session of the Gunter Leadership Program has ended. There are a couple finishing touches to do, but the pavilion is done. A surplus of just over $5,000 remains, they plan to get picnic tables and signs with those funds. Mr. Ritko stated that if anything is left after that, they will fix up parking lot or do some plantings.
     2. Mr. Kitner reported that Ed Tuberville contacted him to remove more items from the Sheesley building, Mr. Tuberville will make another donation to CCCRA. JRA is working on getting funds for ultimately removing the Sheesley property.

* 1. 9/11 Memorial Trail
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that he was invited to a meeting with SAPDC regarding a multi-state grant opportunity for development of the 9/11 Memorial Trail Corridor. They are looking at the areas of Ehrenfeld, Portage, and possibly connecting the Jim Mayer Trail to Greenhouse Park.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Front Street PropertyMotion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Joe Turano, to proceed with making an offer to donate the Front Street property to East Taylor Township. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. Ms. Koren shared that the Ebensburg Mainstreet Partnership has interest in a collaboration with CCCRA to paint the bridge over Route 22. Mr. Kitner will look into PennDOT restrictions for this to begin planning this potential opportunity.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, August 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at Rock Run Recreation, 1228 Saint Lawrence Road, Patton, Pennsylvania.
4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA