**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2023

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

**Members Present:**Tom Kakabar Vicki Vasile Randy Datsko Ray Gorman

Rick Bloom Chuck Gironda Dennis Ritko Chris Koren  
Jim McCann Eugene Kupchella Renee Daly

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Brad Clemenson Joe Turano

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
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. 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. None.
5. **Approval of August 18, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Dennis Ritko, seconded by Randy Datsko, to approve the August 18, 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 September 2023  
   Action:** Motion by Chris Koren, seconded by Randy Datsko, 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 been mowing and cutting trees. They used the trail groomer on the lower portion of the Ghost Town Trail near Nanty Glo, it will need more work but is helping.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for memberships and donations is $5,879. The Jim Mayer race raised around $2,000 and had 50 participants this year. Ms. Lusk reported that the Couch Potato 0.0k is coming up on September 30th and the Ghost Town Trail-a-thon is the weekend of October 14th. She plans to form a committee for a race at Rock Run sometime this winter. Ms. Lusk shared that she and Mr. Kitner had attended a ribbon cutting for the Firefighters Memorial Trail in Northern Cambria.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Bloom reported that the monthly Rock Run meeting for this month is delayed until the 28th. Summer Blast was completely sold out. Mr. Bloom shared that Rock Run will soon be taking reservations for camp sites in 2024.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that there is still no official announcement regarding the AMLER grant. The process is moving forward, it’s in the approval phase at state levels. It should be coming back for signatures soon, then an announcement will be made.
      2. No update on the property at Red Mill Road.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported he is working on the engineering and GP11 process for the Twin Rocks washout. It is now in the hands of Brandon Diehl and WEBCAMR. He stated that this will be a little more extensive with the GP11 permit, and will cost more.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that we will move forward with creating a maintenance fund with the CFA with some of the money from the Joseph Dushaw bequest. There will also be one rest stop on the on the Ghost Town Trail, it was requested to be redesigned.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that golden digger wasps have been discovered on the Ghost Town Trail. Penn State Extension may put a sign up about the wasp and the benefits of having them. They are a non-aggressive bee.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported we the mile marker signs for the 9/11 Memorial Trail are ordered and paid for. He will meet with the group to finalize information and design of the sings. Mr. Kitner stated that one sign has already been placed in the Fifficktown area about the trolley.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that South Fork is going to purchase the property at Impala Motors and would like to turn the property over to us to manage the trail.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that Penelec was doing work in Mineral Point above the trail. They were not on the trail.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that there are still a few finishing touches to be done with the Johnstown High project. They had made progress on signage design, and the students will be staining the posts.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that Ed Tuberville is going through bagging up trash and cleaning up at the Sheesley property. Mr. McCann added that a couple trees were cut down, and that the building needs secured.
      3. Mr. McCann reported that the fire company received a grant to add fencing around the fire training facility at the old Dynacom property.

* 1. Route 53 Corridor
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that the letter to RJ Corman was signed and sent off, requesting that they consider railbanking the corridor.
  2. PPAC (Pedestrian Pedacycle Advisory Committee)
     1. Mr. Kitner reported that legislation is working on finding ways to help organizations like ours. They talked about the transportation design manual. Mr. Kitner noticed there is really nothing in the manual on rural trail development, and suggested we have our own chapter in that book for trail development.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Impala Motors Property AcquisitionMotion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to work with South Fork Borough to acquire property behind Impala Motors, through a donation, for the purpose of trail building. Motion carried.
   2. RFQ for Engineering Services  
      Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Chris Koren, to accept the qualifications of the approved engineering firm for services along the remaining 1.5 mile section of the Ghost Town Trail loop, as recommended by the reviewing committee. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. None.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. Commissioner Chernisky stated that trail signage has been placed on the bridges over High Street and 219 along the Ghost Town Trail. PennDOT will be putting a couple more signs up in some locations where the trail crosses over or under state roads.
   2. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, October 20, 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 Chuck Gironda, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA