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

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:33AM at the Young People’s Community Center, 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Tom Kakabar Randy Datsko Ray Gorman Chris Koren

Rick Bloom Chuck Gironda Dennis Ritko Eugene Kupchella
Renee Daly

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Vicki Vasile Brad Clemenson
Joe Turano Jim McCann

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Alex Cruley, Maintenance Specialist
Atty. Chris Gvozdich Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

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 November 17, 2023 Regular Board Minutes
Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to approve the November 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 December 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. Cruley reported that they have been taking care of a couple downed trees each week on various trails. He stated that two signs were knocked over along the C & I Extension at 271 and Vic Miller Road. Mr. Cruley has been cutting brush along the trails.
	2. Program Coordinator Report
		1. Ms. Lusk reported that the total amount raised for the Friends of the Trails program for 2023 is $42,949.17 to date. Expenses are just under $4,000 this year. Ms. Lusk reported that registration for the 2024 Path of the Flood Historic Races is now open, 98 individuals signed up during the Black Friday sale. She will be posting registration for the Ghost Town Trail Challenge early next week.
	3. Rock Run
		1. Mr. Kitner spoke with CPV and reported that the windfarm is still progressing. They are waiting for the Penelec substation to be updated. Mr. Kitner stated that we should see construction beginning fairly soon, and production of electricity is anticipated May of 2026.
	4. Ghost Town Trail Report
		1. Mr. Kitner reported that Keller Engineers has completed the surveying and data collection for the two bridges. They are working to create a timeline for the project by the end of this month, and monthly progress meetings will follow. Mr. Kitner explained that they will be breaking the whole project into two sections from Church Street to Cardiff, then Cardiff to Beulah, due to permitting timelines for each section.
		2. Mr. Kitner reported that we are still waiting for DEP to sign off on the transfer of the 10 acre property. Once it is signed over, they can begin construction.
		3. Mr. Kitner reported that the available emergency funds for repair of the washout at Twin Rocks/Vintondale require a Chapter 105 permit from DEP. Mr. Kitner has a pre-application meeting scheduled January 3rd, which is mandatory before we can move forward with grant writing for repair.
		4. Mr. Kitner reported that we have a final design approved for the Joseph Dushaw bequest rest. We are waiting on contract numbers to begin construction in the spring. Mr. Kitner stated that the remainder of the money will be placed in a fund at the Community Foundation, named the Joseph Dushaw Memorial Fund for Maintenance for the Ghost Town Trail.
		5. Mr. Kitner reported that we are $210 away from closing out the 3-mile expansion of the C & I Extension of the Ghost Town Trail. Signs for gates were ordered to fulfill this final required expenditure.
	5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
		1. Mr. Kitner reported that things are still moving forward with the 9/11 Memorial Trail signs. The mile marker signs have been delivered.
	6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
		1. Mr. Ritko reported that the only things left to be done for the Bridge Street project are getting the metal picnic tables and the sign.
	7. Gunter Leadership
		1. Mr. Kitner reported that he and Ms. Lusk met with a new Gunter Leadership group. This group is going to look into possibly doing QR code signs on the trail for donations, along with a scavenger hunt or geocaching activity.
	8. Hunting Utilizing Trail Property
		1. Mr. Kitner reported that he has received a fair amount of complaints about a group that is hunting from the trail. The game commission stated that there are currently no restrictions for people hunting on the trails. Mr. Kitner is working with the game commission this year to work on a policy, we need to post that no hunting is permitted.
	9. PPAC (Pennsylvania Pedalcycle Advisory Committee)
		1. Mr. Kitner reported that the state and local levels are now aware of how important trails are for vulnerable users. He shared that a study was done by Penn State, showing that 93% of Pennsylvanians feel trails and outdoor recreation are important, and 82% would support a tax increase to pay for it.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
	1. 2024 BudgetMotion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Chris Koren, to accept the 2024 Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority budget, pending county allocation. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
	1. None.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
	1. The next regularly scheduled meeting and reorganizational meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, January 19, 2024, 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 Dennis Ritko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:29AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Caytlin Lusk
Program Coordinator, CCCRA