**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2024

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:48AM at the Young People’s Community Center, 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Richard Bloom Tom Kakabar Chuck Gironda Joe Turano   
Dennis Ritko Vicki Vasile Ray Gorman Eugene Kupchella  
Renee Daly Chris Koren

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Brad Clemenson Tom Fritz Jim McCann  
Randy Datsko

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Alex Cruley, Maintenance Specialist  
Attorney George Gvozdich Attorney Chris Gvozdich  
Josh Byers, Tribune Democrat 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. Mr. Kitner opened discussion regarding a letter received by Michael Tatarko, with interest in naming a bridge after his late father.
5. **Approval of December 15, 2023 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Chris Koren, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve the December 15, 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 January 2024  
   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 the new trucks that were purchased from the grant are now in. Mr. Cruley has been checking on downed trees along the trails. There is a larger tree on the Ghost Town Trail that will be cleared when the weather is warmer.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 so far is $420. Race registration is live for both the Path of the Flood Historic Races and Ghost Town Trail Challenge at this time, planning is underway. Ms. Lusk invited board members to a check presentation next Friday, January 26th at 12:05PM at Nulton Aviation for last year’s Trail-a-thon. Once the weather breaks, she hopes to work with Rock Run to determine a 5-mile course for a future race. Ms. Lusk shared information on Ebensburg’s Winterfest, taking place on February 17th.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Bloom reported that Chest Township has a 5% amusement tax that will be collected in the future for both riding and camping. Rock Run is planning to extend some of their riding trails.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that monthly meetings with the engineers will be happening soon. Due to the time restraints with the DCNR grant, the box culvert on Church Street to Cardiff Road will be completed first, anticipated to be under construction by August 2024. The rest of the trail, bridges and bony pile will follow.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the parking area at Red Mill Road will be repaired during the project.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that the washout is now triggering a Chapter 11 permit. The engineering is being done now, and when complete he will apply for the grant. Mr. Kitner said the maximum amount he can apply for is $30,000.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that we are getting quotes from Milkies, for the wall design, and Danchanko, for the concrete, for the Joseph Dushaw bequest. Both parties are estimating around $10,000 each. We are hoping to start building the rest station when the weather breaks.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that he had a meeting with DCNR to walk through the newest 3-mile addition. We should be getting the final grant payment soon.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that some of the signage is under production now. There are 2-3 more signs that need produced.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we have the $5,000 in our account from the Chamber for the Bridge Street project. We are working on adding 2 picnic tables and some signage to the project site.
   7. Gunter Leadership
      1. No update on the Gunter Leadership collaboration at this time.
   8. Hunting Utilizing Trail Property
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that according to our current cooperative agreement with the Game Commission, there are no restrictions on hunting. We have a new officer to work with in February, and Mr. Kitner plans to make a policy to restrict hunting on or off the trail.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Signature AuthorityResolution by Rick Bloom, seconded by Joe Turano, naming CCCRA board chairman, Tom Kakabar, as the signature authority for the CCCRA. 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, February 16, 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 Chris Koren, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA