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

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:32AM at the Young People’s Community Center, 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

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

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Alex Cruley, Maintenance Specialist  
Attorney George 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 March 15, 2024 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Renee Daly, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the March 15, 2024 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 April 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Jim McCann, seconded by Chuck Gironda, 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 removed a mudslide on the C & I Extension. They fixed a washout last week with East Taylor Township on the Path of the Flood Trail. Mr. Cruley reported that they bought a baseball field drag to drag trails. He reported three washouts on the Jim Mayer Trail that still need fixed. He also reported a washout on the C & I Extension from a mudslide behind a brick building owned by Jackson Township Water Authority, the mud has been removed. Jackson Township has a water line that goes under our trail, the water authority said we have to do something about the bank.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $2,330. She is continuing planning for the Path of the Flood Historic Races and Ghost Town Trail Challenge, volunteers are needed for both events. Ms. Lusk spoke with Brian Dumm of Central Cambria School District, with anticipation of a possible mural along the Ghost Town Trail in Spring 2025. Ms. Lusk shared that the County Seat to Seat ride is still being discussed, with a date set for September 21st, beginning in Ebensburg and ending in Indiana. She reported that the identified course at Rock Run had been tested out. A few things need amended with the course, but race planning continues with no set date at the moment. Ms. Lusk shared that Soaring Heights High School completed a cleanup yesterday on the Jim Mayer Trail, and People’s Natural Gas is coming to the Ghost Town Trail next Friday to trim branches and invasives, and clean litter in the Ebensburg area of the trail.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Gironda reported that Rock Run is very enthusiastic about the upcoming foot race at their facility. Rock Run is getting radios from the county.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we are still waiting for the AMLER grant agreement. A proper bidding meeting is scheduled. Once we receive the contract, the project will go out for bid.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the Red Mill project is ready to go and the parking lot will be under construction within the next month. Construction within the next month.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported we are still waiting on the DEP permit for the Twin Rocks washout. When Mr. Kitner met with DEP for the Red Mill project, he learned that there is a bony pile in the general location of the Twin Rocks washout, so an AMLER grant can be pursued to remedy the washout and bony pile.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that we are just waiting on the check for the 3-mile closeout, DCNR has finalized all the documents.
      5. Mr. Kitner shared quotes received regarding the construction of the rest area for the Joseph Dushaw bequest.
      6. Mr. Kitner reported that Indiana County has still not found anyone to help us with maintenance this year, so we are on our own. They will assist on an as-available basis with emergencies.
      7. Mr. Kitner reported that the new tractor was delivered on Tuesday.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we are waiting on information for one last sign for the 9/11 Memorial Trail sign project, then will place the order.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that he is still working on the COLCOM grant.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that there is a 50 inch water line on the Path of the Flood Trail that the CSA owns. Initial estimates to repair this landslide in Franklin are $190,000, and could turn into a quarter million. Mr. Kitner met with the CSA, they are acting on the project and doing repair for us. He also learned that they are doing a pipeline to from Ehrenfeld to Wilmore and Mine 33. The CSA is willing to put a top coat surface to extend the trail, connecting these the Path of the Flood Trail and Ghost Town Trail to Wilmore.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that East Taylor Township assisted in repairing one of the larger washouts on the Path of the Flood Trail. Mr. Kitner spoke with the 9/11 Memorial Trail Alliance regarding recent trail maintenance issues. There is another grant available for $10,000. The Trail Alliance is seeing if we can use that grant to stage 1,000 tons of trail surface material.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Ritko reported that the sign for the Bridge Street trailhead project has been ordered and the proof was received, they are just waiting for it to be produced. The remaining account balance will pay for as many picnic tables as they can.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported they are still working on acquiring money to finish off things at the Stonycreek Township Park.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that 4 landslides came down, creating trail damage. Mr. Kitner has a contractor looking at it next week to see what it would cost to remove that, and has inquired with the county to see if they have a backhoe that can be used.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. No update on Johnstown Connectivity Project on Path of the Flood Trail.
      2. Mr. Clemenson reported that the project contractor for Hornerstown into downtown section is ready to award the contract, they will be putting it out for bid. They are going to start construction of a couple pieces soon. Discussion was held regarding a property on Somerset Street.
      3. Mr. Clemenson reported that Vision Together is doing an assessment with the Army Corp of Engineers to see where they can take down river walls for fishing and river access.
   8. AMLER Grant Opportunities
      1. Mr. Kitner shared that the Twin Rocks area would be his first priority for a potential AMLER grant with DEP, which would include a bony pile and trail washout remediation.
      2. Mr. Kitner shared that building trail under Oak Street bridge in South Fork would be his second priority with AMLER, and it is applicable because of the Ehrenfeld and Stineman projects that had already taken place.
      3. Mr. Kitner shared that going from Loretto to Wilmore would be his third priority with AMLER. He would use this as an ATIP grant match (15 mil), but DEP isn’t sure if this is an appropriate project for AMLER. They will investigate.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Property from 9/11 Memorial Trail AllianceMotion by Joe Turano, seconded by Brad Clemenson, to accept the property offered to us by the 9/11 Memorial Trail Alliance as proposed. Motion carried.
   2. Memorandum of Understanding with Portage Township  
      Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to sign the memorandum of understanding with Portage Township to do the maintenance of the trail once developed. Motion carried.
   3. Bill of Sale, Release and Indemnity AgreementMotion by Jim McCann, seconded by Rick Bloom, to enter into a bill of sale, release, and indemnity agreement with Cambria County, to transfer and convey all of its rights, title, and interest, in and to 4 surplus Motorola 1250 portable radios for use at Rock Run. Motion carried.
   4. Access Agreement with Red Mill Rifle ClubMotion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Ray Gorman, to enter into an access agreement with Red Mill Rifle Club for access to their property off Red Mill Road, pending solicitor approval. Motion carried.
   5. Joseph Dushaw Bequest Wall Construction  
      Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Rick Bloom, to accept the proposal from Milkies Lawn & Garden Center in the amount of $7,622.00 for concrete preparation and wall construction for the Joseph Dushaw bequest rest area along the Ghost Town Trail. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. None.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. Mr. Clemenson shared that PEC’s CEO has retired. A Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony will be held on May 14th in Pittsburgh.
   2. Mr. Bloom shared that the June board meeting at Sandyvale is confirmed
   3. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, May 17, 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 Rick Bloom, seconded by Randy Datsko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA