**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2024

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:30AM 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   
Vicki Vasile Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Dennis Ritko  
Renee Daly Chris Koren Brad Clemenson

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie 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 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. Mr. Kitner shared an email from DCNR regarding the final payout for the 3-mile extension.
5. **Approval of February 16, 2024 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Renee Daly, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the February 16, 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 March 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Chris Koren, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Cruley reported that he and Mr. Eash blew the Path of the Flood Trail from Ehrenfeld to Mineral Point. They fixed a of couple fences along the Path of the Flood Trail and the C&I Extension. He shared that they were cleaning out ditches getting trees cut up. Mr. Cruley stated that a rock had fallen on the Ghost Town Trail in Twin Rocks. He and Steve from Indiana County Parks and Trails had moved it, and Steve cleaned out the ditches in this area. He also reported that there was a dead deer in a ditch on the Jim Mayer Trail, which he had removed and put lime on.
      2. Mr. Kakabar reported that we’ve been asked by NCCDC to take ownership of the Carrolltown to Patton Trail, which also includes maintenance. Construction is contingent on recognition that CCCRA is willing to take over this trail, there is no written agreement yet. We will be moving forth with legal council as NCCDC is drafting the agreement.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is currently $2,155. She is working on planning the first two races of the Cambria County Trails Series. Ms. Lusk and Mr. Kitner are to meet with a sponsor of the Ghost Town Trail-a-thon later today to discuss possible changes to the bike event. She reached out to Rock Run to get a list of interested committee members before planning a race there. Ms. Lusk shared that Soaring Heights School in Johnstown will be doing a cleanup along the Jim Mayer Trail, horseshoe section, on April 4th. Ms. Lusk added “loops” to the Ghost Town Trail webpage, which allows visitors to see different ways to make a looped visit to the Ghost Town Trail while we wait for the full loop to be completed.
      2. Ms. Lusk reported that she and Mr. Kitner met with the Gunter Leadership group earlier this month. They will be moving forth with fundraising efforts to create signage to be placed at trailheads with a QR code for trail donations. Ms. Lusk provided logos, a QR code, and list of trailheads for them to work with. The group is hoping to have the signs by spring or early summer.
   3. Rock Run
      1. No update at this time.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we are still waiting for the final contract for the AMLER grant.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that our solicitor now has the agreement in hand for Red Mill. We can move forth with the project. PA Watersheds will repair the parking lot as part of the project.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that we are waiting for the permit to come back from DEP before he can write the grant to repair the washout at Twin Rocks.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported shared a letter from DCNR regarding the final payout of the 3-mile section of the C & I Extension.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that he had received an email from PennDOT regarding placing guide rail along Beulah Road where it is adjacent to the trail.
      6. Discussed in Maintenance Specialist report.
      7. Mr. Kitner reported that Milkies is waiting on pricing for the cement work before a final quote can be provided for the future rest area.
      8. Mr. Kitner reported that Indiana County is struggling to maintain employees and are unable to assist us with maintenance this year. Indian County is hiring a grass cutting contractor to do cutting on their sections of trail and parks.
      9. Mr. Kitner reported that they are waiting on the paperwork for the tractor before it can be turned over to us.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that the signs for the 9/11 Memorial Trail are still being worked on. A meeting will be held with all the proofs before they are put into production.
      2. Mr. Kitner shared that South Fork is interested in going after AMLER money to add restrooms and build the trail from Fifficktown under the Oak Street Bridge to the ballfields. South Fork has $43,000 to put toward a project with POTF that needs spent by the end of the year. We can apply for this type of grant because there was already a reclamation project at that location.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that he re-wrote a COLCOM grant for 3 restroom facilities and resurfacing from Fifficktown to the City, including the CVC Woodvale trail portion.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Ritko reported that they got the final price on the sign, the group needs to approve the proof. There should be enough money left over for 2 picnic tables.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that a house was demolished at the Riverside trailhead. Stonycreek Township is planning to build a park and wants it to blend with the trail. They are looking to put in a pavilion, restrooms, and general upgrades to the park.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that they are done with design and engineering for the Johnstown Urban Connectivity Project. They are working with engineers on projects that we can do under construction, $225,416.80 is currently available. Mr. Kitner stated that adding restrooms at Franklin is a possibility with this.
      2. See above.
   8. Pennsylvania Pedacycle and Pedestrian Committee
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that DCNR presented their Outdoor Recreation plan. They are going around to speak to different organizations. Maintenance and signage were noted items in the plan.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Trail Agreement Northern CambriaMotion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Joe Turano, to turn the agreement over to the trail committee and legal council for review. Motion carried.
2. **Any further public comment**
   1. Mr. Kitner shared information on tire and hazardous waste collections in Cambria County.
3. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
   1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, April 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 Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Dennis Ritko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:31AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA