**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2024

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 Chuck Gironda Richard Bloom Joe Turano   
Vicki Vasile Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Randy Datsko   
Chris Koren Renee Daly Brad Clemenson

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Jim McCann Dennis Ritko

**Others in Attendance:**Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist   
Alex Cruley, Maintenance Specialist Attorney George Gvozdich   
Joshua Byers, Tribune Democrat Commissioner Thomas Chernisky  
Megan Friedhof, Wessel & Co.

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. Wessel & Co. presented the 2023 annual financial audit.
3. **Commissioner’s Representative Report**
   1. Commissioner Chernisky provided an update on the county.
4. **Correspondences:** 
   1. None.
5. **Approval of April 19, 2024 Regular Board Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Chris Koren, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to approve the April 19, 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 May 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, 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 they have mowed most of the trails this past month. Reflective signs were installed on gates along the Ghost Town Trail. Mr. Eash reported that the washouts at Stineman are fixed, it required 2 days of work laying 15 tons of stone down on several different spots.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $2,640. She is seeking volunteers for the finish line at the Path of the Flood Historic Races next Saturday the 25th, and at aid stations for the Ghost Town Trail Challenge on June 15th. Ms. Lusk shared that People’s Natural Gas Park trimmed some branches and cleaned up trash as an Earth Day event on April 26th, and Soaring Heights School in Johnstown has committed to cleaning up sections of the Jim Mayer Trail on a monthly basis.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that there is an action item to extend the evaluation period in our agreement with CPV by an additional year.
      2. Mr. Gironda reported that there are some system glitches that are being worked out with Rock Run. Mr. Bloom said a lot of events have been and will be taking place. DCNR recently visited the park.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that we are waiting on the final signatures for the AMLER grant before we can put the project out for bid.
      2. Mr. Kakabar reported that the material is ordered for the Red Mill Road project. Once the materials come in, we will install safety fencing and gates
      3. Mr. Kakabar reported that we had 16 comments on the original plans, DEP has come back with 6 more comments. This is in the engineers hands.
      4. Mr. Kakabar reported that the $28,000 check for the 3-mile extension came in on May 7th.
      5. Mr. Kakabar reported that there is a change in the design of the memorial wall portion of the Joseph Dushaw bequest. This will still keep us under the $11,000 threshold. Ms. Lusk described the material and layout of the wall.
      6. Mr. Kakabar reported that Indiana County Parks and Trails repaired a washout in the Bracken Dip.
      7. Mr. Kakabar reported that there have been several other washouts on the trail, we are prioritizing them as time and materials permit.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that we are still waiting on information for one final sign for the 9/11 Memorial Trail before they can get ordered.
      2. Mr. Kakabar reported that we have the COLCOM grant submitted. Mr. Kitner will be working with chief clerk since country grant writer is leaving.
      3. Mr. Eash provided an update on the Stineman washouts under the maintenance specialist report.
      4. Mr. Kakabar reported that we have a $10,000 grant from the 9/11 Trail Alliance to purchase AASHTO #10.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that we are still waiting on the sign for the Bridge Street project.
      2. Mr. Kakabar reported that we are receiving a $2,500 reimbursement grant from the 9/11 Memorial Trail for labor costs to repair washouts along the Jim Mayer Trail.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Clemenson reported that we have an update scheduled with the engineers, hopefully to see the final designs. He mentioned that the City of Johnstown has a $24.5 million RAISE grant. They have several upgrades planned, but there is money in the grant for trail connections. Mr. Clemenson stated that they are trying to see if we might be able to connect on projects. If not, we will have to pursue grants for construction.
      2. Mr. Clemenson reported that HF Lenz has completed their engineering design. He shared designs and information on the 4 base bids with board members. HF Lenz recommended that we award the contract to Berkebile Excavating per the two action items in section 11 of the agenda.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Joseph Dushaw BequestMotion by Joe Turano, seconded by Ray Gorman, to accept a $2,300.00 change order to add a different memorial wall to the Joseph Dushaw bequest project. Motion carried.
   2. Jim Mayer Trail Washouts  
      Motion by Chris Koren, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to hire Ray Winters Inc. to remove the four mudslides along the Jim Mayer Trail for $3,100.00. Motion carried.
   3. Wind FarmMotion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Brad Clemenson, to extend the current evaluation period with CPV one year to June 19, 2027. Motion carried.
   4. Johnstown Urban Connectivity – Jim Mayer SideMotion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Randy Datsko, to accept base bid 1, 3 and 4 in the amount of $121,241.00 to Berkebile Excavation for on-street construction of the Jim Mayer Trail from Napoleon Street to Central Park. Motion carried.
   5. Johnstown Urban Connectivity – Jim Mayer Side pt. 2  
      Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Randy Datsko, to amend the contract with HF Lenz to include construction oversight, not to exceed $18,000.00. Motion carried.
9. **Any further public comment**
   1. Mr. Bloom shared that today and tomorrow the Benscreek Canoe Club is hosting the Rendezvous at Greenhouse Park.
10. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, June 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at Sandyvale Memorial Gardens, 80 Hickory Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
11. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
    Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Chris Koren, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA