**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2024

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 9:33AM at Rock Run Recreation, 1228 St. Lawrence Rd., Patton, Pennsylvania.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:**Tom Kakabar Chuck Gironda Richard Bloom Dennis Ritko  
Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Joe Turano Brad Clemenson  
Randy Datsko

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Renee Daly Jim McCann  
Vicki Vasile Chris Koren

**Others in Attendance:**Cliff Kitner, Executive Director Caytlin Lusk, Program Coordinator   
Bruce Eash, Maintenance Specialist Alex Cruley, Maintenance Specialist  
Commissioner Thomas Chernisky Ray Clawson, Mainline Newspapers

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 July 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to approve the July 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 August 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Chuck Gironda, seconded by Joe Turano, 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 recently mowed the Ghost Town Trail and C & I Extension. They had dug ditches along the Path of the Flood Trail where Mr. Cruley and East Taylor had fixed before. The last week has been spent on washout repairs.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $4,125. She is currently seeking volunteers for the Jim Mayer Family Fun Run which takes place on September 7th. Ms. Lusk shared that the Indiana County Planning Commission has a flyer that she has been promoting for the county Seat to Seat ride on September 21st. Registration is not yet posted, but should be soon. Ms. Lusk reported that the Gunter signs with QR codes for trail donations have arrived, though it isn’t the correct QR code. Big House Products is making new ones at no cost to us, so we anticipate the correct signs in the next few weeks. She is working with Keller Engineers to host a groundbreaking ceremony, on August 27th at noon, for Phase 1 of the final portion of the C & I Extension.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that all necessary documents have been signed within the last month. The project is off and running into the financing stage. Commissioner Chernisky shared that road restructure is already happening in Carroltown for the windmills. Construction will begin on the windmills next month.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that he attended Summer Blast and toured with the Director of Outdoor Recreation.
      3. Mr. Bloom reported that the regular monthly Rock Run meeting is next week.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we had the pre-construction meeting with the engineers, DEP and the contractor. The first submittal to the AML/AMD grant was approved. Mr. Kitner reported that Cottles is planning on starting September 3rd and anticipates to finish by November 15th. The reclamation portion of the project should be out to bid shortly.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we now have all the equipment ready to install the safety fencing and new gate. There is some damage from the storm in the area.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that we received the permit last Friday afternoon after the rainstorms destroyed the trail even more. It will be $40,000-50,000 to fix this area now. The current WPCAMR grant is for $30,000.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that there were numerous washouts, trees down, etc. due to tropical storm Debby. Nanty Glo Fire Department helped clear 23 trees and opened up 7 culverts. CCCRA staff went out with contractors on Monday to assess the damage. Ed Patterson is getting 2RC stone to fill in washouts for the time being. Mr. Kitner spoke with the new EMA Director, Tom Davis, and reported that PEMA is coming out to assess damage and see what assistance is available. Mr. Kitner was advised to start doing repairs. He is working to get stone donations for repair. Mr. Kitner has sought assistance from DEP due to sediment that has come down the hillside from their mine.
      5. Mr. Kitner shared pricing from two companies for concrete at the Joseph Dushaw rest area, both came in under our bidding threshold.
      6. Mr. Kitner reported that Vintondale wants to put a campground in right off of the Ghost Town Trail by the soccer field. He shared designs with the board with phases for the project. Mr. Kitner was brought into the meeting because the only way to access the campground by the Ghost Town Trail, just as the soccer field currently does. Mr. Kitner said that we would require a 4-foot wide bike trail if they wish to use the trail as access.
      7. Mr. Kitner reported that a property owner around Edwards Street is getting water in her basement due to the water jumping during bad storms. It is put in our plans for Phase 2 moving forth to install a larger pipe to settle that down.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that all signs have been ordered for the 9/11 Memorial Trail Corridor.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported talked to the 9/11 Trail Alliance a few times this week. We are still waiting on the grant.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Ritko reported that they had a site meeting a couple weeks ago and determined where to put the sign. Over the next couple weeks he will see if Alex and Bruce can help him install it.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that Penelec is due to come to do vegetation management on the trail. He walked the corridor with the Penelec representative and found that 90% of the trees in there are invasive. Mr. Kitner said they will not be doing the full spray as they had done in the past.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that they had a meeting with PennDOT for final approval of the plans. This should be out for bid in the next month
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that HF Lenz had a meeting with PennDOT. They are taking some paint out of the plans and changing it to share roads. He will take it back to Berkebile to get that taken from the contract.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Joseph Dushaw Cement Work  
      Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Randy Datsko, to approve Danchanko in the amount of $12,218.10 to do the stamped concrete work at the Joseph Dushaw rest area. Motion carried.
9. **Any further public comment**
   1. None.
10. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, September 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at Young People’s Community Center, 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
11. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
    Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Rick Bloom, to adjourn the meeting at 10:37AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA