**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2024

1. The regular board meeting was called to order by Tom Kakabar at 8:31AM 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 Jim McCann  
Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Vicki Vasile Randy Datsko  
Dennis Ritko

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Renee Daly Joe Turano   
Chris Koren Brad Clemenson

**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   
Ray Clawson, Mainline Newspapers Joshua Byers, Trimbune Democrat  
Rebecca Williamson, YPCC

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Kakabar added item 10f(iii) regarding the Sheesley property.
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 August 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Randy Datsko, seconded by Vicki Vasile, to approve the August 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 September 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 he and Mr. Eash mowed all but the C & I Extension over the past month. They were able to repair 20 washouts from storms on the Duman Connection and the Stineman portion of the Path of the Flood Trail. They borrowed material from other areas of trail to fix the Path of the Flood portion.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $4,835. She shared that the Jim Mayer Family Fun Run had 40 participants this year and raised $1,642. Ms. Lusk reported that the County Seat to Seat ride has been postponed to fall of 2024. The annual fall foliage ride hosted by Ebensburg is taking place on October 6th. Ms. Lusk stated that 124 people have signed up for the Trail-a-thon so far, the 5k and bike event being the most popular. Over $40,000 in sponsorships has been secured for the Trail-a-thon. She is working on finishing planning that event from now until race day on October 5th. Soaring Heights School is starting up their monthly cleanups along the Jim Mayer Trail.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Bloom reported that CPV is staging equipment and working through changing the roads for materials to be safely transported. The windmills will take about 22 months to construct.
      2. Commissioner Chernisky shared that Cindy Dunn came to visit Rock Run and tour the facility.
      3. Mr. Bloom reported that Rock Run suggested having a lumbering company pick up some fallen logs and trees. Rally at the Rock is taking place on September 27th. Mr. Gironda added that Rock Run is applying for a $250,000 equipment grant and shared financial figures for the organization.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that construction began on September 10th near Church Street for the box culvert. There are some water issues with nearby property owners that they are working through. Mr. Kitner said that we are adding a bigger pipe to help these issues. The construction company still anticipates being done by mid-November.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the fence and sign are up at Red Mill. The cut stone has been moved, and the project is complete.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that we have the pipe out for bid now for the washout at Twin Rocks. There was an issue with a software upgrade at the Tribune Democrat, so there was a delay in getting the posting in the paper. Mr. Kitner requested to hold a special meeting to award the project to a contractor on October 1st at 8:30am. Once the contract is awarded, we have 90 days to complete the project.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that PEMA reviewed all the damage along the Ghost Town Trail. They feel that we underestimated the amount of damage, and that we are eligible for reimbursement of money. Mr. Kitner is still trying to find out how much we are eligible for, and when we may receive payment. Mr. Kitner reported that Senator Langerholc was able to secure $100,000 for trail maintenance. No other details are known at this time.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that they are pouring cement this week at the rest area for the Joseph Dushaw bequest. The stamped concrete will be done shortly, and the plaque has been ordered. Benches and a bike fix station will need installed.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that he approved the drawings for the sign structures and is waiting on the final proofs for the signs to arrive.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we are still waiting on the $10,000 grant for stone.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that there were 15 washouts from the thunderstorm after Debby in the Stineman area.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Ritko reported that they will be installing the sign next Friday the 27th.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the Penelec work was completed.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that we may be able to demolish the Sheesley property in February with CFA funding through a Brownsfield project. More details to come. Mr. Kakabar was approached by a contractor regarding an extended easement for water line to the fire training facility property. Mr. McCann shared some more detailed information on what will be done with this.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Kitner reported they met on site at Franklin about putting in a dual bathroom. The property owner has agreed to maintain the restroom facility, an agreement will be put together and needs DCNR approval. Mr. Kitner stated that they are hoping to get this out to bid when all approvals are in place.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that they want to start putting paint down at the end of this month for the Jim Mayer portion of JUCP.
   8. Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Committee Update
      1. Mr. Kitner shared that one of the topics of discussion was increasing the transportation budget to include monies for trails. They discussed agreements with PennDOT such as responsibilities for paint on the PennDOT ROWs. PennDOT plans to speak with more trail organizations to see how this will affect them.
   9. 2025 Budget
      1. Mr. Kakabar shared concerns regarding maintenance needs and planning for the 2025 budget. Mr. Kitner has been investigating health benefits for employees. Currently none of our employees require benefits.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. None.
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, October 18, 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 Ray Gorman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:47AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA