**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 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 Chris Koren  
Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Vicki Vasile Dennis Ritko  
Joe Turano

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Renee Daly Brad Clemenson  
Jim McCann Randy Datsko

**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 Rebecca Williamson, YPCC   
Senator Wayne Langerholc Jim Miliauskas, Senator Langerholc’s Office

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Kakabar added an executive session to the agenda before adjournment.
   2. Mr. Kitner added item 11(i) regarding a recent EPA Grant submission.
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 September 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to approve the September 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.
   1. Corrections or Changes: None.
6. **Approval of October 1, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes   
   Action:** Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve the October 1, 2024 Special Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.
   1. Corrections or Changes: None.
7. **Approval of the Treasurer’s Report and Bills to be paid for the month of October 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
8. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Cruley reported that he and Mr. Eash mowed majority of the Ghost Town Trail and Path of the Flood Trail. They fixed a couple of washouts on the C & I Extension and Stineman portion of the Path of the Flood. They installed a sign, along with Mr. Ritko, by the new pavilion on the Jim Mayer Trail. Mr. Cruley has been using the box grader to peel back the sides of overgrown trail. He also reported that people are using the undeveloped portion of trail at Pressier Crossing.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $6,615. The Chernisky Ghost Town Trail-a-thon had over 150 registered participants this year, she is working on final financials before sharing proceeds with the Firefighters Association. Ms. Lusk is working on applying for PA’s 2025 Trail of the Year recognition for the Path of the Flood Trail and a couple other national recognitions for our organization and staff.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that construction is underway with the wind farm. He had a conversation with Rock Run about powering their campgrounds.
      2. Mr. Gironda reported that the regular meeting is next week.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that the box culvert is being constructed, they are now putting forms up for the wing walls. It will need about 7 days to cure before they can backfill. DCNR came out to visit the site. Mr. Kitner stated that the contractor wants to pave Church Street and have it open by the end of the month, then they will proceed with building the trail. Mr. Kitner is working on a change order to bring cut sandstone from Red Mill to line the entrance to the box culvert.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the project was completed at Red Mill. We have $3,200 leftover want to use it to help with engineering for the pipe at Twin Rocks. HRI is still working out there. When done, they are going to fix the parking lot.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that the contract was awarded at the special meeting earlier this month for the Twin Rocks washout.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that we are going to put the $100,000 grant secured by Senator Langerholc to use in the Twin Rocks to Vintondale section.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that the concrete has been poured at the Joseph Dushaw memorial site. Due to low temperatures, they need to come back to put the sealant on it in more appropriate temperatures. After, the benches and bike station will be installed.
      6. Senator Langerholc shared that through his budgetary request he was able to secure a $100,000 grant for trail maintenance. This is a no match grant. He praised the efforts and vision of CCCRA.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that changes were made to the proofs for the 9/11 Memorial Trail signs and were resubmitted. We are now waiting on new proofs.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we are still waiting on the $10,000 trail alliance grant.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Ritko reported that the sign has been installed. The next step is to order picnic tables for the pavilion.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that things are moving forward with the restroom at the Franklin ballfield at the Gutskey side. He anticipates getting it out for bid and under construction in April.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that all the paint is done on the Jim Mayer side. We are now waiting on signage, then the project will be closed out.
   8. 2025 Budget
      1. Mr. Kakabar opened discussion regarding the 2025 budget.
      2. Mr. Kakabar reported that we are positioning the budget to reflect another full-time employee, as Mr. Eash will be retiring at the end of the year.
   9. EPA Grant
      1. Mr. Kitner and Ms. Lusk worked with Spiro Maleki of Sustainable Strategies DC to write for an EPA Grant. This grant was suggested to him by Matt Ward and Melissa Komar. The purpose of the grant is for a consulting team to come and help small communities capitalize on outdoor recreation. Communities mentioned in the grant application were Ebensburg, Vintondale, Nanty Glo and South Fork. Mr. Kitner stated that it is a no-match grant, and we are the sponsors of the grant.
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Engineering Contract  
      Motion by Chuck Grionda, seconded by Ray Gorman, to award The EADS Group to do the engineering associated with the damage from tropical storm Debby. Mr. Kakabar and Mr. Bloom abstained from the vote. Motion carried.
10. **Any further public comment**
    1. None.
11. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, November 15, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at Young People’s Community Center, 300 Prave Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
12. **Executive Session**
13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN  
    Action:** Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA