**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 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 Richard Bloom Chris Koren Brad Clemenson  
Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Randy Datsko Renee Daly  
Dennis Ritko

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Tom Fritz Joe Turano Vicki Vasile  
Jim McCann Chuck Gironda

**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

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda by Board Members**
   1. Mr. Kitner added item (i) to Informational Updates regarding the Route 53 Corridor.
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 October 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
   Action:** Motion by Eugene Kupchella, seconded by Chris Koren, to approve the October 18, 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 November 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Rick Bloom, 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 groomed the C & I Extension and Path of the Flood Trail to get remove grass in the middle of the trails. Mr. Cruley cleared ditches of leaves and debris on the Ghost Town Trail and C & I Extension. He cut down trees that were hanging over on the C & I Extension.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $7,145 for memberships, but the total account is looking to be over $45,000 for this year. She shared that the trail donation signs are in, she is working with the Gunter Leadership Group to get them placed at all trailheads this month. Ms. Lusk is making progress with the mural behind Agway that will be added to the Ghost Town Trail in Spring 2025.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Bloom reported that they construction has begun on the pads for the wind turbines. They are also building roads and clearing paths for equipment to come through.
      2. Mr. Bloom reported that Rock Run raised prices a little for next year’s season and set their schedule of events for 2025. They are still the most affordable commercial ATV park in PA.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that Phase 1 is nearing completion and a ribbon cutting will be scheduled soon. A final walk through of the site is scheduled for Monday. Mr. Kitner shared that the reclamation aspect of the project had gone out for bid, and the apparent low bidder is Berkebile Excavating. DEP hopes to have things approved by mid next week. Mr. Kitner attended a bike ped coordinator meeting at PennDOT this past week to discuss this project. He shared that a couple of property owners are interested in selling or donating pieces of property next to the area for rest areas and enhancements.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that all the paperwork is now complete for the Twin Rocks pipe repair and construction should be starting soon. We will be notified if the trail needs closed. If so, they will provide flaggers and signage for short periods of time.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that we should have the contract by Thanksgiving for the $100,000 maintenance money secured by Senator Langerholc. The engineer will put the project out for bid as soon as we get the contract.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that the concrete work for the rest area is now complete. Benches were picked up and are getting powder coated at JWF, and the bike fix station is ordered. Mr. Cruley picked up the bike rack that has been powder coated. When everything is in, we will install and hold a ribbon cutting for the family in the spring.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that the 9/11 Trail Signage has been going through grammatical changes, but the signs have been sent for proofs one final time. We are hoping to approve them soon so they can go into production.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that we are still waiting on the $10,000 trail alliance grant.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that he ordered the picnic tables for the pavilion project on the Jim Mayer Trail.
      2. Mr. Kitner shared that Stonycreek Township received a grant to add a small park with possible restrooms at the Riverside trailhead area.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that everything is moving forward and we should have an early spring construction. A restroom will be installed in Franklin. This project will also include paint markings and signage for trail users to get through Franklin and over the bridge to the Upper Woodvale trail.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that the final walk through has been done for Berkebile. There are two pavement markings that went down on Somerset Street that were covered over by water authority for a water authority project. They will put the pavement markings back.
   8. 2025 Budget
      1. Mr. Kakabar opened discussion regarding the 2025 budget.
   9. Route 53 Corridor
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that a meeting was held last evening regarding the route 53 corridor. He is working with municipalities to cover maintenance if the trail is to be constructed in the future. RJ Corman, the owner of the rail line, is investigating the railbanking process. Jerry Brant put Mr. Kitner in contact with someone at RJ Corman to begin discussion and walk the corridor in the future.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Reclamation Contract  
      Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Eugene Kupchella, to award Berkebile Construction Company in the amount of $167,960.00 to do the reclamation efforts in association with the AMLER grant, pending approvals by appropriate entities. Motion carried.
   2. 2025 Budget  
      Motion by Ray Gorman, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve the 2025 general budget as presented. Motion carried.
   3. Gate for Culvert  
      Motion by Brad Clemenson, seconded by Randy Datsko, to approve Ray Winters Inc. to install an access gate for the new culvert in the amount not to exceed $9,850. 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, December 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 Brad Clemenson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA