**Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 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 Richard Bloom Vicki Vasile Dennis Ritko  
Eugene Kupchella Ray Gorman Randy Datsko Joe Turano

Chuck Gironda Chris Koren

**Members Absent:**Rob McCombie Joe Turano Jim McCann 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   
Josh Byers, Tribune Democrat Ray Clawson, Mainline Newspapers  
Chris Sherry, public

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 November 15, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
   Action:** Motion by Vicki Vasile, seconded by Rick Bloom, to approve the November 15, 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 December 2024  
   Action:** Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Maintenance Specialist Report
      1. Mr. Cruley reported that about 20-30 trees were down along the trails, all of which he cut to clear. A couple of fence wires were damaged and fixed from a tree falling. Mr. Cruley has been using the GIS program to maintain pipes and trail conditions. He will be working with GIS and the planning commission to video the trails in the future.
   2. Program Coordinator Report
      1. Ms. Lusk reported that the Friends of the Trails balance for 2024 is at $7,145 for memberships, and will provide a total recap of the Friends of the Trails program for 2024 next month. She shared that the trail donation signs have been mostly installed along the trails, all done by the Gunter Leadership group. Ms. Lusk is working with Visit Johnstown on marketing for CCCRA on their webpage. Registration has been posted for both the Path of the Flood Historic Races and the Ghost Town Trail Challenge which take place on May 24th and June 21st, 2025, respectively. She will be gathering a committee to plan a celebration next fall for the completion of the Ghost Town Trail loop.
   3. Rock Run
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that he and Mr. Kitner went up to tour the progress on the wind farm.
      2. No other update on Rock Run at this time.
   4. Ghost Town Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that a ribbon cutting was held for Phase 1 of the final piece of the loop. He is still waiting for Cottles to turn in all documents to get a payout. Mr. Kitner met with DEP to get a price for the reclamation, and is currently working on paperwork for that. Reclamation looks to start in the April time frame. He said that we are still hoping to get construction for Phase 2 out for bid, and to start in May/June for the two bridges.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that they have been working on the pipe repair all week at Twin Rocks. Mr. Cruley shared that they should be finishing it up today.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported he and Ms. Lusk had an initial meeting with FEMA earlier this week. FEMA is coming in January 9th to review documentation. We will be able to request reimbursements after this meeting.
      4. Mr. Kitner reported that the benches and plaques have been picked up for the Joseph Dushaw rest area.
      5. Mr. Kitner reported that there have been meetings with Saint Francis University regarding extending the trail to Loretto. Saint Francis is offering to do the engineering for the trail.
   5. Path of the Flood Trail Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported the trail signage is under production.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that Cliff is out getting prices for stone for the 9/11 Trail Alliance Grant.
      3. Mr. Kitner reported that the 9/11 Trail Alliance is going to purchase the Norfolk Southern property and give it to us.
   6. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Report
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that the picnic tables are in. Mr. Ritko and Mr. Cruley had a plan to put them together but the weather did not permit. The picnic tables are in the shed for now, they will get together in the coming weeks to get them put together.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported that he got a call from Safety Clean. They will do a hazard mitigation prior to demolition. We are going through paperwork and approvals through DEP right now.
   7. Updates on Johnstown Urban Connectivity Projects
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that we are getting the project on the Path of the Flood side out for bid.
      2. Mr. Kitner reported the Jim Mayer side is 100% completely done. We have a new DCED representative. There is some documentation from Berkebile that she didn’t have on file, so we are now waiting on final paperwork and final payment.
   8. Route 53 Corridor
      1. Mr. Kitner reported that through Langerholc’s office we got a phone conversation with RJ Corman’s attorney group. RJ Corman has never gone through railbanking before. We are beginning conversations on the process to gauge interest in moving forward.
   9. Board Appointments
      1. Mr. Kakabar reported that we had three board resignations within the past month, and discussed the opening of two executive positions.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Easement Termination
      1. Motion by Rick Bloom, seconded by Chuck Gironda, to terminate the easement agreement between the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority, National Salvage and Service Corporation, Lehigh Valley Rail Management, and Green Energy Ventures LLC, for the steam pipe. Motion carried.
9. **Any further public comment**
   1. Mr. Eash shared his appreciation for working with CCCRA for the past 10 years.
   2. Mr. Sherry was seeking information on the preliminary plan for the trail from Loretto to Saint Francis. He expressed concern about the ATVs on the trails.
10. **ANNOUNCEMNT(S)**
    1. The next reorganizational and regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority will take place on Friday, January 17, 2025, 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 Vicki Vasile, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caytlin Lusk  
Program Coordinator, CCCRA