

August 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held through the Zoom platform; no in-person meeting was held.

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Robertson, Chris Johns, Chadd Roadarmel, Brett Johnson, Tyler Dombroski, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Dr. John Bulger, Mike Mills, Kevin Romansik, Frank Dombroski

MARC STAFF

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC

Wayne Kashner, Otto Kurecian (CMVB)

MEDIA

Joe Sylvester (Daily Item), Gerri Gibbons (Press Enterprise)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Tyler Dombroski.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tyler noted there was nothing new to report other than what Bob will be reviewing at this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dr. Bulger and Stoudt reviewed the Treasurer's report provided as pages 2 – 20 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted that the report included two months of information since MARC's Board did not meet in July. Stoudt additionally noted that the accountant's report from Susan Shultz, CPA was not received in time for the meeting and was not included in the Treasurer's report. Stoudt noted that MARC anticipates this week the receipt of \$41,787.64 in Q2 2021 Montour County Hotel Tax funding from the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Dr. Bulger

Second: Frank Dombroski

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Johns called the group's attention to the minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet.

Motion to approve the June 28, 2021 meeting minutes: Kevin Romansik

Second: Brett Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

PARTNER REPORTS

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Nothing new to report.

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nothing new to report.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Nothing new to report.

MONTOUR PRESERVE CONCESSIONAIRE'S REPORT

Stoudt provided a review of the Concessionaire's report as presented in the agenda packet. Stoudt noted that the concessionaire has so far done approximately \$9,000 in rentals at the Preserve year-to-date, essentially meeting the pre-season projections year-to-date.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided in the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted that Beam had resumed in-person programming at the Montour Preserve.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Reports provided in the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted that Piatt (and all MARC staff) have been extremely busy with storm damage cleanup in recent weeks.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Full report provided in meeting agenda packet. Stoudt called the group's attention to several items in the report, particularly the latest developments regarding the DCNR 2021 Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant (Hopewell Park Pump Track) as reported on page 26 of the meeting agenda and the theft of mile marker signs along the North Branch Canal Trail as reported on page 28 of the meeting agenda.

Stoudt also provided an update on an incident which occurred on July 17 at the Hess Recreation Area in which participants in the Danville Quoits Tournament displayed several confederate flags on event tents. A park visitor objected to the display and contacted MARC with concerns. Stoudt noted that though the organizers received MARC's permission to conduct the quoits tournament, they did not seek, nor receive, MARC's permission to display the confederate flag at the park. Stoudt noted that doing so badly damaged MARC's efforts to manage the parks and trails under its care as open and welcoming to all and cast the Danville community in a negative light. However, Stoudt also noted that the display of the flags on public property is a constitutionally-protected free-speech right that MARC must respect. MARC does not have the legal authority to order the removal of flags or other objectionable content, no matter MARC's opinion of their nature. Stoudt coordinated with Mahoning Township Police to prepare for protests or other issues that might occur, but no conflicts were observed or reported.

Finally, Stoudt noted that increasing COVID-19 rates in the Montour County region and anticipated staffing challenges in coming weeks have forced MARC to cancel the planned October 2 Chilli Challenge event at the Montour Preserve. MARC will lose less than \$100 in labor expenses incurred year-to-date by cancelling the event before significant expenses are incurred.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

HIRE OF HANNAH REAVY (SUMMER INTERN) AS PARK AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Stoudt requested approval to hire Hannah Reavy (MARC's 2021 Summer Intern from Bloomsburg University) as a part-time Park and Trail Maintenance Technician at an hourly rate of \$17/hr. Stoudt commended Reavy's performance and work ethic and highly recommended her hire. Stoudt anticipates Reavy will work an average of five to ten hours per week.

Motion to approve the hire of Hannah Reavy as a Park and Trail Maintenance Technician at an hourly rate of \$17/hour: Frank Dombroski

Second: Mike Mills

Motion passed unanimously

EXPENSE APPROVALS

Stoudt reviewed the invoices for the PIRMA insurance renewal (\$8,829), H.A. Thomson Public Employee Bonding (\$1,700), and ESRI ARCGIS software annual renewal (\$742) as presented on pages 33 – 35 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt also requested approval to pay the Erie Insurance Exchange Workers' Compensation Insurance policy renewal (\$1,785). Stoudt and Board members discussed the proposal from H.A. Thomson to add forgery / faithful performance coverage to the Public Employee Bonding policy. More information is needed to determine whether MARC should purchase the additional coverage. Stoudt will contact H.A. Thomson for more information and will provide an update during the September meeting.

Motion to approve payment of the PIRMA insurance renewal (\$8,829), H.A. Thomson Public Employee Bonding (\$1,700), ESRI ARCGIS software annual renewal (\$742), and the Erie Insurance Exchange Workers' Compensation Insurance policy renewal (\$1,785): Mike Mills

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

Stoudt reminded attendees of the planned 'Walk with a Doc' event to be held on Tuesday, August 24, at the Hess Recreation Area, beginning at 5:00pm. Leadership of PA DCNR, Geisinger, and other entities will be in attendance for the event. Stoudt encouraged all to attend to show support for the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Johns
Secretary