

November 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center, 374 Preserve Rd, Danville, PA and online through Zoom

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (online)

Chadd Roadarmel

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (in person)

Chris Johns, Dr. John Bulger, Frank Dombroski, Brett Johnson, Bill Byron, Tami Gabrielsen, Kristin Mikita, Marlene Gunther, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Tyler Dombroski

MARC STAFF (in person)

Bob Stoudt and Julian Brehm

PUBLIC (online)

Wayne Kashner

PUBLIC (in person)

John Zaktansky (Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association) and Mike Wert

MEDIA (online)

Anna Weist (Daily Item / Danville News)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tyler Dombroski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dombroski noted nothing new to report other than items to be discussed during this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dr. Bulger called attention to the Treasurer's Report as provided on pages 2 – 14 of the meeting agenda packet. Dr. Bulger noted the 2024 budget will be discussed during this meeting and a review of the 2023 budget will be part of the discussion.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Bill Byron

Motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Johns called attention to the minutes of the October 23, 2023 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet. No concerns or errors were noted.

Motion to approve the October 23, 2023 meeting minutes: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Brett Johnson

Motion passed unanimously.

PARTNER REPORTS

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chris Johns noted the success of the Central Susquehanna Hammers mountain bike team which is a partnership with the district and MARC. The team recently completed their 3rd straight state championship season and then completed in the Mid-Atlantic regional competition several weeks ago, where several female racers placed at the competition. There were at least 10 states represented at the regional competition in Maryland. The team will be recognized at the January school board meeting. MARC will be looking to provide new signage at Hopewell Park to recognize the team's accomplishments as the budget allows.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Chadd Roadarmel noted nothing new to report.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Marlene Gunther noted nothing new to report.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Commissioner Dan Hartman noted he has appreciated serving his role as the county representative. This will be his last meeting as his term is expiring at the end of this calendar year. Stoudt, Dombroski, and board members thanked Commissioner Hartman for his several years of service and wished him the best in his retirement.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

No report

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Chairman Dombroski noted there will be a holiday party in Washingtonville at the Jane E. DeLong Memorial Hall on December 10 featuring Woody Wolfe and there will be gifts for children. Frank Dombroski noted some minor vandalism at the ball fields at DeLong Park.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Julian Brehm called attention to the Assistant Director's report as provided on page 15 of the meeting agenda packet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to the Director's Report provided on pages 16 – 27 of the meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt noted the 'Forest Management Vision for the Communities in the Danville Area' report as provided as pages 29 – 33 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt note the report was principally authored by Van Wagner, with input by numerous regional partners. The report is provided to MARC for consideration, but no action is requested at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MARC 2024 BUDGET

Stoudt called attention to MARC's 2024 Budget Packet, as distributed with the meeting agenda. Stoudt provided a detailed review of the proposed budget and called attention to budget line items of particular note.

Motion to approve the 2024 Budget: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Frank Dombroski

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARC 2024 STAFF COMPENSATION / BENEFITS ADJUSTMENTS

Stoudt again called attention to MARC's 2024 Budget Packet, as distributed with the meeting agenda. Stoudt noted the proposed staff compensation and benefits adjustments documented on page 19 of the packet.

Chairman Dombroski thanked Stoudt for his efforts to address known compensation challenges while also addressing deferred projects and other known budgeting challenges.

Motion to approve MARC's 2024 staff compensation and benefits: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Frank Dombroski

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S SPENDING AUTHORITY

Stoudt reported that MARC's Director's spending authority is currently set at \$500. All expenses in excess of \$500 require MARC Board approval, to be requested during a meeting of the Board. The limit has not changed in many years and no longer allows for efficient operation. Stoudt requested the Director's spending authority be increased to \$2,500.

Motion to approve increasing MARC's Director's spending authority to \$2,500: Dr. John Bulger

Second: Chris Johns

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARC 2024 MEETING DATES

Stoudt called attention to page 28 of the meeting agenda packet for a listing of proposed 2024 MARC meeting dates, times and locations.

Motion to approve setting MARC's 2024 meeting dates, times, and locations as proposed on page 28 of the meeting agenda packet: Bill Byron

Second: Brett Johnson

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARC AND MARC-AFFILIATED 2024 SPECIAL EVENTS

Stoudt called attention to page 1 of the meeting agenda packet for a listing of proposed 2024 MARC and MARC-affiliated special events.

Motion to approve the proposed 2024 MARC and MARC-affiliated special event dates: Frank Dombroski

Second: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Motion passed unanimously.

DESIGNATION OF JULIAN BREHM AS ACTING DIRECTOR, WITH COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT, DURING PLANNED STOUTD ABSENCE DECEMBER 7 – 26, 2023

Stoudt requested designation of Julian Brehm, MARC’s Assistant Director, as Acting MARC Director, for the period from December 7 – 26, 2023 during a planned absence for Stoudt. Stoudt requested the authority and duties of MARC’s Director be passed to Brehm during this time. Stoudt further requested that Brehm’s compensation be increased \$5/hour during this period of time to compensate for the additional duties.

Motion to approve designation of Julian Brehm as MARC’s Acting Director during Stoudt’s planned absence December 7 – 26, 2023, with a compensation adjustment of \$5/hour during this period: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Marlene Gunther

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING

Stoudt requested approval to submit an application to the Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant Program, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, for the creation of a Robbins Trail interpretive sign and/or the reconstruction of the Robbins Trail. If approved, the grants would require a 1:1 match. MARC will have funds available to match the grant if approved.

Stoudt also requested approval to apply to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Stream & Watershed Enhancement Grant Program, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, to fund Chillisquaque Creek access improvements and the development of Mill Park in Derry Township. This grant has no match requirement.

Motion to approve applications to the Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant Program, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Stream & Watershed Enhancement Grant Program, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: Chris Johns

Second: Dr. John Bulger

Motion passed unanimously (Tyler Dombroski abstained).

OTHER ITEMS

No other items for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

Stoudt reminded attendees that MARC will not meet in December. MARC’s next meeting will be January 22, 2024.

Stoudt also reminded attendees of his planned absence from December 7 – 26. Stoudt will be out of contact during this time and all MARC-related concerns should be conveyed to Julian Brehm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Johns, Secretary