

## **February 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center, 374 Preserve Rd, Danville, PA 17821  
and online through Zoom

### **MEETING ATTENDEES**

#### **MARC BOARD MEMBERS (online)**

Commissioner Rebecca Dressler and Kyle Postupack

#### **MARC BOARD MEMBERS (in person)**

Chris Johns, Marlene Gunther, Chadd Roadarmel, Tyler Dombroski, Frank Dombroski, Brett Johnson, Tami Gabrielsen, Kristin Mikita

#### **MARC STAFF (online)**

none

#### **MARC STAFF (in person)**

Bob Stoudt

#### **PUBLIC (online)**

Wayne Kashner and Otto Kurecian (Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau)

#### **PUBLIC (in person)**

none

#### **MEDIA (online)**

Anna Weist (Daily Item/Danville News)

#### **MEDIA (in person)**

none

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Dombroski reported he continued to meet regularly with Stoudt to review bills and receive updates on MARC's activities.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT**

In the absence of Dr. Bulger, Stoudt called attention to the Treasurer’s report, as provided as pages 2 – 16 of the meeting agenda packet.

No concerns or questions were noted.

*Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report: Frank Dombroski*

*Second: Marlene Gunther*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

## **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Secretary Johns called the group’s attention to the minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting, as distributed with the meeting agenda packet.

No concerns were noted.

*Motion to approve the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes: Marlene Gunther*

*Second: Chadd Roadarmel*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

### **DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Chris Johns noted nothing new to report.

### **DANVILLE BOROUGH**

Chadd Roadarmel noted nothing new to report.

### **MAHONING TOWNSHIP**

Marlene noted that Geisinger is proceeding with work at the St. Cyril’s property in Mahoning Township.

### **MONTOUR COUNTY**

Commissioner Dressler noted nothing new to report.

### **RIVERSIDE BOROUGH**

Kyle Postupack noted nothing new to report.

### **WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH**

Chairman Dombroski noted Washingtonville’s intention to continue the expansion of the walking paths at DeLong Park. The borough is applying to the Community Giving Foundation: Danville for grant funding to partially fund the work.

Frank Dombroski noted work continues to rehabilitate materials from the log cabin recently deconstructed in Washingtonville, to be used in the construction of a new pavilion at DeLong Park. It is hoped construction might begin this spring, to be completed by summer.

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Chairman Dombroski called attention to the Assistant Director’s report provided on page 17 of the meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt praised Brehm’s recent efforts in coordinating the Montour Preserve’s Maple Sugaring programs, attended by roughly 400 school students on Friday, 2/23, and roughly 750 – 1,000 attendees on Saturday, 2/24.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Stoudt called attention to the Director's Report provided on pages 18 - 28 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted progress on several grant projects outlined in the Director's Report.

Finally, Stoudt reminded Commission members of the need to submit State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests Forms for 2024.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASES (BOX BLADE, ROLLER, AND DEBRIS BLOWER)**

Stoudt called attention to the price quote from Hoover Tractor as provide on page 29 of the meeting agenda packet for the purchase of a 5ft standard box blade scraper, super debris blower, and 5ft roller, in the amount of \$6,949.25. Stoudt noted that he, Brehm, and Piatt had researched equipment needed for park and trail maintenance and believe the quoted items are the best options available to meet MARC's needs at a reasonable price. Stoudt noted that, if approved, he would plan to purchase the box blade and roller immediately, but wait until later in the year to purchase the debris blower when more funds were available and the equipment would be more needed.

*Motion to approve the purchase of a 5ft standard box blade scraper, super debris blower, and 5ft roller, in the amount of \$6,949.25, from Hoover Tractor: Chadd Roadarmel*

*Second: Brett Johnson*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **APPROVAL OF HESS RECREATION AREA HESS LOOP TRAIL REPAIR MATERIALS PURCHASE**

Stoudt requested approval to purchase materials needed for the planned repairs to the Hess Recreation Area's Hess Loop Trail in an amount not to exceed \$12,200 as presented on page 31 of the meeting agenda packet. Materials will include up to 200 tons of stone and up to 30 gabion baskets of various sizes.

Stoudt noted the purchase and delivery would be made through Elijah Evans Excavating, LLC, the same contractor MARC has worked with in the past for previous repairs to the trail. Stoudt noted the purchase would not proceed until MARC has secured all necessary permits and permissions for the project, but that it was MARC's staff's desire to move the project forward as quickly as possible to prevent additional trail damages in the areas of concern.

Stoudt recommends the use of Montour County Act 13 funds currently earmarked in MARC's account.

Chairman Dombroski expressed concern that this project, when considered with other projects to be reviewed during this meeting, should instead be combined into one project and put out to bid.

Chadd Roadarmel questioned whether an engineering firm should be hired to review the projects and prepare bid documentation MARC could use for the project.

*Motion to table this item and have Stoudt contact engineering firms to review the proposed scope of work and develop proposals to prepare bid documentation for the combined projects: Chadd Roadarmel*

*Second: Marlene Gunther*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

## **APPROVAL OF HESS RECREATION AREA HESS LOOP TRAIL BOARDWALK REMOVAL / FRENCH MATTRESS INSTALLATION**

Stoudt requested approval to hire Elijah Evans Excavating, LLC to remove the existing wooden boardwalk along the Hess Recreation Area's Hess Loop Trail, near mile marker 1.1, and install a 30ft x 7ft x 1ft French mattress at the location for drainage at a cost of \$3,500, as presented on page 32 of the meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt noted the existing boardwalk has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be removed in order to allow machinery to access sections of the trail planned for reconstruction. Stoudt noted the project would not proceed until MARC has secured all necessary permits and permissions for the project, but that it was MARC's staff's desire to move the project forward as quickly as possible to prevent additional trail damages in the areas of concern.

*Item tabled, per earlier discussion and action.*

## **APPROVAL OF HESS RECREATION AREA HESS LOOP TRAIL COLLAPSE RECONSTRUCTION**

Stoudt requested approval to hire Elijah Evans Excavating, LLC, at a cost of \$11,200, to repair a damaged section of the Hess Recreation Area's Hess Loop Trail, near mile marker 1.4, as presented on page 33 of the meeting agenda packet. The section of trail to be repaired continues to fail and must be repaired as soon as possible to prevent a much more substantial and expensive repair. MARC does not have the equipment or the expertise needed to do the work in-house.

Stoudt noted the project would not proceed until MARC has secured all necessary permits and permissions for the project, but that it was MARC's staff's desire to move the project forward as quickly as possible.

*Item tabled, per earlier discussion and action.*

## **APPROVAL OF HESS RECREATION AREA HESS LOOP TRAIL DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

Stoudt requested approval to hire Elijah Evans Excavating, LLC, at a cost of \$12,400, to install drainage features at several locations along the Hess Recreation Area's Hess Loop Trail, between trail mile markers 1.2 – 1.4, as presented on page 34 of the meeting agenda packet. The sections of trail to be repaired are in danger of future collapse if drainage improvements are not made (in coordination with hazardous tree removal work currently planned). MARC does not have the equipment or the expertise needed to do the work in-house.

Stoudt noted the project would not proceed until MARC has secured all necessary permits and permissions for the project, but that it was MARC's staff's desire to move the project forward as quickly as possible.

*Item tabled, per earlier discussion and action.*

## **OTHER ITEMS**

No other items for consideration.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, Chairman Tyler Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:44pm.

Next meeting: Monday, March 25, 2024, at the Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center and online through Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Johns, Secretary