



Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia Meeting Minutes February 20th, 2024, 1PM

Prepared by Zach Jones, info@orcaohio.com

ORCA Board Members Present:

- ORCA Chair Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens
- Tim Warren, York Township Trustee
- Jay Kline, Buchtel Council Member
- Tammy Hawk, Village of Chauncey Interim Mayor

Others Present: Jessie Powers, Elle Dickerman, Delia Palmisano, Sky Pettey, Rachael White, Sarah Ciciora, Jason Reed, Zach Jones

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chair Steve Patterson.

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: To approve the meeting agenda.

- Motion by: Tammy Hawk
- Second by: Tim Warren
- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 24, 2025.

- Motion by: Jay Kline
- Second by: Tim Warren
- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

No updates reported.

PARTNER UPDATES

No updates reported.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTION: To approve the financial report.

- Motion by: Tim Warren
- Second by: Jay Kline

- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Economic Recovery Corps Funding Status:**
 - o Executive Director Powers reported potential funding loss for Economic Recovery Corps Fellow position due to federal funding uncertainty.
 - o Discussion ensued regarding value of Fellow's work in developing outdoor recreation economy and engaging corporate partners through social responsibility initiatives.
2. **ORCA Economic Assistance:**
 - o Discussion of prioritizing economic assistance.
 - o Board discussed continued value of maintaining both public and private funding efforts.
3. **Grants Status:**
 - o USDA grant progressing with Monroe, Morgan, and Noble Counties
 - o AMLER grant funds awarded stated to be secured by ODNR
 - o State capital bill for Bailey's Trail System progressing
 - o Environmental justice grant applications submitted
 - o ARC POWER grant progressing regional planning and branding as well as Ohio Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference
4. **Line of Credit:**
 - o Request to increase line of credit from \$400,000 to \$500,000 for construction reimbursements
5. **Vacation Policy:**
 - o Request to modify vacation rollover policy.

MOTION: To authorize payment for Economic Recovery Corps Fellow for one month as a stopgap measure if federal funding is lost.

- Motion by: Jay Kline
- Second by: Tammy Hawk
- Discussion: Tim Warren expressed fiscal responsibility concerns
- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

MOTION: To increase the line of credit from \$400,000 to \$500,000.

- Motion by: Tammy Hawk
- Second by: Steve Patterson
- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

MOTION: To approve ORCA staff vacation day annual rollover not exceeding 160 hours.

- Motion by: Tammy Hawk
- Second by: Jay Kline
- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Communications update provided by Delia Palmisano:

- 11% growth in Facebook and Instagram followers in 2024
- 115% growth in newsletter subscribers
- Bailey's Trail System membership maintained at 90-100 members
- Spring membership drive planned

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Maintenance update provided by Elle Dickerman:

- January was a slow month due to weather conditions
- 24 Winter trail monitors completed training
- 2024 volunteer recognition event held
- Working with Forest Service on trail names for new trails
- TrailForks platform to be integrated into trail monitoring program

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Discussion of potential recovery programs partnership with the Bailey's Trail System using opioid settlement funds.
2. Discussion about three-phase power availability for Buchtel Trailhead.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

- Motion by: Jay Kline
- Second by: Tim Warren
- Vote: All in favor (Patterson, Warren, Kline, Hawk)
- Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted.