



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets

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Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Board Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2025 | 2:12 PM

Prepared by: Delia Palmisano/ info@orcaohio.com

ORCA Board Members Present

- Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens, Chair
- Tim Warren, York Township Trustee, Vice Chair
Tammy Hawk, Chauncey Interim Mayor

Others Present

- Jessie Powers, Executive Director
 - Sarah Ciciora, Finance Administrator
 - Delia Palmisano, Director of Communications
 - Sadie McClinchie, Communications Intern
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CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Patterson. Quorum was confirmed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

- **Motion:** To approve the meeting agenda.
 - Motion by: Tim Warren
 - Second by: Tammy Hawk
 - Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
- **Motion:** To approve the June 24, 2025 and July 8, 2025 meeting minutes as a slate.
 - Motion by: Tim Warren

- Second by: Tammy Hawk
 - Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
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BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- Routine facilities maintenance updates were noted.
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PARTNER UPDATES

- No external partner updates reported.
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FINANCIAL REPORT

- Jessie Powers reviewed the July financial report previously circulated by Sarah Ciciora.
 - Mileage reimbursement procedures were clarified and found to align with IRS guidance; Jessie will correct a minor reporting error in her next submission.
 - ORCA received ~\$823,000 in reimbursement funds from the State of Ohio, enabling repayment of its line of credit. This update is not reflected in July's report but is confirmed in ORCA's accounts..
 - Sunday Creek Partners contract (\$8,000/month) was discussed. Board members affirmed the value of their support for state budget advocacy while noting the importance of responsiveness and clear deliverables.
 - **Motion:** To approve the July financial report.
 - Motion by: Tammy Hawk
 - Second by: Tim Warren
 - Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Jessie initiated discussion on scheduling a **Strategic Planning Retreat**; Board members affirmed inclusion of the regional partner jurisdictions in some manner
- Potential facilitators identified include:
 - Quantified Ventures (economic modeling and outdoor recreation expertise)
 - Ohio-based strategic firms with political connections
 - The ARISE Planning Grant firm (governance and organizational expertise)
 - Ty McBee (Ross County, planning strategist)
- Jessie will circulate the ARISE Planning Grant feasibility analysis (~200 pages) for board review prior to the retreat.
- The Board discussed scope of participation for partner jurisdictions. Agreement reached to focus the retreat on the ORCA Board, with potential inclusion of partner representatives in a second phase.
- Retreat topics will include:
 - Governance, staffing, and revenue generation strategies
 - Review of ARISE Planning Grant findings
 - Long-term sustainability of ORCA and the Baileys Trail System
 - Strategic use of the \$1.5M state operating allocation

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

- Delia Palmisano provided a recap of the **Ohio Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference**:
 - 170 total registrants, including speakers and awardees.
 - ~\$10,000 in ticket revenue generated, with primary expenses covered by the POWER Grant.
 - Attendee feedback was overwhelmingly positive.
- Discussion highlighted the importance of developing long-term sustainability for the conference through sponsorships, potential partnerships (e.g., with Buckeye Hills Regional Council), and alignment with ORCA's strategic planning

efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

- Motion by: Tammy Hawk
- Second by: Tim Warren
- Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.