



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets

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OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF APPALACHIA

Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2025 | 3:15 PM

Prepared by: Delia Palmisano/ info@orcaohio.com

ORCA Board Members Present

- Steve Patterson, May of Athens, Chair
- Tim Warren, York Township Trustee, Vice Chair
- Tammy Hawk, Chauncey Interim Mayor
- Jay Kline, Village of Buchtel, Council Member
- Fred Holmes, Nelsonville Interim City Manager

Others Present

- Jessie Powers, Executive Director
- Sarah Ciciora, Finance Administrator
- Delia Palmisano, Director of Communications
- Sky Pettey, Legal Council
- Elle Dickerman, Sustainable Recreation Director
- Quynh Phung, AmeriCorps Member
- Rachael White, Former AmeriCorps Member

I. Call to Order

Chair **Steve Patterson** called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the meeting agenda.

Motion by: Tammy Hawk

Seconded by: Tim Warren

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2025

Motion: To approve the September 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Tammy Hawk

Seconded by: Tim Warren

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Board Member Updates

Tammy Hawk:

- Reported successful groundbreaking for the streetscape project, scheduled for completion by September 2026 (targeting an earlier finish if possible).
- Discussed ongoing efforts to create a safe pedestrian route connecting the residential area across Converse Street/Route 13 to the park.
 - Two studies have been completed: one by ODOT, and a recent one by Mannik & Smith Group.
The group is preparing a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant application with assistance from Becca Hill.
 - One proposal includes closing the West Bailey railroad crossing and creating a new crossing near High Street, potentially extending a road through the park.
Safety concerns remain regarding the proximity to the bike path and trails; alternatives will be presented for further discussion.
- Noted minimal traffic on West Bailey (approx. 55 cars/day) and the route's importance as a flood access road.
- Invited Jessie Powers to attend the next meeting with Mannik & Smith to review designs.

Transition in Hawk's Leadership:

- Tammy announced a special mayoral election scheduled for November 4, 2025.
 - Candidates: Evelyn Naggy and Frank Campbell.
 - Tammy plans to introduce the mayor-elect at the next ORCA board meeting.
 - The board expressed appreciation for her service.
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V. Partner Updates

No partner representatives present.

VI. Financial Report

Report presented by: Sarah Ciciora

- Minimal incoming revenue this period; ongoing construction and trail maintenance expenses exceeded receipts.
- Upcoming reimbursements expected from multiple grant sources, including ACGP and other grants.

- Mileage Update: 88.2 miles of trail completed (75 currently open to the public).
- ORCA remains on track with ACGP spending before the end of the ACGP timeline. Monthly grant reviews continue without issue.

VII. Director's Report

Presented by: Jessie Powers

1. Staffing Proposal

- Proposed creation of a full-time exempt position to support communications, reporting, and programming workloads.
- Funding for the new hire available through current operating dollars.
- Estimated cost: \$62,093.52 annually, bringing total staff costs to approximately \$438,400.
- Board discussion included sustainability concerns regarding grant-dependent operations.

Motion: to Approve new temporary staff position aligned with operations funding, pending board approval on job description.

Motion by: Fred Holmes

Seconded by: Jay Kline

Vote: Motion carried unanimously. Motion

2. Federal Government Shutdown Update

- No major disruption reported at Wayne National Forest; essential staff continue working and receiving pay thus far.

3. Strategic Planning and Sustainability

- Discussion centered on the ARISE Grant findings and long-term organizational sustainability.
Jessie outlined progress toward an ARISE Implementation Grant (application due May 2026) in partnership with PA Wilds and WVU.
 - The grant focuses on creating a visitor engagement platform connecting local businesses to customers, modeled after the PA Wilds Collaborative.
The platform aims to generate ongoing revenue, support small businesses, and reduce dependence on grants. Estimated revenue following 5 years of grant funded implementation is the first indication for how to develop revenues at a scale to assist with organizational operations in a meaningful way.
- Long-term strategy includes developing consulting services and a library of rural placemaking and entrepreneurial resources for other regions.

VIII. Other Business

- Discussion of November meeting date confirmed for Thursday, November 20, 2025.
- Steve Patterson noted his upcoming attendance at the National League of Cities Summit in Salt Lake City.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 PM.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025