

OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF APPALACHIA

Board Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2026 | Prepared by: Sadie McClinchie info@orcaohio.com

296 S Harper St, Nelsonville, OH 45764

ORCA Board Members Present

- Tim Warren, York Township Trustee President, Board President
- Frank Campbell, Chauncey Mayor
- Jay Kline, Village of Buchtel Council Member, Board Vice President

Others Present

- Jessie Powers, ORCA Executive Director
- Delia Palmisano, ORCA Deputy Director
- Rachael Fisher, ORCA Operations Manager
- Kincaid Rood, ORCA Trail Maintenance Manager
- Quynh Phung, ORCA AmeriCorps Member
- Sadie McClinchie, ORCA AmeriCorps VISTA Member
- Autumn Brown, Athens County Commissioner Candidate
- Mr. Brown, Public Attendee
- Kelly Shaw, AWOADC Board Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:07 by Tim Warren.

AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Board reviewed the agenda, and amended the executive session duplicate misprint, keeping the second statement and removing the first.

A motion was made by Jay Kline to approve the agenda. Second by Frank Campbell. Tim Warren, Jay Kline, and Frank Campbell voted yes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Tim Warren identified an error in the June 23, 2026 meeting minutes, noting that the motion to return to regular session had been recorded after the discussion that occurred following executive session, rather than before it. The Board agreed to amend the minutes to correct the sequence of events.

A motion was made by Tim Warren to amend the June 23, 2026 meeting minutes to reflect the correct order of proceedings following executive session. Second by Frank Campbell. Tim Warren, Jay Kline, and Frank Campbell voted yes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PARTNER UPDATES

Kelly Shaw introduced herself as the newest AWOADC board member and discussed her history with the Baileys Trail System. Autumn Brown introduced herself and shared her support for the Baileys Trail System and interest in ORCA's work.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Board members discussed:

- Successful Baileys Trail System Completion Celebration and Visitor Center groundbreaking
- Updates on final phases of Buchtel Trailhead project, including site amenities and maintenance needs
- Volunteer opportunities with Nelsonville-York Schools
- Appreciation of the work and efforts of the ORCA staff

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jessie Powers presented the July Financial Report on behalf of Sarah Ciciora.

Discussion included:

- Continued progress on processing outstanding invoices and reimbursements.
- Jessie Powers noted that an outstanding reimbursement request would be emailed to the Board for approval prior to the credit card due date.

A motion was made by Jay Kline to approve the financial report as presented. Second by Frank Campbell. Tim Warren, Jay Kline, and Frank Campbell voted yes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Delia Palmisano provided updates, including:

- Statewide media coverage surrounding the state budget line-item veto and resulting coverage from local and regional news outlets.
- National feature in *Outside Magazine* highlighting the Baileys Trail System and Athens County.
- Media coverage of the Baileys Trail System Completion Celebration and Visitor Center groundbreaking.
- Continued rollout of the Ohio's Rolling Hills regional branding initiative, including feature stories, photography, and video production.
- Development of the Bikes & Brews regional campaign.
- Planning for the August 16 Petals & Pollinators Mobile Bike Rental Activation Event to engage community mural painting nature education and connect nature to food production event developed in partnership with Community Food Initiatives.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Rachael Fisher provided operational updates, including:

- Recap of the Baileys Trail System Completion Celebration and Visitor Center groundbreaking.
- Attendance estimates for the celebration and positive community participation.
- Results from the Athens Gravel Challenge, including 134 registered racers.
- Merchandise sales supporting the ORCA nonprofit during the event.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Kincaid Rood provided maintenance updates, including:

- Volunteer maintenance efforts completed throughout June.
- National Trails Day activities and volunteer participation.
- Appalachian Conservation Corps trail maintenance partnership.
- New maintenance equipment received and placed into service.
- Progress made by the 2026 Summer Trail Crew.
- Opportunities to expand volunteer partnerships with Nelsonville-York Local Schools.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jessie Powers provided updates, including:

- Installation of the commemorative boulder recognizing the Jay and Miki Brooks family's land donation for the Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead.
- Remaining Buchtel Trailhead improvements, including signage, cameras, and security measures.
- Submission of the Just Transition Local Economy Lab grant application.
- Submission of the America 250 Trails Grant.
- Partnership discussions with Hocking County regarding regional recreation initiatives.
- Strategic planning committee meeting scheduled for August.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders surrounding interest in establishing an Ohio Office of Outdoor Recreation.
- Regional collaboration and continued outreach to state and federal partners.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No additional public comments were received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:50 PM, Jay Kline made a motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Tim Warren seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Tim Warren, Jay Kline, and Frank Campbell voted yes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board entered executive session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The Board returned to regular session at 7:50 PM. Jay Kline moved to approve ORCA's cost share for the Economic Recovery Corps Fellow and AmeriCorps VISTA in the amount of \$16,500 and adjust the Executive Director salary as discussed following creation of Deputy Director and Strategic Partnerships Director positions, pending legal review. Frank Campbell seconded. Tim

Jay Kline also moved to authorize Jessie Powers to work with Athens County on revisions to the proposed Nelsonville-York connector path and to discuss including Visitor Center accessibility improvements in the related grant application. Frank Campbell seconded. Tim Warren, Jay Kline, and Frank Campbell voted yes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Frank Campbell made a motion to adjourn. Jay Kline seconded. Tim Warren, Jay Kline, and Frank Campbell voted yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M. **Motion passed unanimously.**