



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets

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OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF APPALACHIA

Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2026 | Prepared by: Delia Palmisano / info@orcaohio.com

ORCA Board Members Present

- Tim Warren, York Township Trustee, Acting Chair
- Frank Campbell, Chauncey Mayor
- Jay Kline, Village of Buchtel Council Member

Others Present

- Jessie Powers, ORCA Executive Director
 - Sarah Ciciora, ORCA Finance Administrator
 - Delia Palmisano, Communications Director
 - Rachael Fisher, ORCA Operations Manager
 - Quynh Phung, ORCA AmeriCorps
 - Sky Pettey, ORCA Legal Counsel
 - Jason Reed, Wayne National Forest
 - Kerry Johnson, Athens County Independent
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Tim Warren, serving as Acting Chair, at 6:02PM

Jay Kline made a motion to appoint Tim Warren as the ORCA Board Chair. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL

Jay Kline made a motion to approve the agenda. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

Jay Kline made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sarah Ciciora presented the financial report and provided updates regarding reimbursement requests related to state budget appropriations, ARC funding, and additional grant programs.

Discussion included:

- Status of invoices associated with Sunday Creek Horizons
- Confirmation that no outstanding February invoices were expected
- Discussion regarding the City of Athens membership invoice
- Board preference to resolve the matter without additional legal review due to the minimal financial impact

Jay Kline made a motion to approve the financial report. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PARTNER UPDATES

Jason Reed provided updates regarding the Baileys Trail System and related infrastructure projects.

Updates included:

- Completion of repairs and ongoing work on the new trail system
- Anticipated opening of approximately 88 miles of trail
- Coordination with contractors to complete remaining reroute work by the end of May
- Continued plans for an American Conservation Corps (ACC) crew to assist with summer maintenance work

Additional discussion included:

- Use of trail counters to monitor visitation
 - Utilizing visitor data for required grant reporting purposes
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BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Jay Kline provided updates regarding progress at the Buchtel- SnowFork trailhead project.

Discussion included:

- Completion of concrete work for the shelter house
- Progress on bridge abutments and site preparation
- Asphalt paving considerations
- Fence height coordination
- Opportunities for collaboration with the Nelsonville Music Festival and regional events

Tim Warren and Frank Campbell discussed proposed electric vehicle charging stations and related fire safety considerations raised by local councils and fire departments.

VISITOR CENTER UTILITIES BID APPROVAL

Jessie Powers presented a recommendation from DLZ to award the visitor center utilities project bid to TAM Construction Incorporated in the amount of **\$1,032,086.80**.

Jay Kline made a motion to approve the bid recommendation and authorize advancement of the contract with TAM Construction Incorporated. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

NICA FEE WAIVER REQUEST

Jessie Powers presented a request from the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) to waive participant fees associated with the organization's mountain bike race event.

Discussion included:

- Supporting youth cycling initiatives
- Regional tourism impacts
- Long-term partnership development

Jay Kline made a motion to waive participant fees for the 2026 NICA event. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

ARISE GRANT MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

Jessie Powers requested Board authorization to execute Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) related to Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE grant applications, pending legal review.

Discussion included:



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- Partnerships with out-of-state organizations
- Submission requirements for grant applications due at the end of May
- Legal review prior to execution

Jay Kline made a motion to authorize Jessie Powers to execute the MOUs pending legal review. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADDITIONAL BOARD DISCUSSION

Jay Kline expressed optimism regarding the future direction of ORCA and emphasized the importance of collaboration between Board members and staff moving forward.

Tim Warren emphasized the importance of financial responsibility and careful evaluation of long-term expenditures and liabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Jay Kline made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.