# Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

# Meeting Minutes

# October 13, 2022, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*Prepared by Lucas Blankenship, lucas.baileystrails@gmail.com*

ORCA Board Members Present: ORCA Vice Chair Mayor of Chauncey Amy Renner, Nelsonville City Manager Scott Frank, Buchtel Councilmember Jay Kline, Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason (Not present: ORCA Chair Mayor of Athens Steve Patterson, York Township Trustee Tim Warren)

Others Present: ORCA Executive Director Jessie Powers, Director of Sustainable Recreation Elle Dickerman, Molly Jo Stanley, Sky Pettey, ORCA AmeriCorps Member Lucas Blankenship

# Meeting Agenda

* Approve Agenda
* Approve September 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes
* ORCA Board Member Updates
* Partner Updates
* Financial Report
* Director’s Report
* Maintenance Report
* Public Comments
* Other
* Adjourn

**Meeting Call to Order, 1:03 PM, Amy Renner**

# (Motion to Approve Agenda: Lenny Eliason, Second: Scott Frank; *Approved*)

* Amy Renner, Moving to the September, 8, 2022 meeting minutes, any changes?
* Jessie Powers, I did have to make one edit. I don’t know how but it didn’t reflect in here the amounts we were reimbursed. I think the amounts in this printed copy is not accurate. But I used the amounts that were approved at the last meeting.

**(Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2022 with Jessie’s edit: Tim Warren, Second: Lenny Eliason; *Approved*)**

**ORCA Board Member & Partner Updates**

* NONE

# Financial Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers

* Jessie Powers, So, it’s getting complex here with our two reimbursement grants.
  + Our balance as of 10/12/2022 is $393,495.40. Our deposits and expenses are listed above. Those include a reimbursement from the ARC, which is mainly going to partners. But we are receiving $5,318.89 of indirect, that was for ORCA. With our line of credit, we are transferring funds to cover expenses for construction.
  + So, when you take out our pending expenses in terms of construction invoices that we have paid, that haven’t hit our account yet and reimbursement for partners our actual balance is $82,573.32 for operations.
  + We do have more reimbursements that we need to request from Wayne National Forest, cost-share agreements, and we will be putting in another POWER reimbursement. We also be receiving funds that we already paid out of ORCA funds as a reimbursement.
  + The revenue of the proposed staff structure, no changes there.
  + Phase 4 construction amounts, we are up to $416,708.26 after the payment of the September round of bills.
  + We did recently receive October invoices so we are almost at the top of our $400,000 line of credit. My hope is that we can receive reimbursement before we have to pay October invoices from ODNR. We should have that grant agreement, they told me in mid-October and we will then request reimbursement immediately.
  + We do have the option with our line of credit to go up $500,000. So, pending we don’t get our reimbursement from ODNR in time. I would like to request the authority to have that extra $100,000 if we need it.
  + There is more detail here around the ARC grant budget, again our first reimbursement that we received on September 26 in the amount of $58,507.88 is largely going to partners with the indirect portion coming to ORCA.
  + We have also accrued expenses for the ARC grant that we will request reimbursement for in the amount of $13,709.12.
  + If there are questions on any of this, I can go into further detail, but I kind of wanted to give you guys a snapshot of where we are on all the projects and operations funding.
  + I would then like to request authorization to reimburse Elle for mileage in the amount of $62.50, Sky Pettey for putting our trademark filling on his personal credit card $350, and myself for mileage in the amount of $140.

# (Motion to Approve Financial Report, including reimbursement requests: Lenny Eliason, Second: Scott Frank; Approved)

# (Motion to Approve extending extra $100,000 line of credit if needed: Lenny Eliason, Second: Scott Frank; Approved)

**Director’s Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers**

* Jessie Powers, So the Ohio Builds Appalachian community grant program (House bill 377), we have an ongoing effort to make sure we’re in best position as possible to receive funding for that. I have a call tomorrow with the Governor’s office of Appalachia about the Ohio Builds program as well as the ARC ARISE program, which is the multi-state Appalachian Regional Commission Funding.
* A couple projects there potentially for ARISE that I would like to get GOA feedback on is the Outdoor Recreation and Vibrate economy strategy and the RIVERS project. So, we are already a partner in the pilot version of that. They do not have a good understanding from their leadership as what they might actually apply for ARC ARISE. I think there are a lot of outstanding clarification that is needed from ARC about their ARISE program. For instance, can we use funding for construction – this hasn’t been answered yet to my knowledge.
* The other potential project for ARISE would be kind of be a multi-state outdoor recreation economic growth acceleration concept. Something where we work with friends and partners in multiple states in West Virginia and Pennsylvania to really craft a proposal that could benefit multiple states and do some peer learning, professional development. What I would really like to get out of that would be cell phone data for visitation for the whole region. I think that would be super helpful and it would be very expensive. So, that would be a great outcome of that project and look forward to seeing what’s possible there. And looking forward to getting some feedback from the GOA on that.
* As well as some potential BUILDS ideas or I guess they could really be used for any kind of funding. We do know they are going to release planning and implementation dollars this year and we would like to get implementation to complete the Baileys Trails System. So, completing the rest of the trails, the trailhead, and Nelsonville connector. If we can lump in the visitor center we absolutely will. We did apply for that with AMLER and that might be the best source of that for that project.
* And planning ideas are, or kind of things that have risen to the top in having all these BUILDS conversations would be heritage tourism planning and the other assets there. And then the Capital-to-Capital bike trail project for planning. Which is something I believe we talked to which would eventually connect Columbus, Ohio to Washington, D.C. while using the existing bike ways in the region.
* So, we’re in a really good position to talk about all these. Thanks to our Buckeye Hills SEDS update, which calls out outdoor recreation tourism as an economic opportunity for the region as well as our work with the POWER grant, mainly in development of Recreation Asset Assessment and Plan, we met with 8 out of our 10 counties and have some good information there. We also have some good insights as to what recreation managers are needing and kind of where those capacity gaps are where ORCA could potentially fill for those folks.
* Construction- we already touched on in detail, we are looking to open some of the new trails as soon as we can complete the maps and signage. But that will be exciting and we’ll probably do a couple of phases of that, getting what’s ready to open now as soon as possible.
* Just a recap on the ODNR AMLER grant we did put those in, haven’t heard anything back from ODNR. I think the earliest we could expect to hear from them would be the end of October.
* The AWOADC meets next week. Mountain bike rental is up and running. We have the MOU from Outdoor Pursuits for bike rentals, so that’s exciting. We will be doing a revenue share with them in exchange of the use of our bike fleet. The bikes are here in the trailer and we have the documentation and it took less then a year, so that’s pretty exciting.
* We do have are first sponsor, Athens Roller Derby is going to be our sponsor at the Tier 1 level which is very exciting.

* I did not get to attend the FLEA meeting in Washington County last month, but plan to go this month.
* I did present at the Appalachia Forward event in West Portsmouth and listened to the GOA conversation around the Ohio Builds proposal. And if you guys haven’t seen it, the Mayors Partnership for Progress has a good list of bullet points, take aways there. And I guess the only one I didn’t see on their list was they did say they were going to give us 30 days to put the applications together.
* Amy Renner, 30 days for like implementation and planning?
* Jessie Power, Yes, in round 1 at least.
* Amy Renner, Okay, that’s not very long for us slow pokes with no capacity.
* Jessie Powers, Yeah, like the whole region?
* So, we’re thinking about it a lot and trying to make sure we’re in a really good spot there. And as that guidance rolls out let us know what you members need. We do have Scott and Kaylen on staff, or on our payroll for the ARC work and the development of the Recreation Asset and Development plan. This work is absolutely a part of that, in agreeing that pipeline for funding, so let us know.
* We received 8 applications for the Director of Communications and Philanthropy position and we are working on narrowing down candidates there and starting to schedule some of those interviews in the next two weeks. Also, very qualified candidates, it just going to be tough to narrow them down to where we don’t have to interview everyone. It’s exciting that there is interest in the position so I’m working now to provide the interview committee with more guidance on the day-to-day role that this position will fill at ORCA. And we’ll work to narrow those down. If anyone is interested sitting in on the interview committee, feel free to let me know and we’ll add you to the invites. We are planning for first rounds of interviews to be online.
* The only other thing I have is we need to sign basically a revenue replacement agreement from the bank for our line of credit. But I need at least three board members signatures, so let’s do that today.

**Maintenance Report**

* Elle Dickerman, So we had a bit of a slower month volunteer-wise. We had a few work days that were scheduled but not enough people signed-up. We will run things if two people sign-up, so our guess is it’s a pretty busy month for people. The weekends are busy with people doing sports with kids on the weekends and in the evenings. So, it may not be a great time to be doing volunteer trail maintenance. Which is a little unfortunate because its perfect conditions. However; we have run two full workdays with the Wayne National Forest Service staff so we have still been able to address trail maintenance needs with them. Those have been fantastic; they work really hard. They do a full 10-hour day on the trail; we have gotten complements on the work they have done so far. We have another day with them this upcoming Monday.
* One other update is with the Wayne National Forest we applied for 3 different volunteer vacation crews which are these week-long things people can sign-up for and volunteer and travel. So, they come here volunteer for the week, check out the area, the Wayne has an area for them to camp. They provide their own food and transportation. So, it’s a no cost way to get some work done and bring some new people in. I’m excited to see if those get accepted and fill up because I think those would be great. I think one would be spring, one in fall, and another one in kind of depends on when the organization would want it.

# Public Comments

NONE

**Other**

* Sky Pettey, I guess I could update on the trademark application. It was filed in September and I got a response email that the average wait time for their first response to us is 8.2 months. So, we won’t hold our breath. The average wait time for a final resolution is 14 months. So, the US Patten and Trademark office is not moving fast on their applications these days.
* But we do get in line in their system, so if anyone else tried to patten or trademark Baileys Trails System or our logo we would have precedence over them. So, in 8 months or so I’ll give you another update.

**Motion to Adjourn: Lenny Eliason Second: Scott Frank; *Approved*)**