

Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

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Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia Meeting Minutes March 17, 2021

*Prepared by Jasmine Facun
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ORCA Board Members Present: ORCA Chair Mayor Steve Patterson, ORCA Vice Chair Mayor Amy Renner, York Township Trustee President Tim Warren, Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason, ORCA Secretary Nelsonville City Manager Scott Frank.

Others present: Jessie Powers, Jasmine Facun, Don Gossel, Bob West, Will Drabold, Jason Reed, Amanda Sharrai, Bill Hayes, Dawn McCarthy, Jack Cera, Rob Delach, Zachary Space, Sierra Faris, Chris Chimel, Nick Tepe, Connaught Cullen, Seth Brown

o **Meeting Agenda (Amy Renner Motion, Lenny Eliason Second - Approved):**

Approve Agenda

Sunday Creek Horizons Update

Approve Minutes from February 17, 2021 & February 25, 2021

Social Media & Website Report

Approve Financial Report

ORCA Office

Director's Report

ORCA Economic Development Assistance

Other Business

Public Comments

Adjourn

- **Sunday Creek Horizons**

Zach Space, Sunday Creek Horizons

- Significant progress in funding
 - OH budget process
 - Secured Rep. Edwards & Rep. Stewart to provide amendments to budget
 - Needs to pass Senate after House, then reconciled with Governor's budget
 - American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds could be another avenue
 - Jack talking to Dan McCarthy
 - Also talking to ODNR
 - If unsuccessful with ARP funds, OH budget will be priority

Jack Cera, Sunday Creek Horizons

- Recognizes need for ORCA in region
- Conversations with Jay Edwards
 - Going to meet with Rep. Edwards Friday
- Rep. Oelslager
 - Reached out but hasn't connected yet
- Spoken regularly with Dan McCarthy
- ORCA model can be replicated
 - Need for joint effort with legislators
- Registered as a lobbyist now

Steve Patterson

- Note on who serves on the ORCA Board and that it has a large scope, beyond a single county, city, or township

Lenny Eliason

- Question about whether we should start reaching out to Senate now or wait for House to pass budget

Jack Cera, Sunday Creek Horizons

- There is time but we should start the process now of reaching out to the Senate
- Very pleased with the reaction he's received so far
- Getting ORCA into Operating Budget is difficult but doable
- The amendments have been offered but now the Chairman and Speaker will review
- Still need to reach out to other Reps farther south

Amy Renner

- Conversations in Chauncey are unprecedented
- Happy to put stories forward
- Addressing systemic issues that were decades in the making
 - Future is bright!

Steve Patterson

- Glad SCH sees this as economic development project—agrees

Zach Space, Sunday Creek Horizons

- Recommends continuation of contract through end of budget period with caveat that work with cease if get into ARP
- Communications piece—would like to push story in Columbus Dispatch
 - Gov. DeWine reads Dispatch
 - Leverage resources to put stories in front of decision makers

Jessie Powers

- Pleased with progress

Seth Brown, Quantified Ventures

- Tracking through US Forest Service

Dawn McCarthy, Wayne National Forest

- While most of trails are on federal land, trailheads and some trails connect directly in and to communities

◦ **Minutes from February 17, 2021 & February 25, 2021
(Lenny Eliason Motion, Tim Warren Second - Approved)**

◦ **Social Media & Website Report**

Jasmine Facun, Rural Action

- Twitter: 163 followers
 - Outside Magazine gave a good bump on impressions, will be looking for more publication opportunities
- Instagram: 1444 followers
 - Top posts were the Businesses of the Baileys
- Facebook: 2039 followers
 - Reaching more women
- Website – will be soon resuming blog posts
- Highlighted the Businesses of the Baileys and Humans of the Baileys posts
- Blog—intern Alexis will be writing more this month
- Business at the Baileys feature did really well—will continue with this feature

◦ **Financial Report**

Jessie Powers

- Request reimbursement \$60.74
- Balance \$18,946
- \$43,900 & \$29,619 will be reimbursed

(Tim Warren Motion, Amy Renner Second - Approved Report & Reimbursement Request)

◦ **ORCA Office**

Jessie Powers

- Integrated Services continues to evaluate options for use for their building in Chauncey
- Quidel has donated office equipment and Athens County is graciously providing storage- thank you both

o **Director's Report**

Jessie Powers

- ODNR Abandoned Mine Land
 - o Continued conversations about funding and narrowing scope of work by end of month
- Success with State of Ohio support
 - o State seems to realize broad benefits
- Conversation with Athens County Impact Investment
 - o Due diligence
 - o Dependent on memberships
- Membership fee structure
 - o Will be able to utilize impact investment and state
 - o Critical to narrative
 - o Populations >20,000 fee \$90,000 annually
 - **(Lenny Eliason moved to amend bylaws to adopt membership fee; Amy Renner second)**
 - Tim Warren—concerned about \$500 fee
 - Amy Renner—In-kind is acceptable
 - Jessie Powers—possible language change
 - **Lenny Eliason—Amendment: membership fee should read “cash or assistance”**
 - **Approved**
 - o Village of Buchtel to join ORCA
(Amy Renner Motion, Lenny Eliason Second - Approved)

Chris Chmiel, Athens County Commissioner

- Question if Lenny Eliason will vote on membership in Commissioner meeting
 - o No, Lenny Eliason will recuse himself

o **ORCA Economic Development Assistance**

Jessie Powers

- Can advance nonprofit filing pending legal guidance and review also pending legal counsel advice as to leader of both ORCA and nonprofit
 - o Still working on application to IRS for nonprofit status

- Hoping to have by early April, if not sooner
- Request authorization for contract with Applied Trails Research
- **(Amy Renner Motion, Lenny Eliason Second - Approved)**

Lenny Eliason

- Going back to question about leadership of ORCA/nonprofit
 - Suggests Jessie Powers percentage of time be allocated to work with nonprofit and remainder ORCA
 - Sky Pettey agrees with this approach
- Fee tubes installed today
- Sponsorship signs
 - Need to decide size
- Construction
 - Not selected for People for Bikes Grant
 - Will not request money for construction again for small grants
 - AEP Grant opportunity in the Fall with nonprofit status secured
 - WNF submitted ODNR RTP grant—Phase 4 trail construction in 2022
 - Contract awarded to Linear Active
 - ARC grant LOI submitted
 - ORCA will be main applicant
 - Extended service area to include 7 counties (Meigs and Washington added)
 - Sponsorship Flyer is complete
 - One more page needed to highlight community benefits
 - OU students created draft event policy for ORCA Adaptation
 - Will work with Chauncey
 - Maintenance
 - Village of Chauncey would like to receive \$13,442 (split bi-annually) to cover additional maintenance expenses
 - Village of Chauncey would also like to receive 50% of donations from fee tube/QR code donations
 - Will discuss at next meeting to get more clarification on fees

Seth Brown, Quantified Ventures

- Is it ORCA's decision to give fees to Chauncey or does it have to go through nonprofit?

○ **Other Business**

Steve Patterson

- Safety meetings should be included into event policy

Donald Gossel (Athens County EMA Director)

- Infrastructure should be in place to support trails beforehand
- GIS layer has to be built and put into 911 system

- In progress now
- Should have a response planning committee to address questions from Fire Department
- Would like to do an exercise before event to see what's entailed to extract someone from trails and if they can execute successful rescue
 - Steve Patterson
 - Recommends tasking Fire Depts with training and using Athens FD to help in this effort
 - Jason Reed, Wayne National Forest
 - WNF, ORCA, and EMA should meet and piece together the structure

Jessie Powers

Resolution for extending Sunday Creek Horizons by another month

(Steve Patterson Motion, Lenny Eliason Second - Approved)

○ **Public Comments**

Jason Reed, Wayne National Forest

- Shout-out to Athens Bicycle Club for collecting data
 - Possibilities of having a different seasonality for trails opening
 - Signs will be going up soon for new trails

Rob Delach, Athens Bicycle Club

- 3/27/21 will be a trail work day

○ **Adjourn**

(Lenny Eliason Motion, Tim Warren Second - Approved)