



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets

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Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025 | 1:00 PM

Prepared by: Delia Palmisano (info@orcaohio.com)

ORCA Board Members Present:

- Jay Kline, Buchtel Council Member
- Tim Warren, York Township Trustee
- Tammy Hawk, Interim Mayor of Chauncey
- Fred Holmes, Interim City Manager of Nelsonville

Others Present:

Jessie Powers, Delia Palmisano, Reid Courtney, Sky Pettey

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Tim Warren.

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: To approve the meeting agenda.

- *Motion by:* Jay Kline
 - *Second by:* Fred Holmes
 - *Vote:* All in favor
- Motion carried*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 meeting.

- *Motion by:* Jay Kline
- *Second by:* Tim Warren
- *Vote:* All in favor
- *Fred Holmes abstained*
- *Motion carried*

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- Jay Kline reported progress at the Snow Fork Trailhead and shared updates about a July 9th meeting with ODOT and other local leaders regarding a potential Safe Routes to School project along SR 78.
- Tammy Hawk shared Chauncey is preparing for upcoming races, streetscape work, and has installed a new mural on Village Hall.
- Fred Holmes requested clarification on Nelsonville's ORCA membership dues and in-kind contributions, which will be tied to future maintenance of the pump station at the new trailhead.

PARTNER UPDATE

Reid Courtney (Sunday Creek Horizons)

- ORCA's \$1M budget earmark (\$500K/year) was removed in the Senate's version of the state budget. The final decision was pending at the time of the meeting, with positive signals.
- Governor DeWine's line-item veto authority will be the last checkpoint.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Concerns raised by Tammy Hawk about inconsistencies in mileage reimbursements. Jessie Powers to review and correct as needed.

MOTION: To approve the financial report pending review of mileage reimbursements.

- *Motion by:* Jay Kline
- *Second by:* Tammy Hawk
- *Vote:* All in favor
- *Fred Holmes abstained*
- *Motion carried*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Presented by Jessie Powers)

1. **Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference**
 - ~27 sessions and ~50 speakers planned. Registration is ongoing with strong numbers.
2. **Grant Updates**
 - **USDA RBDG:** Extension requested due to delays.

- **AMLER Grant:** Extended through Dec. 2026; design of the hub is underway with DLZ.
- **POWER Grant:** Supporting conference and regional branding; initial logo concepts in development.
- **ACGP Projects:** Trailhead construction has begun. Trail construction moving quickly, but high invoices require increased line of credit.
- 3. **Line of Credit Increase**

MOTION: To authorize ORCA to increase its line of credit up to \$800,000 depending on the final amount the bank will authorize.

 - *Motion by:* Tammy Hawk
 - *Second by:* Tim Warren
 - *Vote:* All in favor
 - *Motion carried*
- 4. **Emergency Response Equipment**
 - Equipment has been distributed; final training and demo to be finalized.
- 5. **Mobile Bike Rental Facility**
 - Opened at Chauncey-Dover Trailhead. Exploring grant amendment options to develop a permanent power solution and concrete walkway.
- 6. **Funding and Sustainability**
 - Awaiting reimbursement from ODNR. Final trail connection easement following updated bridge location last pending item to be resolved as soon as possible.
 - Exploring long-term sustainability strategies, including a shift away from traditional membership dues.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (Presented by Delia Palmisano)

- 107 registered for the 2025 OOREC; target: 150
- Press release published in *Athens Messenger*
- Social media growth:
 - Facebook: 5,715 followers (+110)
 - Instagram: 3,072 followers (+168)
 - LinkedIn: 192 followers (+58)
 - Newsletter subscribers: 760 (+54)

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- AmeriCorps and summer youth crews have begun work.
- Crews are constructing kiosks to improve trail signage and reduce recurring costs.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Discussion around the future of ORCA's financial model and governance structure.
 - Consideration of eliminating membership dues in favor of strategic partnerships and regional advocacy.
 - Jessie Powers noted administrative funds on nearly \$11M of grant funded development is not sufficient for work required to deploy grant investments nor long-term operational sustainability.
 - New AWODC board members onboarded.
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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

- *Motion by:* Jay Kline
- *Second by:* Fred Holmes
- *Vote:* All in favor
Motion carried

Meeting adjourned.