

April 11, 2016 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Mike Mills
Dave Walker
Chris Johns
Bill Lavage
Heather Good
Dr. Victor Marks
Greg Kovalick
Kevin Herritt
Joe Ward

Denny Piatt
Bob Stoudt

Public:

Emily Kovalick
Elijah Evans
Katie Hess
Jenn Kline
Wayne Kashner
Travis Grobes (Montour County Bucks)
Sigmund Wisnieski (Montour County Bucks)
Lloyd Bunch

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mike Mills.

President's Report

President Mills noted the particularly tight time limit for discussion at this meeting due to a very full agenda. No other report.

Treasurer's Report

In Commissioner Holdren's absence, Stoudt delivered an abbreviated treasurer's report. The updated reports from Ozark & Shultz were not done in time for this meeting. Stoudt noted several items of interest in the internally produced reports, including the fact that MARC had received the long-awaited \$19,688.97 North Branch Canal Trail grant reimbursement from Williams Transco/The Conservation Fund and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

Washingtonville Borough

Stoudt noted the upcoming April 23 Washingtonville cleanup day.

Danville Borough

Greg Kovalick noted the upcoming Trek demo day at Hopewell Park, as well as the need for repairs to the trail bridges at Hopewell Park, a possible upcoming photography class by Dave Ashby at the park and

the desire by some park users for a bike cleaning station. Greg also discussed a desire to possibly rebuild the Hess Field bike skills park, time and funding permitting.

Riverside Borough

Bill Lavage noted the Borough of Riverside's interest in rehabilitating the river access near the Cherokee/Merck plant. Stoudt is investigating permitting requirements that might come into play with the project.

Montour County

Stoudt noted the April 7 meeting w/ Stoudt and Beam, DCNR Secretary Dunn and other DCNR officials, Senator John Gordner, Representative Kurt Masser, Montour County Commissioners Holdren and Hartman and others regarding the Montour Preserve. DCNR grant funding is not likely because MARC does not own or have a long-term lease on the property, but DCNR will investigate possible options MARC might pursue and will contact Senator Gordner and/or Representative Masser with recommendations. Stoudt will also follow up with DCNR.

Danville Area School District

Chris Johns reported that the district had not yet appointed a second representative to MARC's board to replace Jamie Hosterman.

Public Comment

Travis Grobes and Sigmund Wisnieski spoke regarding the Montour County Bucks use of the Hess Recreation Area. The team is part of the Greater Eastern Football League and has been using Hess on occasion since last fall. Stoudt has been having considerable difficulty getting payment and information from the team and suspended the team's use of the facility on April 10 after significant damages were found on April 9, including significant damage to the turf, disassembly of site fencing, a substantial mess in the restroom facilities and other problems. Mr. Grobes and Mr. Wisnieski admitted to the turf damages, but were unaware of the issues with the fencing or the restrooms. Two \$50 checks were presented to MARC to bring the team up to date with required fees and Mr. Grobes and Mr. Wisnieski vowed to represent the team from this point forward, repairing any damages at the team's sole expense and coordinating scheduling and other matters. After a discussion of the matter, MARC's board agreed to allow the team to make the required repairs and resume use of MARC-operated facilities pending Stoudt's confirmation of the required actions.

Assistant Director's Report

Stoudt read aloud the written report included as page 9 of the agenda packet.

Maintenance Technician's Report

Denny Piatt noted the key points in his report, included as page 10 of the agenda packet.

Director's Report

Stoudt noted the key points in his report, included as pages 11 – 17 of the agenda packet. Of particular note, MARC received the North Branch Canal Trail grant reimbursement, North Branch Canal Trail permits are now all in hand, USG recently pledged \$10,000 to the Montour Preserve, the Montour County Auditors recently reported no findings with MARC's 2015 audit and volunteers are needed for the May 7 River Towns Half-Marathon.

Stoudt's expense report was reviewed. Motion by Bill Lavage to approve, seconded by Dave Walker; motion approved unanimously.

Old Business

Stoudt noted the recent results of Montour County's invitation for bids for \$118,500 in financing for the North Branch Canal Trail (to provide funding for MARC until grant reimbursements are received). FNB Bank offered the lowest rate of four submissions (FNB Bank @ 0.61%, First Columbia Bank & Trust Co. @ 0.79%, Service 1st Federal Credit Union @ 1.95% and M&T Bank @ 2.43%). Montour County is expected to award the agreement to FNB Bank at the county's April 12 Commissioners' meeting. MARC will be able to draw funds from the county within an estimated 3 – 4 weeks after April 12.

New Business

Stoudt presented an overview of the PA Master Naturalist partnership agreement provided as pages 19 – 22 of the meeting agenda packet. After a brief discussion of the merits of the program and the obligations to MARC, a motion was made by Chris Johns to approved, seconded by Dr. Victor Marks; the motion passed unanimously.

Stoudt presented an overview of the possibility of MARC hosting an intern from Bloomsburg University during the summer of 2016. Stoudt reviewed the required internship agreement provided as pages 23 – 25 of the meeting agenda packet. Bill Lavage made a motion to approve, seconded by Chris Johns; the motion passed unanimously.

Stoudt presented an overview of the Montour Preserve Cooperative Service Agreement with the US Dept. of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), included as pages 26 – 29 of the meeting agenda packet. Such an agreement had been in place between APHIS and PPL, but was allowed to lapse in 2014/2015. Canada goose numbers at the Preserve have been increasing and may begin to pose a threat to human health. A motion was made by Dr. Victor Marks to approve, seconded by Chris Johns; the motion passed unanimously.

Stoudt discussed ongoing problems with the Montour Preserve visitors' center/environmental education center's security system. Despite repeated repairs, the system is obsolete and in need of replacement. Stoudt discussed the proposal from Tyco Integrated Security, included as pages 30 – 35 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt also noted the cost estimate received from Secure 1 First, LLC. Per the terms of MARC's lease with Talen Energy, MARC must maintain the facility and its contents in good working order. In the event MARC is unable to continue the lease, the building and all contents revert to Talen Energy. A motion was made by Bill Lavage to approve the Tyco Integrated Security agreement, seconded by Kevin Herritt; motion passed unanimously.

Stoudt noted a need for additional help with cleaning the Montour Preserve facilities and restrooms. Stoudt noted that too much of Denny Piatt's time was being taken by routine cleaning tasks, leaving too little time for other pressing maintenance tasks. Stoudt requested permission to hire a cleaning firm to assist with Montour Preserve cleaning. A motion was made by Greg Kovalick, seconded by Heather Good; the motion passed unanimously.

Stoudt discussed the 2016/2017 River Towns Race Series insurance policy renewal, provided as page 36 of the meeting agenda packet. Motion by Dr. Victor Marks to approve, seconded by Chris Johns; motion approved unanimously.

Stoudt discussed the North Branch Canal Trail Construction and North Branch Canal Trail Materials invitation to bid packages. Motion by Mike Mills to approve, seconded by Bill Lavage; motion passed unanimously. Stoudt will advertise immediately, to be opened and awarded at MARC's May 9, 2016 meeting.

Stoudt presented an updated lease agreement received from Talen Energy for the continued operation and maintenance of the sports fields and related areas at the East Branch Recreation Area. All terms of the agreement remain unchanged except that the annual payment will decrease from \$10,000 to \$9,000. Talen Energy shall be responsible for the repair of any damages to the site in excess of \$250 (except those caused by MARC-approved users). Motion by Kevin Herritt to approve, seconded by Dr. Victor Marks; motion approved unanimously.

Stoudt noted recent discussions with Jamie Shrawder, Danville Borough's new Administrator of Governmental Affairs. The Borough of Danville is considering options for the creation of a community garden. Stoudt will continue discussions with Shrawder and others and will report back to MARC's board regarding any possible MARC involvement with the project. No formal action taken on this topic.

Other Items

No other items were discussed.

Adjournment

Motion by Greg Kovalick, seconded by Chris Johns to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Stoudt
(acting secretary)