

May 9, 2016 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Mike Mills
 Commissioner Ken Holdren
 Dave Walker
 Chris Johns
 Heather Good
 Dr. Victor Marks

Bob Stoudt

Public:

Elijah Evans (Elijah Evans Excavating)
 Dave Decoteau (Earthscapes / Riverside Adventure Co.)
 Jason Williams (Earthwork Services)
 Wayne Kashner
 Lloyd Bunch
 Ralph Schumacher
 Kathy Schumacher
 Jenna Cole
 Melissa Owens

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by President Mike Mills.

President's Report

President Mills noted that only six board members were present, so no official business could be conducted. No other report.

New Business

North Branch Canal Trail Construction and North Branch Canal Trail Materials bid opening – Two bids were received for both the North Branch Canal Trail Construction and North Branch Canal Trail Materials invitation for bids. The bid results are as follows:

NORTH BRANCH CANAL TRAIL MATERIALS BIDS		
BIDDER NUMBER (AS OPENED)	1	2
BIDDER NAME	Earthwork Services, LLC	Elijah Evans Excavating, LLC
18" HDPE PIPE 10LF (X4)	381.00	424.00
24" HDPE PIPE 10LF (X5)	776.00	900.00
36" HDPE PIPE 10LF (X1)	278.00	300.00
36" HDPE PIPE 15LF (X2)	835.00	900.00
72" TYPE II ALUMINUM PIPE 30LF (X2)	5,065.00	10,578.00
18" HDPE PIPE FLARED END (X4)	782.00	812.00
24" HDPE PIPE FLARED END (X5)	1,244.00	1,302.50
36" HDPE PIPE FLARED END (X3)	2,075.01	1,704.00
TOTAL BID	11,436.01	16,920.50

NORTH BRANCH CANAL TRAIL CONSTRUCTION BIDS		
BIDDER NUMBER (AS OPENED)	1	2
BIDDER NAME	Earthwork Services, LLC	Elijah Evans Excavating, LLC
BID AMOUNT	\$ 43,291.00	\$ 64,265.00
ADDENDUM A (OPTIONAL)	\$ 30,871.00	\$ -
ADDENDUM B (OPTIONAL)	\$ 7,977.00	\$ 3,800.00
TOTAL BID	\$ 82,139.00	\$ 68,065.00

Earthwork Services, LLC was found to be the low bidder for both contracts. Stoudt will immediately verify the references, insurance coverages and other requirements for Earthwork Services, LLC and will consult with Solicitor Marks for his review before making a recommendation to MARC's Board for action. These reviews should be conducted within 24 – 48 hours so that the process can remain on schedule.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Ken Holdren provided an overview of MARC's April reports from Ozark & Shultz Accounting. Commissioner Holdren noted the limited amount of funds available as unrestricted general funds, currently approximately \$3,400. Commissioner Holdren noted that this matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mike Mills noted the \$100 earmarked in MARC's account for the Hess Recreation Area skatepark, asking Stoudt to determine whether the original donor might wish to have the funds refunded or applied to general skatepark maintenance. Stoudt will research the original donor and attempt to answer this question.

Secretary's Report

In Secretary Tyler Dombroski's absence, Stoudt provided hard copies of the April minutes. No comments or corrections were noted.

Washingtonville Borough

No representatives present; no report.

Danville Borough

No representatives present; no report.

Riverside Borough

Dr. Victor Marks reported no new developments regarding Riverside Borough.

Montour County

Commissioner Holdren noted that the Montour County Commissioners and Stoudt met with representatives of US Senator Toomey's office on 4/19 to discuss options for sustaining the Montour Preserve. Senator Toomey's staff provided leads on a number of possible grant opportunities MARC might pursue.

Commissioner Holdren also noted that Commissioners Holdren and Hartman met with Stoudt and a representative of the Degenstein Foundation to discuss possible Montour Preserve support. Stoudt has been tasked with submitting an application for possible matching grant funding.

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, but discussions are ongoing.

Public Comment

Ralph Schumacher reminded meeting attendees of the 5/28 Schumacher Rugby Classic, to be held at the Hess Recreation Area.

Dave Decoteau recommended MARC consider applying for Central Susquehanna Community Foundation Youth in Philanthropy grant opportunities, particularly for the possible expansion of the Hess Recreation Area skatepark. Stoudt will investigate the program to learn more.

Dave Decoteau also questioned whether the Danville Area School District had considered forming a mountain biking team, to become part of a state-wide organization of such teams. Chris Johns pledged to learn more about the potential opportunity.

Kathleen Schumacher reported that an acquaintance might be interested in learning more about possible concessionaire opportunities at the Montour Preserve. Stoudt asked that she speak with him after the meeting to discuss in more detail.

Old Business

MARC Board members, staff and audience members discussed the results of the North Branch Canal Trail Construction and North Branch Canal Trail Materials bid openings. Stoudt is tasked with determining whether MARC can afford to enter into both contracts as proposed, while also affording all other materials and tasks remaining to successfully complete the project before October 1. In particular, Stoudt must check with the North Shore Railroad to learn whether their staff and equipment might transport materials to the work sites and, if so, at what cost.

Assistant Director's Report

Stoudt read aloud the written report included in the agenda packet.

Maintenance Technician's Report

Stoudt read aloud the written report included in the agenda packet.

Director's Report

Stoudt's expense report was reviewed, with Dave Walker suggesting MARC consider opening an account with Sam's Club as a way to purchase materials more cheaply. No other comments or questions were noted.

Stoudt noted the key points in his report, deferring discussion to the 'Other Items' portion of the meeting agenda.

New Business

Stoudt reported no new business for consideration.

Other Items

Stoudt referred the attendees' attention to MARC's accounting earmarks chart, noting again the roughly \$3,400 available as unrestricted general funds. Stoudt cautioned that this amount of funding would allow MARC roughly 30 days of operations at those sites not funded by earmarked funds, namely the Hess Recreation Area, Hopewell Park/Danville Borough Farm, River Drive trailhead & river access and Montour Township lot, as well as general organizational administration.

Stoudt noted that MARC has little to no reliable funding on a year-to-year basis, relying heavily on revenues generated by the River Towns Race Series and Montour County Commissioners' Tourism Fund grants and Act 13 (Marcellus Shale Impact Fee) funds. As recently as last year, Montour County provided a combined total of \$45,000 in funding support to MARC, including \$15,000 in Commissioners' Tourism Funds for advertising and promotion of the River Towns Race Series, \$15,000 in general organizational support from the Commissioners' Tourism Fund and an additional \$15,000 in Act 13 fees for general organizational support.

In 2016 year-to-date, Montour County has provided \$15,000 in Commissioners' Tourism Fund funding, allocated as \$10,000 for River Towns Race Series advertising and promotion and \$5,000 in support of efforts to make the Montour Preserve a travel and tourism destination. The county does not have sufficient funds

available in the Commissioners' Tourism Fund to provide the additional \$15,000 in general operating support, nor does it know what amount of funding it might receive this year from the Act 13 fees.

As a result, barring some major unexpected development, Stoudt advised the attendees that MARC will be able to operate the Hess Recreation Area, Hopewell Park/Danville Borough Farm, River Drive trailhead & river access and Montour Township lot, as well as perform general organizational administration, for roughly thirty days. MARC will be able to continue to operate the Montour Preserve and East Branch Recreation Area because of specifically earmarked funds and it will be able to continue work on the North Branch Canal Trail because of grant funding, but other work will soon have to be suspended.

A lengthy discussion ensued among MARC board members, staff and meeting attendees, seeking to come up with options for more reliable funding. Commissioner Holdren noted the lack of support for tax funding of recreation and dismissed the idea as exceedingly unlikely. Dave Decoteau noted park/trail user donation models found elsewhere to sustain particular parks and trail areas, but noted the idea was unlikely to generate enough revenue to fund MARC's entire operations. In the end, a general consensus was reached that MARC will continue to struggle without a stable, predictable source of funding and will continue to fall dangerously far behind in routine maintenance of existing sites.

Stoudt will continuously monitor MARC's finances and will provide regular updates to board members as needed. If additional funding does not become available, Stoudt will have no choice but to suspend operations at unfunded sites and notify local elected officials and the general public accordingly. It is unclear what consequences might result from MARC's inability to maintain the sites in question.

Adjournment

President Mills adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Stoudt
(acting secretary)
5/10/16