

August 8, 2016 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Commissioner Ken Holdren
Chris Johns
Heather Good
Greg Kovalick
Joe Ward
Dr. Victor Marks
David Walker
Kevin Herritt

Bob Stoudt

Public:

Lloyd Bunch

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Commissioner Ken Holdren in the absence of President Mills and Vice President Dombroski.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report

No President's report.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Holdren provided an overview of MARC's financial statements. Commissioner Holdren noted that the reports from Ozark & Shultz were received too late to be distributed before this meeting. Commissioner Holdren and Stoudt met earlier today to review the reports and noted several errors to be corrected. Corrected reports will be provided at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Holdren briefly noted the earmarks report provided as part of the meeting agenda packet and also called attention to the Montour Preserve income/expense report provided in the agenda packet. MARC continues to operate the Preserve under budget estimates for the year-to-date and hopes to finish the year well under budget.

Commissioner Holdren provided a brief update regarding the recently announced grants from the Commonwealth of PA to Montour County for the Montour Preserve. A total of \$200,000 in grant funding, expected to come through DCNR, will be disbursed to Montour County to pass through to MARC for the Montour Preserve. Commissioner Holdren anticipates more detail in the near future.

Commissioner Holdren noted MARC's anticipated receipt of a \$25,000 grant from the Degenstein Foundation for the Montour Preserve. It remains to be seen whether the grant might be used as a challenge grant to stimulate matching donations. A final determination is expected in September.

Motion by Kevin Herritt to approve the financial reports, 2nd by Chris Johns. Motion approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report

In Secretary Tyler Dombroski's absence, Commissioner Holdren provided an overview of the June minutes. Motion by Dr. Marks to approve the minutes, 2nd by Chris Johns. Motion approved unanimously.

PARTNER REPORTS

Washingtonville Borough

No representatives present; no report.

Danville Borough

Kevin Herritt inquired about the recently considered community garden project. Stoudt reported that Danville Borough staff had learned of an existing community garden at the Danville Child Development Center (DCDC) facility along Bloom Road. Borough staff and Stoudt recommended against the creation of a new garden that would compete with the existing effort at the DCDC and will refer any interested parties to the DCDC for more information.

Stoudt noted the significant assistance of John Hack and Danville Borough public works employees with recent upgrades at the Hess Recreation Area pavilion. Specifically, borough staff removed the deteriorating bushes around the pavilion, added mulch to the gardens and fixed the grates on the stone barbeque. MARC is very grateful for the borough's assistance with this project.

Kevin Herritt noted the ongoing consideration of projects for Community Development Block Grant funding. Possible projects include new restrooms at the Washies' Playground, a swim program at the DACC and bridge repairs on the Montour Street bridge across Mahoning Creek. Stoudt noted Danville Riverfront and Open Space Master Plan support for bridge repairs to improve pedestrian safety, particularly on the northern (upstream) side of the bridge where most races and special events cross the bridge.

Greg Kovalick noted the recently held Danville Heritage Festival and 5k and the Montour 24 Endurance Races/Wine in the Pines. Both events made extensive use of the Hess Recreation Area.

Riverside Borough

Stoudt noted that he and intern Alana Crisp had recently completed some vegetation clearing work at the Riverside Borough river access. A second visit will be required to get the site into a more user-friendly condition. Signage will also be needed before Stoudt recommends advertising the site to the public. Stoudt will follow up with Riverside Borough for next steps regarding signage and other possible questions.

Montour County

Commissioner Holdren noted the county's intent to release an additional \$15,000 contribution to MARC from the county's Act 13 funds. The funds will likely be released before the end of the month.

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. Jeremy Winn is noted as an alternate member for MARC's Board and may soon begin serving. Chris will seek new opportunities for student involvement with MARC. Chris also noted possible work on artificial turf and track.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt read aloud the written report included in the agenda packet. Dr. Marks complimented Jon's accomplishments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt's expense report was reviewed. No concerns or objections were noted. Motion by Commissioner Holdren to approve, 2nd by Frank Dombroski. Motion approved unanimously.

Stoudt presented several bills for payment, including an invoice for recently completed work on the Montour Preserve's HVAC system. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the cost of this service, particularly regarding return visits to replace incorrect parts, but a decision was made to pay the invoice. Motion by Commissioner Holdren to approve, 2nd by Bill Lavage. Motion approved unanimously.

Stoudt read aloud highlights of the Director's report included in the agenda packet, making particular note of the recently conducted Montour 24 race. Stoudt credited Dave Walker, his family and friends, for making the race a solid success.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Stoudt noted a pressing need to purchase a utility trailer for maintenance work at the Montour Preserve as well as for use at other sites and during special events. Stoudt and Piatt have researched available models and believe one can be purchased for less than the amount of funds provided by PPL in 2015 for the purchase of a trailer and/or utility vehicle. Stoudt hopes to use a portion of the \$3,000 grant for the purchase of a utility trailer, probably about \$2,000 to \$2,250, and use the remainder for repairs to the Bobcat utility vehicle recently donated to MARC by USG. Motion by Bill Lavage to approve the purchase of a utility trailer (subject to Stoudt and Piatt shopping around for the best price), seconded by Chris Johns. Motion approved unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

Commissioner Holdren noted a recent meeting with Talen Energy to discuss fundraising options at the Montour Preserve.

Stoudt noted that intern Alana Crisp's internship will end on August 12. Stoudt requested approval to provide a \$500 stipend to Crisp as thanks for her assistance. Motion by Commissioner Holdren to approve, seconded by Joe Ward. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Holdren adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Stoudt
(acting secretary)
8/8/16