

March 2016 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Frank Dombroski

Tyler Dombroski

Heather Good

Greg Kovich

Kevin Herritt

Ken Holdren

Chris Johns

Bill Lavage

Dr. Victor Marks

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Dave Walker

Public:

Lloyd Bunch

Denny Piatt

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

President's Report - Mike Mills:

Mike declined to make a report.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Lavage:

Ken Holdren was not present at the meeting. Bill Lavage reported on his recent meeting with Susan Shultz regarding the reorganization of MARC's accounting. This effort is still ongoing.

Bill Lavage reported on his ongoing efforts to explore potential investment. After a thorough investigation, Bill feels that MARC does not have sufficient funds to invest additional Montour Preserve funds at this time.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Tyler provided an overview of the previous month's minutes.

Chris Johns made a motion to accept the minutes with the exception of one typo correction; seconded by Mike Mills; approved unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Frank reported on cleaning up the community flower beds for the spring utilizing local volunteers. He also reported other work will be done with the community welcome signs. Tyler reported on the banners program.

Danville – Greg gave a report on the Humdinger. He stated that the volunteer effort was amazing. Kevin Herritt also reported that the borough is also looking to replace the bathrooms at FQ Hartman utilizing CDBG funds. Bidding should take place in the spring.

Riverside – Bill reported that the meeting with Debbie Baush took place regarding the boat launch project. The old access area near Merck is being explored.

Montour County – Ken was not present to make a report.

Danville Area School District – Chris stated that another representative is still being explored.

Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

Assistant Director's Report – Jon Beam:

Jon was not able to be in attendance at tonight's meeting. Jon did provide an assistant director's report however which is a part of the agenda packet. Jon continues to coordinate multiple public programs. The maple sugaring program was extremely well attended.

Denny reported on his trail maintenance duties. Things seem to be going well.

Expense/Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Two bills were provided for separate board approval because they were over \$500 (and not utility bills). The three bills were for:

- \$1,142.00 for the timing and scoring services provided at the Humdinger.
- \$4,295.00 for the services of Brinkash and Associates. This will cover the entire engineering contract. Any additional work will be charged at an hourly rate. The needed permits have been acquired.

Motion made by Dave Walker to approve these two bills; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Expense report provided as part of the agenda packet. Motion made by Chris Johns to approve these bills; seconded by Dr. Victor Marks; approved unanimously.

Director's Report provided as part of the agenda packet.

Bob noted about the updated Central Susquehanna Community Foundation report.

Bob also noted that the audit for the 2015 tourism fund grant was completed. There were not issues.

Additional discussion has occurred about extending the NBCT from Catawissa to Bloomsburg. A DCNR grant to do this work would require matching funds. MARC will not provide these funds if this project develops. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is the lead agency on this project.

Bob reported on additional Montour Preserve funds that have been raised. Bob also reported on all expenses incurred to date. MARC is under budget to date on what the anticipated expenses were to be.

Old Business:

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation fund management

Bob gave an overview of the history of MARC's affiliation from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to the Danville Area Community Foundation. The Danville Area Community Foundation is affiliated with the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. Bob stated that there is no difference from a MARC standpoint about making the change. If Danville Area Community Foundation were to disassociate itself from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, MARC's fund and the Montour Preserve fund would revert back to the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation.

Motion made by Dr. Victor Marks approve re-affiliating the two funds from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to the Danville Area Community Foundation upon the correction of one of the agreement's listed activities from the "Montour Preserve" to general MARC activities; seconded by Kevin Herritt; approved unanimously.

Bill Lavage abstained from the vote.

New Business:

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation Montour Preserve fund withdrawal

Bob gave an overview on anticipated future expenses for the Montour Preserve. Bob suggested that \$60,000 be released to cover expenses until the end of the summer.

Motion made by Dave Walker to approve releasing the \$60,000; seconded by Chris Johns; approved unanimously.

Human Resources/Policy Committee needed

Bob stated that MARC needs to develop a human resources policy because of now having multiple part-time employees. At least two people should assist Bob with the development of this board. Chris and Greg both volunteered to assist Bob with this effort.

Humdinger 2017 planning

Many of the bills from the 2016 event have not been finalized. Bob expects the profit to be in the \$2,000-\$5,000 range. 33% of the racers were from over 50 miles away. The direct economic impact from the race was over \$25,000.

Dr. Victor Marks inquired about the number of eligible races and registration pricing. Bob suggested on keeping the same pricing and date for 2017. Dave agreed with many of the suggestions.

Motion made by Chris Johns to approve keeping the pricing and date the same for 2017; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Bob also reported on leftover t-shirts and medals from past races that are no longer needed. Mike suggested contacting DCDC for the medals. Heather suggested contacting Agape in Bloomsburg. Frank also suggested local churches might have some interest. Chris stated that the school district might also have some interest. Further inquiry will be made.

Other Items:

East Branch Recreation Area

Larry LaBuz stated that Talen has had to have a 10% reduction of operation and maintenance expenses. The most Larry can offer for MARC's maintenance of the area is \$9,000. Bob was not comfortable with this due to the possibility of vandalism. Talen will cover any vandalism charges that result in more than \$500 in charges. An agreement is going to be drafted for the April meeting.

Line of credit proposals (NBCT)

Bob drafted a request for proposals for the line of credit of the NBCT needed for the expenses to be reimbursed from the Williams Transco Pipeline grant. MARC's current bylaws do not give the organization the ability to borrow the money. Montour County will now take send out the request for proposals and then allocate the necessary funds for the project to MARC. MARC will then reimburse the county later with the grant fund reimbursements.

Bids will be accepted by the county on April 5, 2016 at 9:30 am. This process of approvals between the MARC and the county will not be completed until the May MARC meeting.

Dr. Victor Marks suggested changing the bylaws to allow MARC to borrow in the future. Due to the amount of changes that have taken place in the last ten years, it might be appropriate anyways.

Volunteering

Greg Kovich thinks that volunteering has dropped by roughly 80% at MARC events since the departure of Dave Decoteau as Event Manager. Greg suggested a signup form for the future to attempt to attract more help. Greg feels that is too much of the same old volunteers who are involved at races and trail creation.

Adjournment:

Chris Johns made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; carried unanimously.