

September 2016 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Frank Dombroski

Tyler Dombroski

Bill Lavage

Dr. Victor Marks

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Public:

Ethan Benjamin

Jamie Shrawder

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mike Mills.

President's Report – Mike Mills:

Mike stated that a quorum was not present so action could not be taken on any items. Any items requiring action will be voted on at a later time.

Treasurer's Report – Ken Holdren:

Treasurer's Report

Bill Lavage reported on the finances in MARC. Bill stated that one major issue still exists regarding how accounting is done for the NBCT grant. One reimbursement request still exists for the NBCT project. Bill, along with Bob, Ken, and Mike will continue to work with our accounting firm to get this issue straightened out.

Bill reviewed MARC's earmarked funds. A preliminary 2017 budget has been developed which will be submitted to the board tentatively next month. With NBCT being completed and the Montour Preserve fund growing, Bob hopes that 2017 will be a "rebuilding year" for MARC.

Bob provided an update for matching fund needs for the Degenstein Foundation for the Montour Preserve. A \$25,000 grant has been provided.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Bill Lavage noted an inaccuracy in the previous month's minutes about the purchase of utility trailer. Bill was not present at the meeting. Dr. Victor Marks stated that he made the motion.

The correction of this error will be noted when the vote to approve the previous month's minutes occurs.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Tyler noted efforts will take place on September 18 to add additional plants to the community's garden along Route 54. Tyler also noted a second round fundraiser to put additional banners up in the community will likely occur later this fall.

Danville –No borough representatives were present. Jamie Shrawder, Director of Governmental Affairs, was present but did not make an in-depth report. Jamie did state that council will be deciding whether to do maintenance on Hess Field's access road. Funds will need to be budgeted for this project. Jamie will report on Council's decision at the appropriate time.

Riverside – Bill noted that on page 27 of tonight's packet concerning Riverside, vegetation has been cleared by additional signage needs to be put up.

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

Danville Area School District – No school district representatives were present.

Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

Assistant Director's Report – Jon Beam:

Jon's report was submitted with tonight's agenda packet. Jon reported he was out most of August but did have substitute for summer camps.

Maintenance Technician's Report – Dennis Piatt:

Denny's report was submitted with tonight's agenda packet.

Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Expense report provided as a part of the agenda packet. Four bills were passed around over \$500 for the accounts payable. Bills over \$500 need to be approved separately according to MARC's bylaws.

Bob noted his hours worked in his Director's Report provided as part of the agenda packet. Bob also noted his overtime hours.

Bob discussed the \$200,000 allocated by the Commonwealth for the Montour Preserve has yet to be received.

Bob noted that the NBCT has been completed by Earthworks. Pictures were provided in the agenda packet. Bob noted an issue regarding a beam on pg. 25 of the agenda packet from the unsuccessful

project bidder. Both the Columbia and Montour County Conservation Districts did not have an issue with the beam.

Bob noted that a program on SECV8 regarding MARC, NBCT, and the Montour Preserve is available in teaser format on their website.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

NBCT construction completion and final payment

Bob conducted the final inspection today with both counties' conservation districts. The trail meets their permits requirements and expectations.

With the project complete, Bob recommends that the contract with Earthworks Services be closed out and final payment processed. \$14,362.15 remains to be paid.

NBCT partial opening/adjacent landowner dispute

Bob discussed the ongoing land dispute with the owner of the Bear Hunters' Grove Campground and its effect on the now pending opening of the NBCT. Due to the condition of the bordering campground and the attitude of the owner and tenants, it's a current liability to MARC. A partial trail opening will likely occur until this land ownership issue is properly resolved.

A complaint was also filed with Bob by a tenant at the campground claiming his camper was damaged at some point over the summer. The owner of the campground alleges damaged occurred during construction of the NBCT. At this point, no evidence can be provided to validate this claim.

Action regarding both issues will be taken after proper consultation with Solicitor Marks.

Other Items:

Bob reported that someone cooked meth at the NBCT trailhead last night. It was reported to the Mahoning Township police.

Adjournment:

Adjournment took place at 8:59 pm.