

February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

7:00pm - DRIVE conference room, 114 Woodbine Ln, Suite 103, Danville, PA 17821

MARC Attendees:

Board Members: Mike Mills, Dan Hartman, Joe Ward, Heather Good, Kevin Herritt, Bill Lavage, Dr. Dan Rogers, Tyler Dombroski, Chris Johns

Staff: Bob Stoudt

Public Attendees:

Kurt Knepley

Call to Order

Chairman Mike Mills called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Officer Reports

- Chairman's Report
 - Welcome to Dr. Dan Rogers as Danville Borough resident representative.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Bill reviewed the most updated 2018 financial statements and stated they match almost perfectly with what is in the packet. He noted that the 2017 were no complete. (Motion to approve the 2017 financial statements: Dan Hartman; Second: Kevin Herritt; Motion passed unanimously)
- Secretary's Report
 - (Motion to approve the January 2018 minutes: Tyler Dombroski; Second: Bill Lavage; Motion passed unanimously)

Partner Reports

- Washingtonville Borough
 - Matt Hickey has expressed interest in using the Washingtonville baseball field as a back-up for a little league field. This will be discussed at the next borough meeting. A spring beautification day will be planned in the near future.
- Danville Borough
 - The agreement with the Danville Lady Railers using Hess Field was approved as was the updated intergovernmental agreement. Bob also noted that he met with Dr. Rogers to review some history of the commission and recreation in the county.

- Riverside Borough
 - The updated intergovernmental agreement was approved.
- Montour County
 - Nothing new to report
- Danville Area School District
 - Nothing new to report

Public Comment

Kurt Knepley stated he would be more than willing to volunteer and help where needed. Bob stated he would be willing to meet with him and discuss potential opportunities.

Assistant Director’s Report

In the past month the assistant director has developed and offered two public programs which were well attended. He set up the 2018 sugaring schedule and has been scheduling school groups. He is assisting the PA Master Naturalists group as they plan a fund-raising pancake breakfast for Montour Preserve. He hosted the January meeting of the Chillisquaque-Limestone Run Watershed and helped with splitting firewood for the upcoming maple sugaring season.

Jon Beam
1/31/18

Maintenance Technician’s Report

pushed wood chip piles back so Penn Line can dump more chips

fixed leaking toilet in men's room

heat pump went bad Bob and I tried to make it work but no luck

plowed snow, repaired snow plow then plowed more snow

Mike, Gary G. and I worked on putting critters away in the front of the auditorium

PTMT
Dennis Piatt
2/14/18

Director's Report GRANTS

- **DCNR 'Heritage and Other Parks' Grant (Montour Preserve)**
 - Initial \$100,000 grant has been amended to \$200,000 and extended through 12/31/2018
 - \$10,000 from initial \$100,000 allocation will remain held by DCNR until the successful completion of the performance audit at the end of the grant term
 - Second \$90,000 disbursement to be released to MARC in coming days
 - Additional \$10,000 (total of \$20,000 or 10% of \$200,000 grant) to be held back until the successful completion of the performance audit at the end of the grant term

- **Montour County Commissioners' Act 13 (Marcellus Legacy Fund) Grant**
 - MARC requested \$25,000 in general operating support for 2018 (unchanged from 2017)
 - Request approved by Montour County Commissioners on 2/13, subject to receipt of funds from the Commonwealth (anticipated July)
 - \$7,500 to be released to MARC in coming days; remaining \$17,500 to be released after Montour County receives 2018 allocation from the Commonwealth

- **2018 Montour County Commissioners' Tourism Fund Grant – River Towns Race Series**
 - MARC's application for \$3,000 in grant support for River Towns Race Series advertising and promotion was approved by the Montour County Commissioners on 2/13
 - Approved by Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau on 2/14
 - Release of funds anticipated before end of February

- **2018 Montour County Commissioners' Tourism Fund Grant – Signage**
 - MARC's application for \$2,000 in grant support for new signage at the Hess Recreation Area, North Branch Canal Trail, Montgomery Park and Montour County's River Drive river access was approved by the Montour County Commissioners on 2/13
 - Approved by Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau on 2/14
 - Release of funds anticipated before end of February

MANAGED SITES

- **River Drive parcel (North Branch Canal Trail trailhead and river access)**
 - No change since last meeting

- **Montour Township (Columbia County) parcel**
 - No change since last meeting

- **Riverside Borough river access**
 - Stoudt evaluated the main sign on 1/25 after receiving a report by Dr. Marks on 1/22 that the sign was out of alignment
 - Stoudt was unable to realign the sign without additional assistance
 - Work will be performed as soon as conditions allow

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

MANAGED SITES (CONTINUED)

- **Hopewell Park / Danville Borough Farm**
 - No change since last meeting

- **Hess Recreation Area**
 - Sub-lease agreement with the Danville Lady Railers approved by Danville Borough on 2/13
 - League to begin work at the park as soon as weather conditions allow
 - Stoudt to attend Danville Borough Council Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on 3/6 to discuss site maintenance

- **North Branch Canal Trail**
 - Stoudt met on 2/5 with adjacent landowner to attempt to reconcile remaining concerns

- **Montour Preserve**
 - One of three Environmental Education Center heat pumps failed on 1/31
 - Stoudt and Piatt troubleshot the system, but could not repair
 - EcoAir technicians inspected the unit on 2/1 and determined that the compressor had failed and would need to be replaced
 - unit is one of two outside units paired with one indoor air handler
 - unit is an older R-22 system; must be upgraded to newer R410A standards
 - Stoudt has requested quotes from EcoAir, CVC Mechanical Contractors and Dent Plumbing and Heating to repair/replace the system (action item for this meeting)
 - Maple sugaring open houses scheduled for 2/24 and 3/4
 - PA Master Naturalist volunteers to conduct pancake breakfast fundraiser on 2/24
 - School group visits scheduled for 2/26 – 3/9

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Humdinger Trail Races**
 - 234 registrants as of 2/22 (300 cap); registration closes 2/27
 - \$1,500 in race sponsorships (W&L Subaru; Service Electric Cablevision; Boyd Station, Marks, McLaughlin & Dennehy; Resurrection Movement Studio; Susquehanna RV; Zartman Construction; Doctor's Inn; and Stetler Insurance)

OTHER ITEMS

- **Updated MARC Intergovernmental Agreement of Cooperation**
 - Approved by Montour County on 2/13
 - Approved by Danville Borough on 2/13
 - Stoudt to present to Riverside Borough on 2/19
 - Stoudt to present to Washingtonville Borough on 3/6
 - Stoudt to present to Danville Area School District on 3/13

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- 2/24 Montour Preserve Maple Sugaring Open House
- 2/24 PA Master Naturalist Montour Preserve fundraiser pancake breakfast
- 3/3 Humdinger Trail Races
- 3/4 Montour Preserve Maple Sugaring Open House
- 3/6 Danville Borough Council Parks & Recreation Committee meeting
- 3/6 Washingtonville Borough Council meeting
- 3/13 Danville Area School District School Board meeting

Old Business

- MARC Treasurer / account authorized signers
 - Mike clarified that Bill is willing and cleared to act as MARC Treasurer. (Motion: Dan Hartman; Second: Tyler Dombroski. Motion passed unanimously)
- 2018 budget
 - Stoudt compared the 2017 v. 2018 budgets and noted several differences between the two.
 - The group had a conversation about ideas to raise funds to cover the initial 2018 budget deficit.
 - Motion made to pass the 2018 budget (anticipating there will be a plan to cover the deficit by the end of June 2018): Bill Lavage; Second: Dan Hartman; Motion passed unanimously

New Business

- Montour Preserve heat pump replacement
 - One of the heat pumps at the Preserve went during an event two weeks ago. Bob made with contact with several area heating contractors and the group discussed the options being presented:
 1. One option is to replace parts from the existing Payne Heat pump.
 2. Another option would be to replace the entire operating system.
 - Motion made to go with option #1: Kevin Herritt; Second: Dan Hartman; Motion passed unanimously.
- 2018 Montour Preserve USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Agreement
 - Bob reviewed the history with the group, methods for removal of the geese, and that MARC have been working with this organization for the last two years. Motion made to renew the contact: Tyler Dombroski; Second: Bill Lavage: Motion passed unanimously.
- Transfer of funds from Central Susquehanna Community Foundation Montour Preserve Fund
 - There was a discussion about the need to transfer \$5,000 from the CSCF Preserve Fund. Motion to transfer: Dan Hartman; Second: Chris Johns; Motion passed unanimously.

Other Items

- Discussion of MARC organizational structure
 - Group discussed the possibility of what are the pros and cons of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. It was felt that this will be discussed at the next meeting of a multi-governmental (current) structure v. 501(c)(3) structure.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made at 8:23pm by President Mike Mills