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April 29, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

7:00pm – Montour County building, 17 Woodbine Lane, Danville, PA 17821

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Kendra Boell, Dr. John Bulger, Frank Dombroski, Tyler Dombroski, Heather Good, Kevin Herritt, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Chris Johns, Mike Mills, Kyle Postupack and Dr. Dan Rogers

MARC STAFF

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC

Wayne Kashner and Ralph Schumacher

MEDIA

Karen Blackledge

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Mills.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mills had no new updates to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Tyler Dombroski provided a brief review of the February reports from Susan Shultz.

Motion to approve the February 2019 accountant's reports: Frank Dombroski

Second: Dr. Kendra Boell

Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer Dombroski provided a brief review of the March reports from Susan Shultz.

Motion to approve the March 2019 accountant's reports: Kevin Herritt

Second: Commissioner Dr. Kendra Boell

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chairman Mills noted the minutes of MARC's March 25, 2019 meeting as compiled by Stoudt and distributed to Board members. No concerns or edits were noted.

Motion to approve the March 25, 2019 meeting minutes as presented: Tyler Dombroski

Second: Dr. Kendra Boell

Motion passed unanimously

PARTNER REPORTS

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Mayor Tyler Dombroski reviewed the DeLong Park dedication that took place this past weekend. Mayor Dombroski noted that much of the work would not have taken place without the assistance of Stoudt.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Councilman Kevin Herritt discussed the levee project within the borough that will be raising the levee by three feet. He also mentioned that the Montour Street bridge reconstruction project should be completed within the next month or so. This will allow users of the trails at the Hess Recreation Area to again complete the trail loop.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Kyle Postupack had no new updates to report.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Commissioner Dan Hartman had no new updates to report.

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chris Johns reported that the district has broken ground on the new tennis court project within the Ironmen Stadium complex. The project should be complete by the middle of the summer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided in meeting agenda packet.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Report provided in meeting agenda packet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt noted several highlights of the Director's report as provided in the meeting agenda packet, including:

- MARC has received the \$100,000 in DCED grant funding for the Montour Preserve.
- MARC's grant application to the Auxiliary at Geisinger Medical Center for the purchase of a new utility vehicle was denied as "outside of funding guidelines".
- Three new break-in and/or vandalism incidents occurred at the pig barn in recent weeks. Stoudt is working with Mahoning Township Police to investigate and press charges as deemed appropriate.
- Trail Steward Wayne Kashner has cleared numerous fallen trees along the North Branch Canal Trail that came down during the April 14/15 storm event.
- Volunteers helped to repair the Mahoning Flats Trail boardwalk at the Hess Recreation Area.
- Elijah Evans Excavating has begun repairs on the Hess Recreation Area parking lot.
- Earthwork Services, working on behalf of the Danville Lady Railers, has begun repairs to the Hess Recreation Area softball field.
- MARC continues to monitor for black bear activity at the Montour Preserve.
- MARC staff have started up the Goose Cove and Heron Cove water systems at the Montour Preserve and will make water available to the public after completing the required PA DEP permitting process.
- MARC staff have installed the boat dock and fishing pier on Lake Chillisquaque.
- Year-to-date volunteer hours for MARC have exceeded expectations, totaling 731 hours as of 4/26.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to conduct.

NEW BUSINESS

MARC FUNDING STRATEGY

Stoudt reviewed the three-fold funding strategy proposed during MARC's March 19 meeting and as presented on page 29 of the current meeting agenda packet. Stoudt stressed the importance of moving forward with a new fundraising strategy as soon as possible to give MARC the best possible chance of securing the organization's long-term viability and that of the Montour Preserve.

As noted in the meeting agenda packet, Stoudt's recommendation was to pursue a three-fold funding strategy to secure \$200,000 in annual funding for the long-term success of MARC and the Montour Preserve (for however long Talen Energy or its successors might be willing to continue the lease of the site). The three funding sources to be developed would be:

1. An endowed fund with an initial balance of not less than \$1.5 million. This would generate approximately \$60,000 in annual funding to MARC and would eventually increase as the fund's balance continued to grow.
2. New funding from MARC's member entities in an amount of not less than \$65,000. This would demonstrate to other potential funding partners that MARC's member entities are committed to the long-term success of the organization. It is likely that such funding would need to come mostly from Montour County, but it is encouraged that all MARC member entities make some contribution to demonstrate their support.
3. Donations from regional health care organizations, businesses and individuals in an amount of at least \$65,000. This would likely include contributions from supporting organizations such as the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program (likely through fundraisers such as the pancake breakfast) and perhaps through the creation of a 'Friends of MARC' organization.

Stoudt recommended that MARC move forward with the agenda items for the DCED grant-funded tractor purchase and Montour Preserve HVAC systems invitation to bid only if MARC's Board approved of the proposed funding strategy or another Board-recommended strategy. If MARC does not develop a new fundraising strategy, Stoudt doubts MARC's ability to continue to maintain the Montour Preserve beyond September 2020 and recommends the return of the grant funds to DCED.

Board members discussed the likely chances of success for Stoudt's proposed strategy, MARC's past fundraising efforts, and the various challenges MARC faces. Tyler Dombroski and Commissioner Dan Hartman encouraged the board to approve Stoudt's recommendations and make another concerted effort to secure the necessary funding. Frank Dombroski questioned whether Talen Energy might be encouraged to make additional contributions to help MARC's efforts. Chairman Mills noted Talen Energy's contribution of \$20,000 in 2018 and continued cooperation. Dr. Kendra Boell stated her support for Stoudt's efforts and abilities, but doubted MARC's ability to successfully secure the required funds, particularly given the fact that MARC does not own the Montour Preserve.

Motion to approve allowing Stoudt to pursue the three-fold funding strategy as presented, with a targeted end date of August 26, 2019: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Tyler Dombroski

Voting in favor: Dr. John Bulger, Frank Dombroski, Tyler Dombroski, Heather Good, Kevin Herritt, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Chris Johns, Mike Mills, Kyle Postupack and Dr. Dan Rogers

Voting against: Dr. Kendra Boell

Motion carried.

TRACTOR PURCHASE

Stoudt recommended the purchase of a Kioti CK3510SEHCB tractor, with accessories, as noted on page 30 of the meeting agenda packet, from Hoover Tractor in Mifflinburg for \$38,399.58. Stoudt and Piatt have secured quotes from four dealership for comparable tractors and recommend the purchase of the Kioti tractor. The tractor and several accessories are available through the COSTARS program, allowing MARC to benefit from the competitively bid prices secured through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's program.

Stoudt recommends the use of \$30,000 in DCED grant funds for this purchase, as allowed by the terms of the grant, with the balance of \$8,399.58 to be paid from MARC's earmarked Montour Preserve funds (not DCNR grant funds).

Motion to approve the purchase using funds as recommended by Stoudt: Kevin Herritt

Second: Chris Johns

Voting in favor: Dr. John Bulger, Frank Dombroski, Tyler Dombroski, Heather Good, Kevin Herritt, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Chris Johns, Mike Mills, Kyle Postupack and Dr. Dan Rogers

Abstain: Dr. Kendra Boell (because of prior vote re: MARC funding strategy)

Motion carried.

MONTOUR PRESERVE HVAC SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT INVITATION TO BID

Stoudt provided an overview of the proposed Montour Preserve HVAC System Replacement Invitation to Bid as distributed with the meeting agenda. Stoudt noted that the document had been written to satisfy the concerns of MARC and Talen Energy, as well as the requirements of the DCED grant, which will be used to fund the project.

Board members discussed the terms of the document and noted several recommended changes. Tyler Dombroski noted that MARC would be required to pay PA prevailing wages for the project and recommended the addition of language to that effect. Chairman Mills recommended the removal of the requirement to attend a pre-bid meeting, suggesting instead that attendance be strongly encouraged. Chairman Mills also recommended the bid price be broken up into three separate line items for the visitors' center, environmental education center auditorium and environmental education center offices. Doing so would allow MARC greater flexibility in awarding some or all of the bid as needed.

Motion to approve the advertising of the Montour Preserve HVAC Systems Replacement Invitation to Bid, with edits to include PA prevailing wage information, suggested (not mandatory) attendance at the pre-bid meeting, and separation of the bid price into three line items (visitors' center, environmental education center auditorium and environmental education center offices): Frank Dombroski

Second: Tyler Dombroski

Voting in favor: Dr. John Bulger, Frank Dombroski, Tyler Dombroski, Heather Good, Kevin Herritt, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Chris Johns, Mike Mills, Kyle Postupack and Dr. Dan Rogers

Abstain: Dr. Kendra Boell (because of prior vote re: MARC funding strategy)

Motion carried.

DANVILLE BOROUGH FARM LAND/FACILITY USE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMENDMENT

Stoudt presented an amendment to the existing Danville Borough Farm Land/Facility Use Memorandum of Understanding as provided on page 31 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt reported that the existing agreement between MARC and Danville Borough expired on November 10, 2017. Stoudt recommends the amendment of the agreement to expire on November 10, 2020 (a three-year extension as allowed by the terms of the agreement). All other terms of the agreement remain unchanged.

Motion to approve the amendment to the Danville Borough Farm Land/Facility Use Memorandum of Understanding: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Chris Johns

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

Stoudt reported that MARC has received a \$10,000 contribution from Geisinger Health. Stoudt and Chairman Mills thanked Dr. John Bulger for his assistance in securing the contribution.

Ralph Schumacher (public attendee) reminded attendees of the Schumacher Rugby Classic, to be held at the Hess Recreation Area on Saturday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend).

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm by Chairman Mills.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Johns
MARC Secretary

MARC's next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2019 (early to avoid conflict with Memorial Day).