

February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

*NOTE: This meeting was conducted through the Zoom meeting platform due to COVID-19 restrictions.
No in-person meeting was held.*

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Johns, Mike Mills, Tyler Dombroski, Dr. Kendra Boell, Frank Dombroski, Heather Good, Chadd Roadarmel, Kyle Postupack, Dr. John Bulger, Larry Robertson, TS Scott, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Kevin Romansik

MARC STAFF

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC

Otto Kurecian (CMVB), Wayne Kashner, Dave Decoteau, Brenna Ross, Paul Gabrielsen, Dr. Jon Gabrielsen, Dr. Matt McElroy, Matt Madden

MEDIA

Joe Sylvester (The Daily Item / The Danville News), Julye Wemple (Press-Enterprise)

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dr. Bulger and Stoudt reviewed the Treasurer's report provided as pages 2 – 32 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt also reviewed the external accounting process.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: TS Scott

Second: Mike Mills

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Johns called the group's attention to the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet.

Motion to approve the January 25, 2021 meeting minutes: Dr. Bulger

Second: Dr. Boell

Motion passed unanimously

PARTNER REPORTS

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Washington Borough, with the assistance of Stoudt, helped put together an RFP for assistance with small projects within the borough.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report at this time.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report at this time.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Nothing new to report at this time.

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Johns noted that he will stay in touch with Stoudt as the district continues conversations about development of the land across the street from the primary school for the purposes of planning a potential connector trail to Hopewell Park in the future.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Nothing new to report at this time.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided in the meeting agenda packet.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Reports provided in the meeting agenda packet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided in meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt called the group's attention to the 2020 Annual Report as provided with the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt made particular note of the amazing number of volunteer hours and their associated value was well beyond any amount that has been previously documented by MARC.

OLD BUSINESS

SALE OF BOBCAT UTILITY VEHICLE AND ACCESSORIES

Stoudt reported that MARC had received eight sealed bids for the Bobcat utility vehicle and accessories. Stoudt opened the seven bids and reported that the high bidder was Fred Raup for \$2,000. Stoudt recommended that the board approve the sale to Mr. Raup subject to meeting terms of the agreement.

Motion to approve the sale of the Bobcat utility vehicle and accessories to the highest bidder, conditioned upon the successful completion of the terms and conditions of sale as presented on the official bid form as shown on page 42 of the meeting agenda packet: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second by: Dr. Boell

Motion passed unanimously

MONTOUR PRESERVE CONCESSIONAIRE SELECTION


Stoudt reported that MARC had received two proposals for Montour Preserve watercraft concessions. Stoudt described the proposals submitted by the Riverside Adventure Company / Earthscapes (Dave Decoteau) and SUPfit Yoga / Susquehanna Kayaks. Stoudt made note of the conflicts of interest present with both proposals as noted in the attached summary. Decoteau was on the call and answered any questions related to his proposal.

Stoudt recommended the selection of the proposal from the Riverside Adventure Company / Earthscapes, subject to the ability of MARC to secure the necessary Montour County Zoning Hearing Board approval and other permissions as may be required. Stoudt will work with Decoteau through the permitting process and will present a final agreement for MARC's Board approval at the April meeting.

Motion to approve the selection of the Riverside Adventure Company / Earthscapes, subject to the ability of MARC to secure the necessary Montour County Zoning Hearing Board approval and other permissions as may be required: Mike Mills

Second: Dr. Boell

Motion passed unanimously

| MONTOUR PRESERVE WATERCRAFT CONCESSIONS | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| STOUDT PROPOSAL COMPARISON | | | |
| EVALUATION CRITERIA | RIVERSIDE ADVENTURE COMPANY | SUPFIT YOGA / SUSQUEHANNA KAYAKS | STOUDT COMMENTS |
| BEST INTEREST OF THE MONTOUR PRESERVE | X | | The proposal from the Riverside Adventure Company commits to significantly more time and materials and is believed to be a more viable long-term solution in the best interest of MARC and visitors to the Montour Preserve. Dave Decoteau has a demonstrated track record of working with MARC for the stewardship of sites under MARC's management. |
| EXPERTISE | X | X | Both proposals demonstrate a solid level of expertise and experience. Both operators would likely have the skills necessary to successfully conduct operations at the Montour Preserve as requested. |
| QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF OFFERINGS | X | | The proposal from the Riverside Adventure Company commits to a substantially greater variety of offerings, including the williness to offer for rent or sale fishing, boating, or picnic supplies if approved by the Montour County Zoning Hearing Board. The ability of the Riverside Adventure Company's proposed structure to allow rentals at any time is a major advantage. |
| FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MONTOUR PRESERVE | X | | The SUPfit Yoga / Susquehanna Kayaks proposal provided insufficient information to allow a proper comparison, but the Riverside Adventure Company proposal presents a reasonable offering. It is Stoudt's opinion that the up-front costs for the Riverside Adventure Company proposal will be significant, but will provide the best option for both MARC and visitors to the Montour Preserve in the long term. It is Stoudt's opinion that the percentages being offered are a fair contribution to MARC and that the proposal will promote cooperation that is in the best interest of both parties. |
| STOUDT RECOMMENDATION | Stoudt recommends selection of the Riverside Adventure Company. | | |
| STOUDT / MARC CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLAIMER | Dave Decoteau was formerly employed as MARC's Director from 2005 - 2010. The Riverside Adventure Company / Earthscapes was employed as MARC's Event Management company from 2011 - 2014 and has performed numerous paid and unpaid tasks for MARC as recently as January 2021. Decoteau and the Riverside Adventure Company / Earthscapes has made regular donations of labor, equipment usage, and materials to MARC projects from 2005 - 2021. MARC has interacted with SUPfit Yoga / Susquehanna Kayaks numerous times, but has not employed the organization's services. SUPfit Yoga / Susquehanna Kayaks provided a \$300 donation to MARC in December 2020 in thanks for use of the Montour Preserve in 2020. | | |
| I do hereby certify this to be an accurate and fair comparison of the relative merits of the proposals received for Montour Preserve Watercraft Concessionaires. I further certify this to be a full disclosure of known conflicts of interest pertaining to Stoudt / MARC interactions with both entities. | | | |
|  | | Robert T. Stoudt, MARC Director | February 22, 2021 |

HOPEWELL PARK PUMP TRACK NON-ENDOWED FUND CREATION

Stoudt presented a final agreement with the Community Giving Foundation for the establishment of a new Hopewell Park Pump Track Non-Endowed Fund as presented on pages 44 – 56 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt reported that his family would provide a start-up donation of \$500 to allow the fund's establishment.

Motion to approve the agreement with the Community Giving Foundation: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

MOUNTAIN BIKING ADVOCACY GROUP (MBAG) COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Stoudt presented a slate of candidates for board consideration for appointment to the Mountain Biking Advocacy Group Committee as presented on page 57 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt asked for board members to consider joining the committee if interested.

Motion to approve the appointment of the slate of candidates to the Mountain Biking Advocacy Group Committee as presented on page 57 of the meeting agenda packet: TS Scott

Second: Dr. Bulger

Motion passed unanimously

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2021 MONTOUR PRESERVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Stoudt presented the proposed renewal of the annual agreement with the US Department of Agriculture for wildlife management at the Montour Preserve as presented on pages 58 – 61 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted that the 2020 contract had ended up costing \$3,244.20 of the budgeted \$4,500 because MARC did not request all budgeted services.

Motion to approve entering into the US Department of Agriculture 2021 Montour Preserve Wildlife Management Agreement as presented: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Dr. Boell

Motion passed unanimously

APPLICATION TO MONTOUR COUNTY ZONING HEARING BOARD FOR MONTOUR PRESERVE CONCESSIONS

As discussed earlier in the meeting, Stoudt requested Board approval to submit an application to the Montour County Zoning Hearing Board to allow concession operations at the Montour Preserve. Stoudt anticipates an initial fee of \$450.00 and an additional fee of unknown amount to be payable at a later date.

Motion to approve submitting an application to the Montour County Zoning Hearing Board to allow concession operations at the Montour Preserve: TS Scott

Second: Dr. Boell

Motion passed unanimously

DANVILLE RIVER TOWN CLEANUP

Stoudt requested Board approval to conduct a Danville River Town cleanup event on Saturday, April 24, 2021, in partnership with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. Stoudt intends to coordinate litter cleanup events at all MARC-managed properties, as well as along the North Branch Susquehanna River (water conditions permitting) and in the Borough of Washingtonville. MARC will cover the cost of the dumpster, but Stoudt anticipates the disposal fee will be covered by PickUpPA and/or KeepPABeautiful.

Motion to approve the Danville River Town cleanup event: TS Scott

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

Stoudt discussed ongoing discussions regarding the possible purchase of a trail groomer to allow for wintertime trail grooming at MARC-managed sites. Options are being sought to allow for grooming for cross-country skiing and (separately) fat tire mountain bikes. Stoudt anticipates presenting pricing and options for a purchase at a later date.

Stoudt noted that he is planning to host a MARC Land Steward training session at the Montour Preserve and via Zoom on Saturday, March 20. More detail to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Johns
Secretary