

February 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center, 374 Preserve Rd, Danville, PA 17821
and online through Zoom

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (online)

Kevin Herritt, Tami Gabrielsen, Beth Rake, Bill Byron, Dr. John Bulger, Kyle Postupack, Kristin Mikita

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (in person)

Frank Dombroski, Chadd Roadarmel, Chris Johns, Tyler Dombroski, Commissioner Dan Hartman,
Brett Johnson

MARC STAFF (online)

Julian Brehm, Craig Reinard

MARC STAFF (in person)

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC (online)

Wayne Kashner

PUBLIC (in person)

Dawn Moore

MEDIA (online)

Geri Gibbons (Press-Enterprise), Rick Dandes (Daily Item / Danville News)

MEDIA (in person)

none

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tyler Dombroski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Moore requested that MARC delay the vote on the USDA APHIS Cooperative Service Agreement and asked that the board consider alternatives. Ms. Moore expressed strong opposition to using the USDA APHIS, particularly the potential for capture and culling of Canada geese.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dombroski noted nothing new to report. Chairman Dombroski continues to have regular contact with Stoudt as needed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Bulger briefly reviewed the Treasurer's report, noting nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Hartman

Second: Frank Dombroski

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Johns called the group's attention to the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet.

Motion to approve the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed un

PARTNER REPORTS

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nothing new to report

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Nothing new to report

MONTOUR COUNTY

Nothing new to report

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Nothing new to report

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Chairman Dombroski noted that the 9th annual Washingtonville Borough beatification day will be held on Sunday, April 16, in conjunction with MARC's planned Countywide Park and Trail Cleanup event.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to Julian Brehm's Assistant Director's report as provided on page 19 of the meeting agenda packet.

NATURALIST'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to Jon Beam's report as provided on page 19 of the meeting agenda packet.

SENIOR MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to Denny Piatt's report provided on page 19 of the meeting agenda packet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to the Director's Report provided on pages 20 – 31 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt called attention to several items in the meeting agenda packet, including:

- Stoudt noted that he has not worked any overtime since November 2022 and that Julian Brehm had worked only ½-hour of overtime related to the maple sugaring program this past weekend.

Stoudt also called attention to the following updates:

- 2022 Annual Report update

Work is underway, with completion anticipated before MARC's March meeting. Stoudt's reduced hours have made it difficult to complete the report.

- State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests forms

Stoudt reminded Commission members of the need to complete and return copies of the 2023 State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests forms. MARC must keep copies of the forms on file for all Commission members and Stoudt and Brehm.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY GIVING FOUNDATION 2023 DANVILLE YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY GRANT APPLICATION

Stoudt requested permission to submit an application to the Community Giving Foundation's 2023 Danville Youth in Philanthropy grant program for an amount not to exceed \$1,500. Per the terms of the grant program, the application must focus on projects in the Danville Area School District service area that address students' mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and students' lack of free time. Stoudt will consult with Chairman Dombroski and MARC's staff to determine the project for which funding will be requested. Applications must be submitted by March 16.

Motion to approve: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Dr. John Bulger

Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNITY GIVING FOUNDATION: DANVILLE GRANT APPLICATION

Stoudt requested permission to submit an application to the Community Giving Foundation: Danville's grant program for an amount not to exceed \$2,000. Per the terms of the grant program, the application must focus on projects in the greater Danville area. Stoudt will consult with Chairman Dombroski and MARC's staff to determine the project for which funding will be requested. Applications must be submitted by March 30.

Motion to approve: Kevin Herritt

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously

2023 MONTOUR PRESERVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Stoudt called attention to the proposed Cooperative Service Agreement with the US Dept. of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (APHIS) as presented on pages 32 – 35 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted that MARC first entered into the agreement in 2016 and has renewed the agreement annually. The cost for the agreement is not to exceed \$5,011.32.

Stoudt made note of specific details in the agreement and advised attendees that the agreement has generated media attention in previous years and negative feedback from some in the region. A Right-to-Know request was filed in 2022 for all information related to MARC's wildlife management activities. Stoudt noted that similar projects in Bloomsburg (Columbia County) and East Buffalo Township (Union County) have faced significant resistance and Stoudt anticipates this agreement will receive similar attention.

As noted in previous years, Stoudt has researched prior efforts at the Montour Preserve and elsewhere and strongly believes the renewal of the agreement is in MARC's best interests to effectively manage the Montour Preserve. If approved, Stoudt will remain in contact with APHIS representatives throughout the season and will provide guidance to APHIS staff for management activities as recommended by APHIS and as needed and approved by MARC.

Motion to approve: Frank Dombroski

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

No other items for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Next meeting: Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center and online through Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Johns
MARC Board Secretary