

Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

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Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia Meeting Minutes April 21, 2021, 5:00pm

Prepared by Jasmine Facun, jasmine@ruralaction.org

ORCA Board Members Present: ORCA Chair Mayor Steve Patterson, ORCA Vice Chair Mayor Amy Renner, York Township Trustee Tim Warren, Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason, Nelsonville City Manager Scott Frank

Others Present: Jessie Powers, Jasmine Facun, Rep. Jay Edwards, Jack Cera, Boone Troyer, Jason Reed, Dawn McCarthy, Jason Reed, Delia Palmisano, Seth Brown, Nick Tepe, Bob West, Rob Delach, Ted Wesler

○ **Meeting Agenda (*Motion: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren; Approved*):**

- Approve Agenda
- Ohio Representative Jay Edwards \$2,000,000 for the Baileys Trail System in State Budget
- Former Ohio Representative Jack Cera, SCH Progress Report State and Federal Support Requests
- Approve Minutes from: March 17th
- Social Media & Website Report
- Approve Financial Report
- ORCA Office
- Director's Report
- Other Business
- Public Comments
- Adjourn

- **Jessie Powers – Thanked and Introduced Jay Edwards**
- **\$2M in State Budget**
 - Rep. Jay Edwards
 - Worthwhile project for Athens to get in the recreation game
 - Future work:
 - Needs to be approved by State Senate
 - Should schedule ORCA during budget process and Appalachian delegation in front of House and Senate
 - In a good spot but need to fight to protect this in the Senate
 - Questions
 - Lenny Eliason—what can we do as far as reaching out to senators?
 - Rep. Edwards—If you have relationships with senators, reach out to them
 - Small group should go to Columbus to lobby in person
 - Face-to-face is important
 - Jack Cera—thank you and concurred about visiting Columbus
 - Jason Reed—collaborative nature of this project, offered help from National Forest side in any way possible
 - Jay Edwards—refreshing to have everyone behind a project and prioritizing these trails
 - Tim Warren—anything good that can happen in Doanville is appreciated
 - Rep. Edwards—next step is to figure out a day to visit Columbus together with Baileys reps
- **Sunday Creek Horizons**
 - Jack Cera
 - Should not be a hard project to sell
 - Need to get with chairman of finance committee and will work with Jessie and Jay to get trip to Columbus set up
 - Have had conversations with administration and need to double back
 - In a good spot but need to keep moving forward
- **Minutes from March 17, 2021 (*Motion: Lenny Eliason, Second: Amy Renner; Approved*)**
- **Social Media & Website Report**
 - Jasmine Facun (Rural Action)
 - Over 2100 followers on Facebook
 - Doanville Trailhead upcoming opening was top post
 - 2 blogs posted—one written by Meigs High School intern
 - A lot of website hits are coming from out of state
 - Trails opened to cyclists 4/15
 - A lot of traffic at Chauncey Trailhead, along W. Bailey Rd, and Utah Ridge Pond

- Rural Action internships
 - Wayne NF/Buckeye Trails enhancement planning & construction
 - Ohio's Hill Country/Ohio's Winding Road Content Development
 - Athens County Economic Development Council for Opportunity Zone prospectus
 - ACCVB providing marketing match for grant
 - ABC is partner—critical to enabling maintenance and advancing youth engagement
 - HAPCAP summer youth employment
- Sponsorships and Memberships
 - Policy approved
 - Awaiting membership stickers to launch
- Request payment to Village of Chauncey for maintenance services
 - \$9,173 requested to be paid to Chauncey by ORCA for maintenance, additional porta potty, and handwashing station over summer
 - Lenny Eliason—if we have money in operating budget, then okay to move forward
 - Does include membership fee already deducted
 - Question from Amy Renner about whether other smaller members will be making their \$500 contribution soon
 - Lenny Eliason—Bylaws are now in effect, so Board has to decide when to take action against members that have not paid fees
 - York Township's fee will be in-kind
 - Jessie will meet with Buchtel about land for trailhead which may be their membership fee
 - Amy Renner, as mayor of Chauncey, will abstain from this vote
 - ***(Motion: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren; Approved; Amy Renner abstained)***
- Village of Chauncey requests 50% of donations made at trailhead
 - Conversation on appropriate donation shares to COG member governmental jurisdictions will take place later this year, when there's better understanding of donation revenue amounts and how to complete the BTS
- Networking and Legislative
 - Submitted community project funding request to Steve Stivers
 - Submitted to State, Federal govt, as well as ARC POWER grant
 - Participating in remote work strategy working group
- Sponsorships and Memberships
 - Policy and brochures have been created
- **Other Business**
 - Ted Wesler—been working with students about identifying climbing areas in the region

- Jason Reed—signed ORCA permit (authorization for ORCA to hold events on trail system)
 - This will be a big learning year but also exciting
 - AML Pilot funds—a lot of conversation happening across the region about where ORCA fits in with that
 - Movement in region around outdoor recreation is largest it's ever been
 - FS meeting in May to discuss trail closures policy, with data collected from Athens Bicycle Club
- Steve Patterson—we need to move on Stivers' request before he departs
 - Jessie Powers—SCH may be able to have Stivers advance the request before he leaves office
- Nick Tepe—2 new youth bikes for check-out at Chauncey Library

- **Public Comments**
 - None

- **Adjourn (*Motion: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren; Approved*)**