



**Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia**  
Jessie Powers, Executive Director  
director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445  
Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

## **Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 5, 2022 1:00pm – 2:00pm**

*Prepared by Elle Dickerman, [elle.baileystrails@gmail.com](mailto:elle.baileystrails@gmail.com)*

ORCA Board Members Present: ORCA Chair City of Athens Mayor Steve Patterson, ORCA Vice-Chair Mayor Amy Renner, York Township Trustee Tim Warren, Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason, Buchtel Councilmember Jay Kline (Not present: Nelsonville City Manager Scott Frank)

Others Present: Jessie Powers, Elle Dickerman, Zack/Cora Frank, Parker McCluer, Dawn McCarthy

### **Meeting Agenda**

- Approve Agenda
- Approve July 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- ORCA Board Member Updates
- Financial Report
- Director's Report
- Wayne National Forest
- Maintenance Report
- Social Media Report
- Public Comments
- Other
- Adjourn

**Meeting Call to Order: 1:05pm, Lenny Eliason**

**(Motion to approve July 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Tim Warren, Second: Scott Frank, *Approved*)**

### **ORCA Board Member Updates**

- Lenny Eliason, The Board of Commissioners talked about funding from the ARPA monies, and the tentative approval is for \$330,000, which would fund one position and the rest is to be used for trail building. That's \$80,000 towards a position, and the rest will be used towards trails. It can be used as match. You'll be getting a letter from us to discuss the sub-recipient requirements. That's not final, just tentative.

### **Financial Report**



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

- Jessie Powers, our account balance is \$112,70.00. We've had about \$43,000 in expenses, the majority of that for construction, our insurance payment, and payroll and other expenses.
- We have received new invoices from our trail contractor, Rock Solid, which has three crews on the ground, and the contract manager / trail designer team. So our current expenses for trailbuilding total \$148,573.00. This exceeds our bank account. I would like to request authorization to request a \$400,000 credit line increase. I have already been discussing this with the bank, this will allow us fund construction and await grant reimbursement.
- Linear Active also plans to start soon. We will soon have four crews on the ground expecting payment, and will need that line of credit to pay contractors.

**(Motion to authorize ORCA to extend a \$400,000 line of credit: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)**

- Jessie Powers, I would also like to request reimbursement for Elle in the amount of \$110.98 for mileage and purchase of a temporary tag for the trailer, as well as myself in the amount of \$58.56.

**(Motion to reimburse Elle \$110.98 and Jessie \$58.56 for mileage and other expenses: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)**

**(Motion to accept the financial report: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)**

### Director's Report

- We are signed up to be a planning committee member of a 32-person team to help to put together a proposal for the Ohio Builds funding.
- I've already shared the bad news about our brownfield application, that the state closed the portal before our application was submitted.
- We moved forward with submitting two letters of interest for two projects, the Baileys Trail System Hub, and the Buchtel Trailhead.
- For the hub facility, we have roughly \$1.1 million shortfall. We have some avenues that may be able to fill that gap. We could remove the administrative/ indirect fee, which would save roughly \$300,000. We can utilize the \$378,000 which was already budgeted and approved for the waterline improvement.
- Would the county be interested or willing to utilize those construction dollars to go towards the basic infrastructure for that site?



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

- We will be working in earnest, I've already been working with Mayor Renner, to identify gap financing. The hub facility would elevate everything we are doing here, and provide us with more revenue streams to tap into for long-term maintenance.
- The AMLER grants, should we be invited to apply, are due September 16<sup>th</sup>, so that is our window to fill that gap.
- Not a whole lot has changed with our POWER grant, we are working more on the branding piece and looking forward to engaging the regional stakeholders in discussions around a regional brand. We are talking to the Ohio's winding road network partners. They are perfectly fine with ORCA's communications and philanthropy staffer working on and creating content and promotions for Ohio's Winding Road. Maybe long-term, this could be a place where the regional brand is housed.
- AWOADC Update - Our bike ramp for the bike rental is almost complete, they will finish that up next week. Outdoor Pursuits has obtained approvals on their end to do the bike rentals. We will probably be doing a soft launch next week. We're also working to create water bottles to sell.
- We've received \$308 to date from the Jesse Henry song fundraiser, and enjoyed promoting that.
- The Run Baileys event is next weekend, they have specifically not promoted it very much due to the construction this year so it will be a smaller crowd.
- July 19, a group from the Columbus Boys and Girls club came down for a hike on the Baileys for a songwriting workshop and hike at the Baileys. We covered those costs; I feel like it is a great way to increase awareness and promote use of the trails.
- We began hosting county recreation stakeholder meetings. We've already met with Morgan County. Those will be very helpful for Ohio Builds. We have Monroe County at 2:00 today, and we will be working through those 10 counties included in the Outdoor Recreation Asset Assessment and Development Plan, funded through the ARC POWER grant.
- Lenny has already provided an update for Membership / Staff Expansion, we do have our Sustainable Recreation Director position out now, applications are due Friday. I did send an email, if anyone wants to be on the interviewing committee let me know. I will meet the advisory board to discuss the Communications / Philanthropy Director position in more detail, but someone did suggest some other titles, such as External Communications Director.
- We do need to identify a new ORCA board meeting time as Lenny and Steve have standing



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director  
director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445  
Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

meetings close to this time. We can try to do that today or I can send out a Doodle Poll, if that works.

- Lenny Eliason, you should send out the Doodle Poll, I don't have my calendar in front of me.
- Jessie Powers, I will defer to Zack/Cora Frank, Wayne National Forest Public Affairs Officer. However, many of you may have already heard about the Ohio Environmental Council promotion of a Backcountry Designation for the Wayne National Forest. The Forest has a lot of concerns about that and as do I. At a minimum, I believe we should have all of our federal state and local partners aligned to make any request along the lines of what they've proposed. We don't want one group presenting something in opposition to the land owner and manager to give the impression we aren't working together. I appreciate Zack joining us today.
- Lenny Eliason, the effective date of the Athens-Wayne Outdoor Asset Development Corporation 501© 3 is 2029?
- Jessie Powers, that's a typo, it's 2019.
- Lenny Eliason, ok great, I figured it was a typo but I wanted to be sure.

### Wayne National Forest

- Zack/Cora Frank, hello everyone, for those of you who don't know me my name is Zack Frank, and I am the Public Affairs Officer for the Wayne National Forest. Dawn McCarthy used to have this role. I'll start with where the Wayne National Forest stands for the current proposal for a Backcountry Area / National Recreation Area that the Ohio Environmental Council is fostering support for. The bottom line is, the Wayne National Forest does not support this proposal. There are a number of reasons why, but what it comes down to is we don't support it.
- Right now, as you probably know, National Forests have a multi-use mandate, and these are five things that we need to manage for. They are Recreation, Timber, Wildlife, Water, and Grazing, and while we don't have Grazing on this National Forest, we do have the other four. Any change of the Forest to a National Recreation Area would mean we would have to shift the way that we manage the land to focus only on Recreation. So, any legacy issues that pre-exist on the forest, whether they be acid mine drainage or invasive species, creating a National Recreation Area would make it very difficult to manage that. While the goal from the outside is to create a tourist destination for backcountry backpacking and camping, there is nothing currently that stops people from doing that. This would be a step to remove our ability to manage what we have on the land; it would eliminate logging on that section of the forest.
- More than that, this is also, from the research that we've done, the Wayne is the most



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

segmented and scattered National Forest in the country. They are trying to collect a scattered group of lands, with private lands, state lands, and roadways in-between them. This is not what any National Recreation Area in America looks like, it is completely foreign to this idea. There are only 22 National Recreation Areas in the National Forest Service, despite there being 155 National Forests and 20 National Grasslands under the Forest Service.

- Of those 22, you will recognize the names of many of them, as they are very prominent sites that have a lot more in common with National Parks than they do with National Forests. For example, Mt. Baker in Washington, Mt. Hood in Oregon, Hell's Canyon in Idaho and Oregon, and the closest one being Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks in the Monongahela National Forest, which, if you've been there, it's a climbing destination because of the massive rocks that exist there. Whether or not any of the areas I just mentioned were National Recreation Areas, they are iconic landforms that people seek out. As you know being from this area and representing your communities, those iconic landforms do not exist in this area, so applying this definition to this area would make it a massive outlier. Those are also largely contiguous management areas, while here we are so separated, that we would be a tremendous outlier in what National Recreation Areas were designed to do.
- We have met with the Ohio Environmental Council five times over the last two years to voice our concerns and we have told them that we don't think this fits here. They have not been deterred in the slightest, they have been pushing this despite us not supporting it. On top of that, no National Recreation Area that we are aware of has ever been created without the support of the forest and the Forest Service. Again, we would be a tremendous outlier in doing that.
- After compiling all of these things, it is very clear to us, and we are trying to express this now as we have tried to manage this at our meetings with the OEC, that our position is that it doesn't make sense. While they are trying to, in their view, bolster the area, it's much easier for us to have organizations like ORCA on collaborative things that don't require a designation, so we can also do things like prescribed burns and deal with legacy problems. Creating a National Recreation Area would severely limit how we can manage the forest, and that would affect everyone who lives around the forest. If we can't deal with invasive species, or repair mine lands, those problems will stay here forever. As you know we're somewhat famous for having orange streams in this area, and that is a problem that would be very difficult for us to fix if we switched over to a mandate to only work on recreation in those areas.
- For that and a number of other reasons that I won't get into for risk of being long-winded, we don't support this, we've tried to manage it from our meetings with OEC, and we were hoping this would eventually die down once they saw how much of an outlier this was and how it's not the right fix for this section of the forest. It hasn't died down, and they've continued to push it without our support and around our region.



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

- We notice that when they have meetings with individuals and agencies, we're not at the table. That's because they want you to think that we are not objecting to it. This is the first step for us to come out and say that we do not support this. We want our partners to know that because we do have good working relationships with you, and things like the Baileys can happen collaboratively with our communities and partners. When agencies come and try to strongarm us into changing things and don't want to work with us or hear our concerns, it's talking to a brick wall in a way and that's not how we are going to accomplish anything here.
- Thank you for your time, and if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them now or in the future.
- Lenny Eliason, who grants the designation?
- Zack Frank, Congress.
- Lenny Eliason, is there a representative who is interested in introducing the bill?
- Zack Frank, at this time there is not. We have spoken to some people who have asked about it and we have expressed our concerns. The Forest Service has expressed its concerns. Without Forest Service support, this has never happened. Some of the things that are popular in this area, like timber, would be eliminated by the National Recreation Area designation. When the local politicians hear that, they will likely not be very welcoming of the idea. Currently, there is no one supporting it from Congress.
- Lenny Eliason, until there is a bill moving, it would be hard to get a lot of discussion, but given the fact that the most likely sponsor would be Carey, Johnson, or Balderson. Balderson still has land in this district. One of those three would be the person to introduce it. You won't get someone from Northwest Ohio introducing it.
- Zack Frank, theoretically anyone could introduce it.
- Lenny Eliason, right, but if one of those three doesn't sign it, its not going to go anywhere.
- Zack Frank, right, and the first thing they are going to do is call us and ask if it makes sense, and we are not going to support it. We are going to have that conversation if it comes up.
- Lenny Eliason, as we cross paths we can mention it to them.
- Steve Patterson, some of us have already crossed paths.
- Jessie Powers, they want ORCA to sign onto this, and they've invited me to participate in an event. I have not responded, but I figured we really needed to have this conversation.
- Steve Patterson, I was approached probably a year or two ago about this from the



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

organization. I was just listening and absorbing what they said. Knowing the relationship of ORCA to the U.S. Forest Service, I did reach out to Dawn McCarthy and I said Dawn, give me some information on this group because I did not know them well. So, I do have a question for one of you, as we continue to observe what is happening in the western U.S. when it comes to droughts and forest fires - you just mentioned controlled burns and the inability of the forest service to do those things under a National Recreation designation – we've been fortunate to have not seen a major fire in the Wayne National Forest, not to say it's not going to happen in the future with climate change. How much will that situation be impeded by not having the capacity to do controlled burns?

- Zack Frank, there's two pieces there. National Recreation Areas in the Forest Service is a complex topic because there is no set of guidelines specifically other than managing recreation that is meant for that designation. So, hypothetically, whoever writes the bill for this, could essentially make it like a National Park – don't touch anything ever, treat it like a wilderness area, and invasive plants would thrive. At the same time, whoever writes the bill could write in that prescribed burns are allowed. I've seen the proposal that the OEC has put forward – which states that they would be happy to support certain things like prescribed burns and managing invasives and things like that. They don't get to make that decision, the lawmakers get to make that decision. Keeping that in mind, it would be whatever politics wants it to be.
- The second part of that is the wildfires and managing that. We're in a good position compared to the West, as we do have water sources, humidity, less droughts, and less arid areas that bolster those kinds of fires. While it is not impossible that we have large fires, it is a lot less common. That being said, a lot of underbrush is easier to catch on fire. Invasive species tend to populate the understory, and without Oaks dominating the canopy, a lot of smaller trees that are less fire resilient could allow fire to spread more wildly, especially in a drought. We do controlled burns to manage that. We're not in the same position as the West fortunately, nothing like that, but not managing the land, would exacerbate the chances.
- Dawn McCarthy, if I could just share a bit more information – where the Baileys is and where this proposed Recreation Area is, is also part of a shared stewardship project area with state and NRCS, with local landowners – if we were to say no more forest management in this area, we're going to be impacting our ability to continue to improve the forests. We're working to maintain and create better conditions for Oak forests. We do that with burning, and although we don't have to worry about wildfires like they do out west, we do use burning to be able to create the right conditions for Oak Forests. If you're hunters, you need Oaks to have really good wildlife in that area. This would impact our ability to work with a lot of partners, not just with recreation but with forest management. We have a really tough problem with invasive species, and if we do nothing, which is what they would like us to do with this recreation area, it's just going to get further out of control. That can impact our neighboring private landowners who are trying to control invasives on their land.



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

### Maintenance Report

- Elle Dickerman, we did a lot of brushing this month, that's a definite need in the middle of the summer, people are complaining that they run into grass and thorns, and we try to get out there as much as we can to address it. Since we've established new reporting methods on the websites, we will hopefully have better information on that. But we have a good idea of the locations that typically get overgrown. We had one volunteer that took initiative to lead brushing groups and getting others out there to work on that, so we've addressed a lot of that this month.
- We had a CPR / First Aid training to recertify some of our volunteer chainsaw certified folks. The Wayne National Forest hosted it. We also had some people there who are interested in getting that certification in the future. That's great because they manage the majority of the trees that fall at the Baileys.
- We had an excellent work day this month with the Women Bikers of the Baileys and the Athens County Trail Sisters. We did a morning of trail maintenance and Fluff sponsored a lunch afterwards. They really enjoyed it, and these are groups that we really want to engage on the Baileys, because they are big trail users and they are excited about learning about trail maintenance and getting to participate.
- Jessie Powers, and that's our tool trailer out there that you can see.
- Elle Dickerman, oh yeah, we have our tool trailer. We will be getting that set up to haul tools to work days. It's empty right now.
- Steve Patterson, are you going to do a wrap on the trailer?
- Jessie Powers, yes, we will get the template over to RedTail, and do the same thing for the bike trailer.
- Elle Dickerman, I believe that will help with theft too, as we have all the locks on it and are getting cameras, but having a big logo on the side will make it hard for someone to steal it.

### Communications Report

- Parker McCluer, if you look at the numbers overall, engagement is up on all platforms. You can look at Facebook and Instagram stories, those didn't go up, but we still have a lot of people responding to us. The more posts we have, the more people interact with us and we get more followers, so then more people know about the Baileys Trail System. We could post more on Facebook and Instagram stories, but it doesn't seem to be necessary. I put in the previous communications report that we need about 5 posts a month, but it seems that 10 posts a month does even better. The numbers will most likely go down in the winter, but I believe that numbers will go up in the spring. This really shows the need for a communications staffer and someone taking care of our social media, because it keeps people talking about the Baileys.



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director  
director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445  
Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

- Jessie Powers, some of the things we have posted recently include reminders for trail etiquette, we shared a nice spread in Compass magazine. We have been really excited to have Parker's help with this.
- The last thing that comes to mind for Doanville is the trashcan.
- Tim Warren, did we talk about two or one of each? I was under the understanding we were going to get two.
- Steve Patterson, we should follow up with Andrew. I thought that it was one, because there's a pair.
- Tim Warren, but I thought there were going to be two pairs.
- Steve Patterson, I can look into it. Do we need more?
- Tim Warren, we could put one under the shelter house if we had another one.
- Jessie Powers, I did order the camera for Doanville.
- Tim Warren, we don't know how much recycling there is going to be but they're just going to drop it off at one of the recycling places in Buchtel or Doanville. And the trash, we can take care of that.

### Public Comments

NONE

### Other

- Lenny Eliason, one thing I thought of when you mentioned stuff slowing down in the winter – we may want to think about having some fundraising hikes or events. It might be a good idea to have a couple winter hikes, or something that will create some interest in the off-season in the trail, and we could have a fundraiser or something. We always think about the biking season, but we should think ahead and think about how we can generate some interest in the off-season. We could have a Baileys Winter Hike or something.
- Jessie Powers, if you are a member of the Baileys, we offer a community event. We are working with Chauncey to coordinate a celebration of the completed construction of the park with that member party. The tentative date is October 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm.
- Steve Patterson, we just received our first allocation of the One Ohio settlement money, its just north of \$6,000 for the city of Athens. I would like to see us work with Hopewell or Integrated services and see if we can't create a Pathways program for maintenance on the



## Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

Baileys. It could be a way to use that money. Places like Amesville, Amesville is getting like \$130 each year for 20 years. The strongest thing to do is for Athens County villages and cities to pool that money together to make a bigger impact with programs. I would like someone to offer a trail maintenance program as a way to introduce people in recovery to the labor force. I am hopeful that there are no restrictions for people in recovery to get the chainsaw certification. If we did something like this, having people do meaningful work in the Wayne National Forest – 88 miles is a lot of trail – these individuals would be gaining the skillset they could transfer to become landscapers or tree trimmers. I'd like us to continue to think about that.

- Jessie Powers, Habitat for Humanity has something called Community Renovations and Repair, and it's a recovery program. I think that there is a good synergy where we could work together with trails.
- Jay Kline, where did that money come from?
- Steve Patterson, I don't remember which company it was but it was from an opioid settlement.
- Jay Kline, I want to check on this to see if we got anything, I have not heard anything
- Lenny Eliason, the only place that didn't get anything I believe is Rome Township, they did not claim any losses. Everybody else in the county got some money.
- Amy Renner, I think Chauncey only got about \$100, so yours may be less than that, just an FYI.
- Steve Patterson, the requirement was that the money had to be used for substance abuse recovery.
- Jay Kline, I have not heard anything from them and I am going to check.
- Elle Dickerman, with this tool trailer, and the amount of tools and supplies that we got from the Economics of Altruism grant, we have the means to host big volunteer work days and do multi-day events with groups of people. The challenge is just getting those people out there. So if we have a group that has a contact person, for example we coordinated something with the Diversion program last month, those sorts of groups are great to help maintain trails. We also have this incredible opportunity to share skills and share knowledge of trail maintenance and get people out in the forest. So, if that's a group we have the potential to work with, then let's do it.

**Motion to Adjourn, 1:52pm: Steve Patterson, Second, Tim Warren: *Adjourned.***