

**Minutes of
Trumbull County MetroParks Board
Thursday, December 19, 2024**

A meeting of the Trumbull County MetroParks was called to order by the Chair, Randy Fabrizio, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 4:15 p.m. at Kent State Trumbull Room 163 in Link Building. Those in attendance included the following:

Randy Fabrizio, Chair
John Brown
Nicolette Darkangelo
Kurt Sauer
Steve Maas
Zachary Svette, Executive Director

Also in attendance: James Hetzler, Judy Hetzler, Eric Marsh, Kay Anderson-Warren Township Trustee, Bill Anderson, Denny Malloy, Trumbull County Commissioner, Nick Molinterino, Sherry Molinterino, Faye Smith, George Gordon, Julie Shutt, Bob Coupland, Tribune Chronicle, Scott Rowe, Denise Rowe, Deb Roth, Theo Bell, Bob Danko, Nancy Ritz, Sue Hartman.

Public Comments

Faye Smith- Spoke on how she would like to have more transparency and what studies were used for permits.

Bob Danko - spoke on how he is for the dam removal and that the dam is an accident waiting to happen and that the grants in place need to be spent.

Theo Bell- spoke on how businesses rely on the water and that it is the largest junkyard and work needs to be done in Eagle Creek and that a lot of people will be mad at the board.

Bill Anderson - spoke about how the deepest part of the river is between Newton falls and Leavittsburg and that if the dam is removed that power boats won't be able to be used and that it will ruin the river and that there is really good muskie fishing and that it won't fix any flooding.

Kay Anderson - Stated that she gave a letter to the board expressing the Warren Township trustees viewpoint on the dam removal and she asked if the board understood the letter and that she is impatient about the flooding.

James Hetzeler- Showed the board sediments that he said were contaminated from under the river and that they needed to be concerned about tourism.

Julie Shutt – Spoke on the her property on Eagle Creek Road and how goodwill and working together with solve this issue. That the dam is the gem of Leavittsburg. She also stated that the board needs more resources and that it may be difficult moving forward to get those resources if the board moves forward with the project.

George Gordon – Braceville and Flooding in support of Removal should help Eagle Creek. Also spoke about the other dam removals and their relation to roads and bridges.

Scott Row – Lives on Eagle Creek and is concerned safety of everyone.

Deb Roth – Spoke on the EPA funding for alternatives and that the board would have to apply for those alternatives and that the money that has been already spent in project may have to be paid on a case by case basis based on a conversation with Andrew in public relations at OEPA. Additionally she would be willing to coordinate a meeting between the Ohio EPA and the governor's office and that the board needed to consider the alternatives and to look at New Philadelphia in the road collapse.

Sherry Molinterino- Spoke on businesses that have been affected by the flooding also about the junk in the river and that it should be removed and that it won't eliminate all problems but it will help with some.

Nick Molinterino- Spoke on dam removals down river and that they have been a success.

Nancy Ritz- Spoke on how the damn moved from bottom of list to the top of the list, asked about the alternatives - the rock riffle asked about who owns the river and how the meeting times are not convenient.

Denny Malloy- Spoke on the alternatives and the steps that were supposed to be taken to get answers that were proposed by the board. Spoke about active nomic development in Warren and the dam removals there. Raise concerns about department heads not being listened to. Said that that if board decided to proceed that the budget would be in question for 2025 and that they would not help with future lawsuits.

- Kurt Sauer addressed items and about the non response from DLZ.

Randy Smith - Spoke on grant funds received for the Benedict Leavittsburg slip. Providing information from DLZ that the rock rifle would cost approximately \$750,000 that would be placed in front of the dam and that the flooding would be no change in that and that DLZ stopped communicating with the Ohio EPA after a discussion with an attorney there. He also stated that the structural integrity name should be OK.

Erich Marsh- AskED questions of the board about who went to who for the project and that the natural river would not be restored because other dams are not being removed ask the board about Eastgate and the timeline on the website and about if Eastgate was sponsoring the project. Thanked Mr. Maas for meeting with him.

I. Approval of Board Minutes of Board Minuets of the Regular Meeting November 21, 2024

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion and seconded by Mr. Sauer to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of November 21, 2024. The motion was carried.

II. Financial

The list of the bills paid was reviewed by the board. Mr. Brown made a motion seconded by Mr. Sauer to approve the list of bills. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the following transfer and seconded by Ms. Darkangelo. The motion was carried.

1. Transfer from 983-060-5600-5616-3-505419- (Land and Site Improvements): \$418,000.00
2. Transfer to: _ 983-060-5600-5616-3-505506 (Building Repairs and Maintenance) \$418,000.00

III. General Business

Mr. Fabrizio read in full Resolution 2024 -4 and Mr. Brown made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4: To Ratify the Trumbull County MetroParks' previous motion to approve the removal of the Leavittsburg Dam at Canoe City MetroPark located in Warren Township.. Seconded By, Ms. Darkangelo.

Discussion was held, Mr. Sauer discussed information he received from the County Engineer, Deb Roth and the Warren Township. Wants to meet with the OEPA, Trumbull County Commissioners, Ohio Board of Health and Governor's Office. Mr. Sauer Spoke on how the board would need to spend the funds in a timely fashion if not the board would risk losing them.

Mr. Maas, stated that he was disappointed in not getting the information that was requested of the Commissioners, Warren Township and DLZ. That he and board strived for the information throughout the project and the information that was not sent.

Mr. Fabrizio spoke on the how the study from DLZ took longer than promised to be sent to the park board. Stated the items being discussed now should have been included in the DLZ study.

Mr. Sauer, moved that resolution 4 - 2024 be tabled for additional month., No Second. Motion Failed.

Mr. Maas, Stated that alternatives could be still reviewed wile the process of the dam removal is undertaken.

The roll call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – NO. The motion carried 4-1.

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to approve the Contract Modification #1 to the Design Build Contract with RiverReach Construction Design Build Team and to allow Zachary Svette to sign all documentation to execute the contract Seconded by, Mr. Brown. The roll call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to provide Paddle the River, LLC (DBA Mahoning River Adventures [MRA]) the 30 Day written notice of termination of the lease of the building at Canoe City MetroPark as outlined in section 5.2 that was effective March 1, 2023. This is being done to help facilitate the dam removal project and that MRA is in good standing. Seconded by Mr. Maas. The roll call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the indefinite closure of Canoe City MetroPark effective Friday, February 7, 2025 to help facilitate the dam removal project. Seconded by Ms. Darkangelo. The roll call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the Notice of Grant Requirements for the Kinsman Wetlands Project through NAWCA Funds and to allow Zachary Svette, Executive Director to Sign on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Mr. Maas. The roll call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to approve Educational Corridor Transportation Plan as created for the PY25 Planning Grant through Eastgate Council of Governments. Seconded by Mr. Sauer. The roll call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sauer left meeting

Mr. Brown made a motion to go into executive session: To consider the employment and compensation of a public employee. Seconded by Ms. Darkangelo. The roll Call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried.

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to come out of executive session: To consider the employment and compensation of a public employee. Seconded by Mr. Brown. The roll Call was taken: Mr. Fabrizio- Yes, Mr. Brown- Yes, Ms. Darkangelo – Yes, Mr. Maas- Yes, Mr. Sauer – Yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Brown made a motion to table the pay increase Zachary Svette, Interim Secretary for Trumbull County MetroParks Board retroactive to October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. They board wants to wait till the budget is set for 2025 before making such decisions. Seconded by Ms. Darkangelo. The motion carried.

IV. Communications

No communications were presented to the board.

V. Executive Director's Report-See Attached Report

VIII. Future Planning

Next meeting: January 30, 2024-4:15 p.m at the Park Office. .

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Svette

Zachary Svette, Interim Secretary