

LOCAL YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER SCENIC AND WILD RIVER ADVISORY BOARD

Draft Public Meeting Minutes- January 25, 2024

1. Opening

- **Call to Order:** Chairman Don Sebold at 9:04 am.
- **Roll Call: Present members:** Jeff McCauley, Seth Metheny, Molly Rikhye, Randy Rodeheaver (remote), Don Sebold (Chair), Roger Zbel, Siera Wigfield. Guests: Paul Peditto (Assistant Secretary of DNR, remote), Steve Storck. Planning Staff: Chad Fike.

2. Agenda Approval

- Motion: Roger Zbel; Seconded: Jeff McCauly; Unanimously passed.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion: Seth Metheny; Seconded: Roger Zbel; Unanimously passed.

4. Public Comments

Steve Storck informed the Board that he was part of a group that recently filed a request for judicial review regarding the approval of the replacement bridge at Swallow Falls. The next step in the judicial review process will take place in April 2024 when the plaintiffs will request to throw out DNR's initial approval for the bridge.

5. Unfinished & New Business

1. **DNR Corridor Mapping Updates:** Paul Peditto stated that mapping the Wild and Scenic Corridor is a priority, but clarified that no specific funding has been allocated for the project. Funds previously allocated to DNR and Garrett County for developing a trail along the Youghiogheny River have been reallocated to the Legislature.. Such a mapping project may take over a year to complete. Ms. Wigfield stated that the Planning Office and Advisory Board support the project and are willing to assist.
2. **Draft Letter on establishing a protocol for receiving updates from Garrett County and DNR:** There was some discussion about reviewing a draft letter to confirm the Board's role and request DNR and the County to provide the Board information regarding activities in the Corridor. Following discussion, rather than sending the letter, the Board decided to ask the County Commissioners to clarify their advisory role. Rodger Zebel made a motion to request a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the Local Youghiogheny Wild and Scenic Advisory Board's authority and provide clarity about the Board's role. Seconded: Seth Metheny; Unanimously passed. Siera Wigfield and Chad Fike will reach out to the Commissioners and follow up with the Board members.
3. **Review draft bylaws:** Siera Wigfield provided a five-page draft of bylaws to consider. This draft uses the 1986 Administrative Procedures along with other common sections in advisory board bylaws. Ms. Wigfield noted that this draft is much longer and would welcome edits prior to further discussion on the bylaws. This topic will be tabled until the Board gains clarity on their authority and role from the County.

8. Next Meeting

- **Schedule the next meeting for March 14, 2024, at 9:00 am, in the Garrett County Public Meeting Room.**
- **Topics:** Follow up regarding discussions with the County Commissioners regarding the Board's role; Review draft bylaws; orientation materials for Board members.

10. Additional Public Comments

- A suggestion for the next meeting was to provide updates regarding the USGS gauge.
- Even though the Board did not meet for 17 years, the Board members were renewed by the County Commissioners.

11. Adjournment

- The motion to adjourn was made by Siera Wigfield and seconded by Randy Rodeheaver 10:41 am.

Minutes Submitted by: Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner, Garrett County Government