

LOCAL YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER ADVISORY BOARD

Draft Public Meeting Minutes- December 18, 2023

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), John Wilson (retired State Coordinator, remote).

2. Agenda Approval

- Amended to include discussion on 1986 administrative procedures.
- Motion: Siera Wigfield; Seconded: Roger Zbel; Unanimously passed.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Removal of an inaccurate bullet point proposed by Molly Rikhye, seconded by Jeff McCauley; Unanimously approved.

4. Public Comments

- Steve Storck emphasized cooperative management.
- John Wilson raised concerns about deforestation impacts and DNR transparency.

5. Unfinished & New Business

- **Swallow Fall Bridge Update:** Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto provided updates: DNR granted an exception to the County for an off-set Bridge design. The County's contracted engineers are working on the revised bridge design, which will be reviewed by DNR when they are 50% complete. Don Sebold discussed concerns increased deforestation with the off-set bridge.
- **USGS Stream Gauge:** Clarification provided by Paul Peditto on application review process. Paul Peditto stated that the gauge location was determined by USGS experts as the best location for their water quality analysis.
- **Communication Protocol:** A motion to request notification monthly of the active projects in the wild and scenic corridor, was made by Molly Rikhye and Roger Zbel seconded, motion passed. The Siera Wigfield raised issues regarding corridor mapping and its impact on the County's Permits Office.
- **Mapping Updates:** Paul Peditto noted DNR is engaging educational institutions for the assistance on modernizing the Corridor's mapping.

7. Administrative Procedures

- Discussion was deferred until a draft document is prepared.
- Motion to draft and publish administrative rules proposed by Siera Wigfield, seconded by Molly Rikhye; Unanimously passed.

8. Next Meeting

- **Scheduled for January 25, 9 am, Garrett County Public Meeting Room.**
- **Topics:** administrative rules, mapping updates, and development of orientation materials.

9. Acknowledgements: Thanks to Paul Peditto and John Wilson for valuable contributions. Paul Peditto noted as the principal point of contact for DNR.

10. Additional Public Comments

- Suggestions for including Carrie Lhotsky and Scenic and Wild Rivers Board members in meeting notices.
- Queries about exceptions request process and public education on the wild and scenic corridor.
- Chad Fike, Assistant Director of Planning and Permits, clarified that the County does not require building permits for structures under 240 square feet or for fences. This information is crucial for the Board's understanding of the County's permit process limitations.

11. Adjournment

- Motion by Seth Metheny at 10:43 am, seconded by Molly Rikhye; Unanimously approved.

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