

# Ohio River Trail Council



1100 Pennsylvania Av  
 Monaca, Pa 15061  
 724-728-2625

**MINUTES**                      DATE 1-31-2013                      TIME 4:00 PM                      MONACA BOROUGH BUILDING                      PLACE

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Dr. Vincent Troia
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Quarterly
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Dr. Vincent Troia
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Donna Campbell, Secretary

Attendees: George Warnock, W Reserve Land Conservancy; John Szatkiewicz; Linda Tice; Donna Campbell; Michelle Addison; Diane Kemp; John Buerkle, Paschek and Assc; Mike Kotyk, Paschek and Assc; Peggy Pings, NPS RTCA; Phyllis McChesney, Montour Trail Council; Dr. Vincent Troia, CEO ORTC; Jack Manning; John Orndorff, Jr., Sewickley Valley Com Fund; Bill Weber; Diane Cvengros, Crescent; Patience Eckhardt, Crescent; Brenda Applegate, BCHRLF; Lance Welliver, Moon Township; Bill Sweterlisch; Greg Bellich, US Army Corp of Engineers

Agenda Topics: Philanthropy, ORSST Phase I, Legal, Trail Issues, Grant Applications, Symposium/Expo, ORNST, Brownfield Project, ORTC Museum – Project Website, Ohio River Watershed Award, ORWT PA, ORWT Logo, ORWT Site Improve, ORWT Mile Markers, ORWT Contacts, ORWT Map and Guide, Paschek and Associates ORWT Map presentation

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm. All individuals present introduced themselves. Dr. Vincent Troia welcomed everyone present and introduced the group to Pashek and Associates, consultants for the Ohio River Water Trail Map & Guide. He continued with a review of ORTC business before Paschek made their presentation.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia extended a special thank-you to the philanthropic efforts of John Oliver III and Marguerite Standish, both of Sewickley for their generous donation of \$2,000.00 and \$5,000.00 respectively. They are particularly interested in supporting Phase I of the trail project to the Sewickley Bridge along with the Ohio River North Shore Trail Extension. Phase I is underway with easement negotiations in process. Attorney Vince Tucceri is assisting with legal concerns. TCSP (Transportation Community and System Preservation Program) has committed \$200,000 to the Phase I project. An addition application for a 50/50 match grant for Phase I is due on April 10, 2013 from C2P2 (Community Conservation Partnership Program). Coraopolis Council has passed a resolution to approve this application for funding of engineering and preparation of bid documents and permits for the construction of the 2.5 mile stretch between Coraopolis and Moon Township with a link to the Sewickley Bridge. They have asked for a letter of support from the ORTC and a \$5,000.00 commitment for operation and maintenance. Dr. Vincent Troia made a motion that we approve the letter of support and in-kind services commitment of \$5,000.00. Bill Weber second the motion. All were in favor.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Vincent Troia showed a map for the South Shore Trail completed in March of last year. He continued with a Goggle map of the Phase Trail that included the new sports complex; the trail starts at the Neville Bridge extending to the Sewickley Bridge. He indicated that the trail route easements are being obtained. Lance Welliver, Interim Director of Moon Township has submitted the final draft of the waterfront park to the Board of Supervisors for review. The Waterfront Park trailhead will be a dual trailhead with access to the river as well as the bike trail.

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia urged the group to consider membership in the River Network Partnership. Membership cost is \$150.00 and affords us a reduction in Liability Insurance Premiums. Annual premium would be \$3,000.00.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia reviewed continuance of the Intergovernmental agreement. Bill Weber made a motion to approve the continuation of the Intergovernmental agreement between Monaca, Midland, Coraopolis, and Moon Township. Diane Kemp second the motion. All were in favor
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The ORTC has been approached by Beaver River Rail-to-Trails to form an agreement for partnership. Legal documents need to be written.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Trail Funding regarding Act 13 impact fees from the Marcellus Shale industry is becoming available to our area with 1.1 million in Allegheny County, 197K in Beaver County and 29K in Ohioville. These fees can be used for conservation and recreation projects and as Peggy Pings reported, "people will start lining up for this". Dr. Troia suggested scheduling a meeting with Donielle Russell to get involved in this as soon as possible. Mario Leone stated the initiative to take would be to write a letter to the County Commissioners asking for a grant from the funds before they allocate them elsewhere. Dr. Troia suggested utilizing the funds to plan the section along the North Shore of the Beaver River.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia reported that we are listed on the PittsburghGives.Org website. We are listed with them for their Day of Giving in October.
	Dr. Troia reported on the Trail Fundraising projects. The Steeler Raffle Ticket sale raised \$3,540.00 in revenue. The next Gear and Beer Fallfest is scheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2013 from 8 to 6. The lodge has been reserved with \$175 deposit. Peggy Pings said this is a really great opportunity to promote the water trail and the land trail. She also commented on the Cincinnati Ohio River Paddlefest This year will be their twelfth annual event. Last year they had 2200 paddlers on the river. The Paddlefest will be held from June 20 <sup>th</sup> to June 22 <sup>nd</sup> . She said it would be fun to take a contingent from our group down to check out their festival.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia reviewed the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program. They have committed a \$9900.00 grant. The Rivers of Steel Mini grant is pending. The Port of Pittsburgh Commission grant application was submitted on February 13, 2013.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia informed everyone that the Forks of the Ohio Regional Trail Symposium will be held at the Pittsburgh Marriott North on Friday March 8 <sup>th</sup> . ORTC will have a table at the event to display the water trail. Peggy Pings reminded the group that this is a part of the Power of 32. The Benedum helps with this initiative and we should be reminded that we want to move forward to go for Tiger Grant Money through the highways. It would be good to have strong representation from our group and volunteers are needed at the exhibit table from 8 to 4.
	The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society State Conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey PA on March 23, 2013. The conference provides educational sessions on conservation projects, funding for community recreation etc. and is an excellent networking opportunity. Pittsburgh Cycling Expo - ORTC will have a table there.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Ohio River North Shore Trail study has been completed and is ready for review. The draft is available for download. Dr. Troia will provide us with more information on the download. The North Shore Trail study connects Sewickley, Edgeworth, Leetsdale and Ambridge from the Sewickley Bridge to Old Economy Village.

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mario Leone reported that the Brownfield Study came to a conclusion and that this was a good project for us because our trail goes through many of the targeted brownfields. The application was to be submitted at the end of last year however we requested a three month extension to incorporate comments from the Assessment Coalition into the application. Monaca, Midland, Coraopolis and Aliquippa will have significantly improved access to the riverfront. We are one of 23 counties competing for the grant and it is specifically for clean-up of the forty mile stretch encompassing four municipalities and two counties. Mario stated, "We should be in good shape to get future grants and will see a lot of positive impact from this".
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia informed the group that he was contacted by Robert Steffes in an effort to follow-up on a project whereby the ORTC could receive a grant from the PA Historical and Museum Commission "Keystone Historical Preservation Fund". Dr. Troia was disappointed that we may have lost an opportunity as the P & LE railroad station in Aliquippa was recently sold for \$5500.00. He stated, "the building was gorgeous and would have made a beautiful museum but it has degraded and had been vandalized." Dr. Troia showed an overhead of the location of the property. If you want more information about this project, check the website. Robert Steffes is attempting to contact the new owner to see if he wants to sell it.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Monaca recently received the Ohio River Watershed Environmental Award in 2011. The award was primarily granted to Monaca because of our EPA project and the Water Trail project. The Ohio River Trail Council and Dr. Troia received the 2012 award due the Ohio River Water Trail Project.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Upper Ohio Watertrail project has been approved as an officially designated Watertrail by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. The watertrail extends from Pittsburgh to East Liverpool Ohio. PA Water Trail logos have been completed and six examples were presented. Dr. Troia stated that the P&LE Bridge is world famous and he wanted to incorporate this in the logo. Motion to approve the logo with the Bridge with the Sternwheeler in the foreground was made by John Szatkiewicz. Motion was second by Dr. Troia. All were in favor.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Launch site improvements have continued with approval for the installation of Signage, Bike and kayak racks in New Brighton and Freedom. Pictures of the Ohioville park racks were shown.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dr. Troia also reviewed the Freedom Waterfront area and stated it needs a little cleanup but will be a very nice waterfront. He continued by showing the Baden Beach river access from Pinney Street and State Street to Water Street at river mile 20. He is waiting to hear from Baden as to whether we can use this for emergency access.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The ORTC will be installing mile markers at access points along the river in Leetsdale, Freedom, Rochester, Monaca, and Shippingport similar to the TRWT. Peggy Pings asked if the markers are at each mile or just at the access points. Dr. Troia stated they are only at access points since they are very expensive, approximately \$3,000.00 per sign. John Szatkiewicz said we should hold off on a vote on this issue until we check other prices for the markers. Dr. Troia said he was not sure we could use the same type of sign unless we purchased them from Sign Pro. John thought they could be fabricated by local shops. The group agreed to table the vote until the next meeting. Dr. Troia added that the signs the Three Rivers Water Trail uses are "100 year flood-proof". Peggy stated it would be nice to know if any have "wiped out" in high water or if they have been vandalized. Three Rivers Water Trail is a National Recreation trail running through the Pittsburgh area for about 75 miles. Dr. Troia showed a picture of the water trail map encompassing the three Pittsburgh Rivers, the Allegheny, the Monongahela and the Ohio. It is easily accessible from the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Dr. Troia also reviewed the West Virginia Water Trail map. Peggy Pings also noted that the Upper Monongahela Water Trail map could eventually go from Fairmont, WV all the way up to the Pittsburgh, PA river system of maps. The next project will be to encourage a continuation of the ORWT into Ohio.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	With regard to the ORWT Map & Guide, descriptive text for the Beaver River and Little Beaver Creek as well as for Raccoon Creek is needed. Dr. Troia is the principal on this project and has been improving the access sites for three years. Dr. Troia has written all the text for the complete ORWT Map & Guide and worked exclusively with Pashek Associates in the development of the map & guide. Peggy stated she thought there was some white water on the Little Beaver Creek that should be indicated. Dr. Troia is in the process of including this information.

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>It was suggested to show specific amenities along the river but they should be easily accessible. Dr. Troia asked if the map is going to be an advertisement for the counties or just a resource for canoeing and kayaking. If businesses were interested in contributing to the mapping cost perhaps they should be added to the map, but someone must solicit businesses for this. Trailtown brochures also address some of these issues and identify a lot of this on the Beaver River but there is no space on the Ohio River map. Food symbols could be placed at the access points along the river in lieu of placing them on the map. Many restaurants in Bridgewater, as an example, would want to be on the map but we are pushing a deadline for soliciting these places as the map goes for printing in April. Jack Manning suggested going to the municipalities' business development projects. An advertisement could be \$500.00 allowing the advertiser exposure on 20,000 copies of the map. Mike Kotyk asked Dr. Troia to complete a description along Little Beaver Creek to be placed on the map along with suggested trips and their lengths. Pictures presently on the map have been put there as placeholders only. They can be changed for others of preference.</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>The Ohio River Water Trail map shows fishing opportunities at specific mile markers, lock information and Raccoon Creek and Island locations along with points of restriction around the Shippingport Power Plant. Points of interest such as the Vicary House, Old Economy Park, Island's names etc. are noted. Brenda Applegate pointed out that there are other historic places such as Old Economy Village even though it is not quite as easily accessible. If these historic places are listed, we should also indicate the Merrick Art Gallery in New Brighton and Beaver Heritage Museum in Beaver. Paschek and Associates concluded their presentation by welcoming all suggestions and comments for additions and corrections.</p>
	<p>Dr. Troia adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM. Next meeting 30 days to be scheduled.</p>