



MINUTES

Perry County Park District Board - Regular Meeting

March 13, 2023, 3:30pm

Somerset Courthouse

100 Public Square, Somerset, OH

- I. Call to Order
Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 3:41 pm.

- II. Roll Call
Present: Scott Moore; Fred Redfern; Sue Oberhauser; Jack Coll; Tami McAdams.
Absent:
Staff: Jessie Bennett - PCPD Naturalist;
Guests: Judge Luann Cooperrider, Perry Co Probate Judge; Gary Turnes.

- III. Approve March Agenda Items/Request for additional/revised agenda items
Ms. McAdams moved, Mr. Coll seconded, to approve the March 13, 2023, meeting agenda.
Motion carried by unanimous vote

- IV. Approval of February Minutes
Mr. Redfern moved, Mr. Coll seconded, to approve the February 13, 2023, Regular meeting minutes as amended.
Motion carried by unanimous vote

- V. Financial Status of Park District and Approval of February Revenue and Expense Report
Mr. Redfern moved, Mr. Coll seconded, to approve the February 2023 revenue & expense report.
Motion carried by unanimous vote

- VI. Comments from the public/guests
Mr. Turnes advised that he was working with Steve Glade to get an OCVN group back together and was hoping to see a certification class scheduled in Perry County. He said the recent maple syrup program at Glenford Fort went well and was well attended.

Judge Cooperrider suggested doing a joint kayak/canoe Try It Day at the new Thornville/Buckeye Lake launch on Honey Creek Rd, in collaboration with Soil & Water and Thorn Township.

Mr. Redfern relayed a message from Jenny LaRue, Perry Co Health Department, regarding the monthly walks being sponsored by the Health Department. Mr. Redfern will be leading The next walks will be:

- Friday April 7 at PC Fairgrounds, 11am.
- May walk will be in Thornville at Township Rd 358, to walk the proposed multi-use trail route. The date is still to be determined.

- Wednesday, June 14, at 10am, at the Perry County Gun Club, led by Soil and Water's Penny Cox.

VII. Old Business

A. HB 377 Appalachian Community Grant - collaboration update (Moore)

Mr. Moore advised that he had submitted Mt Perry railroad idea for PCPD to the Buckeye Hills group, but doesn't know yet whether the idea was picked up for the final submission to the state. A new series of planning meetings are coming up and the project awards announcement should be coming soon.

B. Wilson Mound Property -Trail Planning Project

Mr. Coll and Mr. Redfern did an initial review of the Wilson Mound property trails with Mr. Moore, in preparation for the final route designation and marking of the trails. One previously flagged trail is set to be rerouted away from adjoining private properties. There is also a concern about footing and safety at the previously flagged cliff area trail. Another trip will be scheduled for further review.

C. Glenford Ft Properties/Dutcher House

Mr. Moore advised that last month PCPD sent content input for an MOU to the County Commissioners as requested by Mr. Carpenter. The County Commissioners' office acknowledged receipt and advised they would be putting together combined version for consideration.

Mr. Redfern mentioned that Dale Hague would be attending the April Board meeting to discuss the Clay Center, another County Commissioners' property.

VIII. New Business

A. Lily Pad Park/Thornport discussion

Judge Cooperrider gave an overview of the history of the Lily Pad Park. The current owners are interested in donating the property to a non-profit organization, or possibly the Perry County Park District, with the stipulation of it remaining a community park in Thornville. It could be a year or more before the donation would be made. Judge Cooperrider advises that the proposed multi-use trail in Thorn Township would pass near the park.

B. USFWS - assessment of Wilson Mound property for possible pollinator/prairie project

Ms. McAdams advised that USFWS Biologist Ryan Morr is interested in visiting the Wilson Mound and Glenford Fort properties, to assess them for possible pollinator/prairie projects with the USFWS. He is also checking on whether these properties are within the agency's 'preferred' area for the fully funded projects. It is possible that the fact of the historical nature of the properties may add some preference for these properties to be considered. Mr. Morr will provide some available dates in May that he can visit. These dates will be provided to Soil & Water and the County Commissioners for a date all can attend and meet with Mr. Morr.

C. Programming Report

Ms. Bennett provided an overview of current programs, events, and activities, advising she was at Junction City Pre-School last week with a “Living and Not Living” program, and held Woodcock Watches on March 4 and 11 at Glenford Fort. The next two Woodcock Watches are scheduled for Ludowici Park on March 19 and 27. On March 24, she will be at Sheridan High School with the Biology class to present “How I Met Your Mother”. On March 15, Ms. Bennett will be speaking at the Farm Bureau with Mr. Redfern.

Some of her programs upcoming in April are Millcreek Elementary School in Corning (amphibians) on April 28, and Storytellers at Robinson’s Cave in New Straitsville on April 29, 2pm. Ms. Bennett is still exploring the possibility of a field trip for the eclipse to another area of the state that will be provide a better view. She also suggested a trip, for public or the Board, to the Granville Land Lab. Ms. McAdams will touch base to confirm the CORSI insurance will cover this type of public field trip activity.

Ms. Bennett suggested that PCPD consider at some point a membership at the Somerset Builders Club to be able to use the equipment there, such as 3-D printer, laser engraver, lathe, etc. This could be helpful if she creates kits for program projects. She will look further into what equipment is available and the cost.

The Board discussed possibly creating a Friends of the Park District membership program. Benefits to members could be discounts on field trips, discounts on local supporting businesses, access to special programs, visits to private, local sites of interest, etc. The program could possibly ready to promote at the Fair.

Participation 2023 at the Sheriff’s Department’s Hooked On Fishing and the Perry County Longbeards Jake’s Day was discussed (both events are held at the Gun Club). Mr. Redfern will get contact info for both events.

Ms. Bennett announced that an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) class is being scheduled for Fall 2023 by the Muskingum Valley Park District, Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District, and Muskingum County /OSU Extension Office. Ms. Bennett has offered our services to assist as needed.

Other Updates:

1. Wildlife Education Grant application (\$500)

Ms. Bennett said she plans to apply in the current cycle for eclipse viewing glasses, in preparation for the 2024 full eclipse, thus ordering before supplies get scarce. The application deadline is June 30. The next grant cycle begins July 1. Ms. Bennett will apply again after July 1 for other programming needs. She is still exploring the possibility of a field trip for the eclipse to another area of the state that will be provide a better view.

2. Ohio Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation grant

Ms. Bennett she is still considering applying for this grant. She has more research to do to determine if PCPD can meet the obligations and whether this study grant is suitable for us at this time.

3. 2023 Home and Garden Show

Ms. Bennett advised that she received an email from the Home and Garden Show, with notice that the fee would be \$75. The Board felt there had not been a fee last year. Ms. Bennett would like to have a booth at the 2023 Perry Co Home and Garden Show again if possible. Mr. Moore will contact Perry Tribune's Brenda Carney to discuss whether there would be a fee for PCPD.

4. 2023 Fair Booth

Ms. Bennett said she would like to have a designated PCPD booth at the Perry County Fair this year if possible. The cost is believed to be \$80 to be in the Commerce Building. The application is due in May. The Fair dates are Mon-Sat, July 17 - 22, 2023.

Ms. McAdams stated that the expense could be worth it, but only if we were able to man the booth for at least a few hours daily. That will require a time commitment from the Board and other volunteers. Judge Cooperrider has extended an invitation to have a PCPD presence in her booth again in 2023. Ms. Bennett will confirm the rate and location, and bring back the info to the April meeting for a Board decision.

5. Educator's Week Conference

Ms. Bennett will be attending one day of the event in June during a bio-blitz. She will cover her own registration expense. The Board approved her to count work hours for this training day. Ms. McAdams also invited Ms. Bennett to participate in bio-blitz dates at the Licking Park District in June.

6. Wildlife Diversity Conference

Ms. Bennett and Mr. Coll attended the 2023 Wildlife Diversity Conference on April 1 in Columbus and each gave a summary of the sessions they attended.

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Oberhauser moved, Mr. Redfern seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Next Regular Meeting - Monday, April 10, 2023, 3:30pm

Location: Corning Public Library, 113 11th St, Corning, OH 43730

Reminder:

2023 Park Board Meeting Locations

- A. Jan - Mar 2023 (*Somerset Courthouse*)
- B. April - June 2023 (*Corning/Junction City/Thornville*)
- C. July - Sept 2023 (*New Lexington/Hemlock/Shawnee*)
- D. Oct - Dec 2023 (*New Straitsville/Glenford/Roseville*)