

**Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**  
**1:00pm - 3:00pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**FINAL**  
**Meeting Minutes**

*PTAC Members present:*

Cindy Barrack – Snowmobiling  
Anil Dham – Members at Large  
Chris Firme - Hiking  
Brett Hollern – Cross-Country Skiing  
Donna Iannone – Members at Large  
Michael Kuhn – Mountain Biking  
Brook Lenker – Members at Large  
Courtney Mahronich Vita – Members at Large  
Pamila Marlowe – Members at Large

Lydia Martin - Walking  
Penny Mason – Four-Wheel Driving  
Miica Patterson – Members at Large  
David Saunders – Members at Large  
Ron Steffey – Members at Large  
Gwen Wills – Horseback riding  
Owen Worozbyt – Bicycling  
Paul Wurst – Off-Highway Motorcycling

*PTAC Members not present:*

Bob Amelio – Persons with Disabilities  
Liz Fager – Water Trail Users  
Joe Perry – ATV Riding

*Others in Attendance:*

Carol Grayshaw – WeConservePA  
Justin Cambric – PennDOT  
Allen Dieterich-Ward – Shippensburg University  
and Cumberland Valley Rail-Trail Council  
Jim Hugar – public attendee  
Mary Ann Sandone – public attendee

*DCNR staff:*

Troy Withers  
Erin Wiley Moyers  
Michael Hoffman  
Alex MacDonald  
Leslie Sarvis  
Tyler Semder  
Tom Ford

Lauren Imgrund  
Matt Crosbie  
David Maher  
Nicole Faraguna  
Shea Zwerver  
Jake Newton  
Tom Hanes

**Call to Order**

Ron Steffey, Chair, called the meeting to order and roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Mike Kuhn and seconded by Courtney Mahronich Vita to approve the December 21, 2021 meeting minutes with no changes. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks – Lauren Imgrund, Deputy Secretary for Conservation & Technical Services**  
Lauren welcomed the members to the meeting and commented on the following:

- Welcome to the first Trails Advisory Committee meeting of 2022 and a special welcome to the new committee members. The Secretary is sorry to miss the meeting, but she has a very busy schedule and is out and about more than usual this spring.
- We're excited to have several new DCNR staff on board. Nathan Reigner is the first Director of Outdoor Recreation for the state. Nathan couldn't attend the meeting, but you can read about him on DCNR's Good Natured webpage: [Article \(pa.gov\)](#)
- The Senate budget hearing occurred recently, and DCNR is hopeful for robust grant program funding as well as funding for 31 new positions across DCNR.
- DCNR is anticipating that perhaps four Top 10 Gaps will be closed this year. Stay tuned for these gaps to be completed in the coming months. The committee will help select the next gaps to fill in for the ones that are closed.
- Since this is an election year and a new governor's administration will be transitioning into office early next year, DCNR leadership is working to set up DCNR to continue to advance the mission and put the agency and outdoor recreation in a good position for the coming years. There is an influx of federal funds for infrastructure improvements that we hope will go towards recreation and conservation. We encourage constituents to highlight this need with their legislators.

There was a question about DCNR revisiting the grant match requirements to help lower income communities. Tom Ford answered that conversations have started regarding legislation to lower the threshold for match for disadvantaged communities, and there may be other creative options to using alternative funding sources to help solve the match problem.

#### Introductions of new DCNR staff

Leslie Sarvis introduced Mark Palerino who could not attend the meeting. Mark replaced Diane Kripas as the new Chief of the Division of Recreation and Conservation. David Maher introduced himself as the new PA Heritage Areas Coordinator.

#### Introductions of new PTAC Committee members

- Brett Hollern, Cross-Country Skiing representative. Brett works for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC). In addition to cross-country skiing, Brett enjoys all kinds of outdoor recreation, and he is training to be certified by the National Ski Patrol.
- Brook Lenker, Member-at-Large. Brook is the new Executive Director of the Keystone Trails Association, which largely focuses on hiking trails.
- Paul Wurst, Off-Highway Motorcycling. Paul enjoys all kinds of motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreation, and he is interested in better engagement of our youth in outdoor recreation and conservation.

#### Railroad Heritage on Rail Trails

Allen Dieterich-Ward spoke to the committee about the importance of integrating railroad heritage on rail trails. Rail-trail organizations can connect with railroad heritage organizations to promote railroad heritage on trail corridors and form strategic partnerships. Note: Allen's full powerpoint presentation was shared with the committee after the meeting. David Maher noted in the meeting chat that the PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) presented the Redbank Valley Trails Association with a Community Initiative Award for their work to preserve, conserve, and interpret the railroad history on their trail: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tzz-1LfrzA>

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Education and Awareness

NOTE: There will be a brief DEIJ Education and Awareness presentation at each committee meeting.

Miica Patterson presented on DEIJ definitions and terminology. The DEIJ definitions are part of a 'living glossary' that is updated as the DEIJ field evolves in response to local context. Miica covered topics on Power and Privilege, Ethnicity and Race, Deficit and Asset Framing, and Coded Language. Note: Miica's full powerpoint presentation was shared with the committee after the meeting.

## Subcommittee Reports/Discussions:

Ron Steffey asked for subcommittee reports as well as an overview of each committee so that the new committee members can think about which subcommittee they would like to join. He also asked that the subcommittee leads submit an email report two weeks before each committee meeting.

- Maintenance Subcommittee (Ron Steffey, lead) – Nothing new to report; however, they are hoping to prepare a report on the definition of maintenance language that could be used. Brook Lenker expressed interest in serving on this subcommittee.
- Trail Etiquette Subcommittee (Brett Hollern, lead as alternate for Frank Maguire) – The subcommittee met last fall and discussed explaining to new trail users how to use the trail, best practices and identifying different types of trail users. The subcommittee also talked about developing a survey, but they haven't moved forward with that yet.
- Communication Subcommittee (Miica Patterson, lead) – The committee is exploring how to inform people about funding for trails, educating the public on trails and how to get the word out about trails. They want to make sure they aren't reinventing the wheel. The subcommittee can also help with communication with the other subcommittees and assist with their priorities.
- Economic Impacts Subcommittee (Mike Kuhn, lead) – They are hoping to work with Donna in northern PA. Owen Worozbyt will likely be co-leading the subcommittee with Mike. Paul Wurst expressed interest on participating in this subcommittee and the communication subcommittee to help promote trans-state trails for motorized recreation and the valuable economic impact that this recreation can have for the state.

## DCNR Updates

Leslie Sarvis discussed forming a subcommittee to review the Trail of the Year Nomination form, particularly the eligibility requirements and whether the entirety of a trail must be nominated instead of individual sections. Anyone interested in being on the subcommittee should let Leslie know by Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Leslie also informed the committee that they will be receiving instructions in the coming weeks for the spring trail grant application reviews. The reviews will be completed through the DCNR portal like last year.

Carol gave a brief overview of the 2023 Greenways and Trail Summit. It will be held in Scranton from September 17-19, 2023. It is being hosted by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association. Stay tuned for more details on the Summit.

Ron thanked Carol Grayshaw from WeConservePa for helping with technical logistics of the meeting.

Gwen Wills motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Courtney Mahronich Vita seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

**Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2022**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**DRAFT**  
**Meeting Minutes**

*PTAC Members present:*

Bob Amelio – Persons with Disabilities  
Cindy Barrack – Snowmobiling  
Anil Dham – Members at Large  
Liz Fager – Water Trail Users  
Chris Firme - Hiking  
Donna Iannone – Members at Large  
Brook Lenker – Members at Large  
Courtney Mahronich Vita – Members at Large

Pamela Marlowe – Members at Large  
Penny Mason – Four-Wheel Driving  
Joe Perry – ATV Riding  
David Saunders – Members at Large  
Ron Steffey – Members at Large  
Gwen Wills – Horseback riding  
Paul Wurst – Off-Highway Motorcycling

*PTAC Members not present:*

Brett Hollern – Cross-Country Skiing  
Mike Kuhn – Mountain Biking  
Lydia Martin – Walking  
Miica Patterson – Members at Large  
Owen Worozbyt – Bicycling

*Others in Attendance:*

Carol Grayshaw – WeConservePA  
Adriana Atencio – The Common Wheel  
Justin Cambric – PennDOT  
Roy Gothie – PennDOT  
Madison Short – member of the public

*DCNR staff:*

Matt Crosbie  
Nicole Faraguna  
Tom Ford  
Tom Hanes  
Michael Hoffman  
Lauren Imgrund  
David Maher

Alex MacDonald  
Mark Palerino  
Nathan Reigner  
Leslie Sarvis  
Tyler Semder  
Troy Withers  
Paul Zeph

*Call to Order*

Ron Steffey, Chair, called the meeting to order and roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Anil Dham and seconded by Gwen Wills to approve the March 29, 2022 meeting minutes with no changes. The motion was passed unanimously.

Welcome and Opening Remarks – Lauren Imgrund, Deputy Secretary for Conservation & Technical Services  
Lauren welcomed the members to the meeting and commented on the following:

- Thank you to the committee members for reviewing the trail grant applications this spring. DCNR received 64 trail grant applications requesting over \$25 million in grant funding. The PTAC's comments and input are very much appreciated by DCNR staff.
- The first Top 10 Trail Gap of the year was closed last week. The Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge on the Enola Low Grade Rail-Trail in Lancaster County held a dedication event on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hope to close two more Top 10 gaps this year, and we'll work with the Trails Advisory Committee to identify new Top 10 Trail Gaps to replace the ones that closed.
- DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is leading an ATV Regional Connector Pilot program in northcentral PA. The pilot is now open for the first full riding season. DCNR's Bureau of Forestry was able to negotiate a large expansion of riding opportunities for ATV enthusiasts as part of the pilot.
- We look forward to the committee's input on the e-bikes presentation that Nicole will be giving later in the meeting. The committee spear-headed the e-bikes topic with a letter to DCNR back in 2019. Since then, Nicole Faraguna, DCNR Policy Director, and other staff have put a lot of time and energy into researching e-bikes policies, regulations and management around the country.

#### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Education and Awareness

NOTE: There will be a DEIJ Education and Awareness presentation at each committee meeting.

Adriana Atencio, Co-Executive Director of The Common Wheel, Lancaster

Adriana spoke about The Common Wheel, a bicycle shop and bicycle co-op in Lancaster. They have two locations: The King Street Co-op and Donation Center at the Pump House, and the Queen Street Community Center and Shop.

With the proceeds from the bike shop sales, The Common Wheel provides youth and adult programs, including workshops and bike mechanic classes. They also provide volunteer opportunities, a co-op space and a community and event space, as well as participate in fundraising events and form partnerships in the community. NOTE: Adriana's presentation was sent to the committee after the meeting.

#### Trail of the Year Nomination Form Revisions

The Trail of the Year Subcommittee held a meeting in May to discuss revisions to the Trail of the Year nomination form, particularly the eligibility requirements for nominees. Brook Lenker presented the revisions suggested by the subcommittee:

##### *Current eligibility requirements:*

- The trail must be at least one mile in length and open to the public. The entirety of the trail should be included in the nomination.
- Generally, individual sections or portions of a larger trail system will not be considered.

##### *Recommended Revised Eligibility Requirements*

- Any land-based trail, non-motorized and motorized, can be nominated.
- The trail must be open to the public.
- Nominators are encouraged to work with the trail management organization to submit a nomination and avoid multiple nominations for the same trail.
- A letter of support is required from the trail management organization. If your trail is selected as the Trail of the Year, the trail management organization will be the recipient of the award.

Alex MacDonald suggested adding to the third bullet, "If the trail management organization isn't the nominator," and add to the fourth bullet, "if the nominating entity is not the trail management organization."

Brook made a motion to accept the subcommittee's recommended revisions along with Alex's suggestions. Courtney Mahronich Vita seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the revised language.

#### Committee Discussion Items:

Ron Steffey will send out a Google Docs link so that the committee members can share documents and information together.

Ron also suggested that the subcommittees try to meet soon so that the new committee members can explore which subcommittee they would like to be on. Ron asked if anyone would like to lead the Maintenance Subcommittee since he doesn't have as much time to lead this subcommittee. Leslie Sarvis will send out the list of subcommittees after the meeting. NOTE: Miica Patterson moved out of state and is no longer on the PTAC. Miica was the lead for the Communications Subcommittee. Please let Leslie know if you are interested in leading the Communications Subcommittee.

#### September PTAC Meeting

Leslie Sarvis talked about options for the committee to hold a meeting at the Eastern Trails Summit in Easton in September. The Summit is Sept. 27-28. One option is for the committee to meet on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> during the social mixer at the Two Rivers Brewery in downtown Easton. Leslie will send out a follow-up email. Please let her know if you will be attending the summit and if you are interested in attending the social event on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Comments about trail grant applications

The committee gave general feedback about their reviews of the spring trail grant applications. There was concern expressed over the lack of maintenance plans submitted with the applications. It was suggested that the Trail Maintenance Subcommittee could work on a maintenance plan template as an example for grant applicants to use. There was also discussion about the importance of match funding that grantees contribute to their projects. A question was asked about the availability of grant writing training. Leslie added that DCNR holds grant workshops every year that includes instructions for completing a grant application, and DCNR's regional staff are also available to discuss potential projects that could be eligible for grant funding. There was a comment about better access to ATV trails on state lands. DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is currently coordinating an ATV Trail Connector Pilot in the northcentral part of the state that has designated roads and state forest trails for ATV riding during certain months.

#### DCNR Draft E-bikes Policy

Nicole Faraguna, DCNR Policy and Planning Director, presented a summary of DCNR's Draft E-bikes Policy. She reviewed the background and her research for drafting the policy. There are many challenges that DCNR faces, including enforcement, technology changes and modifications to e-bikes. DCNR policies are reviewed every few years. Consistency in messaging and signage to educate all trail users will be key. The policy will be presented to the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Committee in July, and the policy will then be open for a 45-day public comment period. NOTE: Nicole's presentation was sent to the committee after the meeting.

Joe Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Courtney Mahronich Vita seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm. The E-bikes discussion continued until 12:15pm.