

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 17-2295
Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 3:09:26 PM
Attachments: [EDR Signed Response Letter from Board 4.13.2021 \(1\).pdf](#)
[2021-03-17 Republic Wind Seneca County Park District \(1\) \(1\).docx](#)

Can you please file the below email chain and attachments in the republic wind project?

Thank You

Chris Aichholz

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: chris aichholz <caichholz@yahoo.com>
To: Bill Reineke <bill.reineke@ohiosenate.gov>; District 088 <rep88@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Joseph Cicchillo <joseph.cicchillo@ohiosenate.gov>; mike.dewine@governor.ohio.gov <mike.dewine@governor.ohio.gov>; Matthew Butler <matthew.butler@puco.ohio.gov>; Rob McColley <mccolley@ohiosenate.gov>; Dick Stein <rep57@ohiohouse.gov>; Representative Craig S. Riedel <rep82@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Kerschner <mkerschner@senecacountyohio.gov>; Anthony Paradiso <aparadiso@senecacountyohio.gov>; Tyler Shuff <tshuff@senecacountyohio.gov>; Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>; Sarah Betts <sbetts@senecacountyparks.com>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021, 12:12:41 PM EDT
Subject: Re: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

Senator Reineke and Representative Click

First off, thank you so much for your letter that you submitted to the OPSB for the Republic Wind project. In doing so you have helped to summarize our thoughts regarding the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) approval process which has completely ignoring the will of the people, elected officials, organizations, etc.. in the Republic Wind proposed project. There is another related topic that I think needs high level attention that showcases just another level

As part of the OPSB review process the states Historic Preservation Office (HPO) is responsible for ensuring that the project does not adversely effect places on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible resources. I found this interesting and therefore asked some questions on this process and their information specifically regarding their review of the Republic Wind Project. What you will see below with that exchange seems to be very telling of just how "thorough" the OPSB system truly is. The fact the the HPO had to ask the developer (Republic Wind - APEX) to answer my questions is all the further proof anyone should need. Why not email me first or attempt to set-up a meeting, or a phone call to discuss this. Instead you are going to rely on the developer and their hired "experts" to reply to a concerned Ohio resident on something your organization was

supposed to have thoroughly reviewed.

The process is grossly misrepresented as "robust" and "thorough" and this is one of many examples I can provide. Also keep in mind my inquiry started when our local county park district was essentially offered hush money because there is overwhelming evidence that the Republic Wind Project will substantially negatively impact the Bowen Nature Preserve as it looks to place (21) 600ft tall industrial wind turbines within a 2.5 mile range of the preserve. The Seneca County Park District not only refused this money but perfectly stated the reason for doing so:

"If Republic Wind is allowed to go forward, a visitor to Bowen Nature Preserve will see towering turbines in every direction. This would be in jarring contrast to the beauty, serenity, and historic nature of Bowen Nature Preserve today. The impact this wind project would have on the nature preserve is beyond description. No amount of money could offset the deleterious effect this project would have on Bowen Nature Preserve. For this reason, we have chosen to decline "mitigation" funds."

It is also noteworthy that the Seneca County Park District asked the OPSB to protect the Bowen Nature Preserve by making sure there was a "2.5 mile turbine-free buffer zone".

Links and attachments:

- Advertiser Tribune article covering "mitigation funds decline: <https://advertiser-tribune.com/news/314810/seneca-parks-accepts-4-acres-of-land-announce-future-plans/>
- Letter from EDR (APEX "expert") to park district
- Reply Letter to EDR from Seneca County Park District
- Map of proposed 21 IWTs surrounding Bowen Nature Preserve
- Seneca County Park District

Testimony: <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/DocumentRecord.aspx?DocID=352b3974-b4a3-4124-b9dc-3ef4dcd5954f>

Thank You

Chris Aichholz
Seneca County Resident

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Dalton Carr <dalton.carr@apexcleanenergy.com>

To: caichholz@yahoo.com <caichholz@yahoo.com>; dwellings@ohiohistory.org <dwellings@ohiohistory.org>; khorrocks@ohiohistory.org <khorrocks@ohiohistory.org>; kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org <kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org>; kolson@edrdpc.com <kolson@edrdpc.com>; Eric.Morrison@puco.ohio.gov <eric.morrison@puco.ohio.gov>; Susan Lawson <slawson@edrdpc.com>; Jennie Geiger <jennie.geiger@apexcleanenergy.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 03:16:10 PM EDT

Subject: RE: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

Hi Krista/Chris –

Please see my responses to the bulleted questions, below (in **bold** text and indented).

- Can you provide me with a list of the "Historic Places" that the Republic Wind project impacts?
 - **The area survey is not publicly available, and the Ohio SHPO does not provide a method to download surveys.**
- What happens if a "Historic Place" denies any "mitigation" proposals and is an active party opposing a project like the Seneca County Park District is opposing the Republic Wind project?
 - **Stakeholders contacted as part of the outreach for the mitigation plan are under no obligation to participate in the process. We will work with other stakeholders and SHPO to define a mitigation path.**
- Has anyone at the State Historic Preservation Office contacted the Seneca County Park District? Seneca County Commissioners?
 - **I would defer to the Ohio SHPO regarding any potential local contact.**
- Can citizens make Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) records requests of the State Historic Preservation Office?
 - **Generally, FOIA applies to agencies of the federal government. Ohio's public record request laws should be consulted with respect to state agencies.**
- Has the State Historic Preservation Office sent anything of substance (report, study, etc..) to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) regarding the Republic Wind Project to date? If so I would like to obtain this information if I am able to.
 - **I would have to defer to OPSB Staff or the Ohio SHPO for a response on this question.**
- EDR has not replied to my initial email. I will continue to follow-up with them to try to get them to engage.
- I wanted to provide you with an interactive map of the Republic Wind project that really allows you to zoom in on different areas within the project including the Bowen Nature Preserve which will be **NEGATIVELY** impacted by the project. There are as

many as (21) 600+ft tall industrial wind turbines within a 2.5 mile radius of the preserve. The below link will take you to a Google My Map that was created using the Federal Aviation Administration coordinates that APEX/Republic Wind submitted to them for the project.

- https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1tV_4EOL7OXua6CLW93e5lxElSzakGF84&usp=sharing
- <https://www.senecacountyparks.com/parks-facilities/bowen-nature-preserve/>

DALTON CARR

Senior Development Manager

Apex Clean Energy, Inc.

310 4th St. NE, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22902

cell: 434-996-3083 | fax: 434-220-3712

dalton.carr@apexcleanenergy.com | www.apexcleanenergy.com

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This transmittal may be privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify us by email and do not copy or re-transmit.

Not printing this email saves energy and conserves resources.

From: Krista Horrocks <khorricks@ohiohistory.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 7:19 AM
To: kolson@edrdpc.com; eric.morrison@puco.ohio.gov
Cc: Jennie Geiger <jennie.geiger@apexcleanenergy.com>; Susan Lawson <slawson@edrdpc.com>; Grant Johnson <GJohnson@edrdpc.com>; Andrew Roblee <aroblee@edrdpc.com>; sarena@edrdpc.com; Diana Welling <dwelling@ohiohistory.org>; Kristen Koehlinger <kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org>
Subject: FW: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

Our office hopes EDR, Apex, and PUCO can help Mr. Aichholz with his questions, as it appears his concerns are not related to cultural resources but for the preservation of a nature preserve.

Krista Horrocks | Project Reviews Manager, State Historic Preservation Office

Ohio History Connection| 800 E. 17th Ave. Columbus, OH 43211-2474

p. 614.298.2022 | f. 614.298.2037 | khorricks@ohiohistory.org

Did you know the Ohio SHPO now accepts electronic-only submissions for state and/or federal review under Section 106 and ORC 149.53? Please send your submissions to section106@ohiohistory.org. We have also updated our [Survey Report Submission Standards](#).

The Ohio History Connection's mission is to spark discovery of Ohio's stories. Embrace the present, share the past and transform the future.

From: chris aichholz [<mailto:caichholz@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Krista Horrocks <khorrocks@ohiohistory.org>
Cc: Diana Welling <dwelling@ohiohistory.org>; Kristen Koehlinger <kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org>
Subject: Re: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

Krista

I wanted to follow up on my below questions/comments - Thanks

Thank You

Chris Aichholz

On Monday, April 19, 2021, 02:12:25 PM EDT, chris aichholz <caichholz@yahoo.com> wrote:

Krista

Thank you for your highly informative response! I have a couple follow-up questions/comments for you:

Can you provide me with a list of the "Historic Places" that the Republic Wind project impacts?

- What happens if a "Historic Place" denies any "mitigation" proposals and is an active party opposing a project like the Seneca County Park District is opposing the Republic Wind project?
- Has anyone at the State Historic Preservation Office contacted the Seneca County Park District? Seneca County Commissioners?
- Can citizens make Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) records requests of the State Historic Preservation Office?
- Has the State Historic Preservation Office sent anything of substance (report, study, etc..) to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) regarding the Republic Wind Project to date? If so I would like to obtain this information if I am able to.
- EDR has not replied to my initial email. I will continue to follow-up with them to try to get them to engage.
- I wanted to provide you with an interactive map of the Republic Wind project that really allows you to zoom in on different areas within the project including the Bowen Nature Preserve which will be NEGATIVELY impacted by the project. There are as many as (21) 600+ft tall industrial wind turbines within a 2.5 mile radius of the preserve. The below link will take you to a Google My Map that was created using the Federal Aviation Administration coordinates that APEX/Republic Wind submitted to them for the project.
 - https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1tV_4EOL7OXua6CLW93e5lxElSzakGF84&usp=sharing
 - <https://www.senecacountyparks.com/parks-facilities/bowen-nature-preserve/>
 -

I look forward to more dialogue with you soon.

Thank You

Chris Aichholz

On Monday, April 19, 2021, 12:57:52 PM EDT, Krista Horrocks
<khorricks@ohiohistory.org> wrote:

Hi Chris,

The Republic Wind project is being reviewed by our office under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 149.53, which requires state agencies (in this case, the Ohio Power Siting Board) to coordinate with our office. Even though this project isn't being reviewed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (for projects with federal funding or federal permitting), we follow a Section 106-type process in our review. You can see the Section 106 flowchart here: <https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/section-106-review-process-flowchart>.

The Republic Wind project is currently at the "Resolve Adverse Effects" step in the process. We know the project has adverse effects to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible resources, and the applicant needs to "develop and consider alternatives or modification to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects." The mitigation is determined by reaching out to consulting parties (like the Seneca County Park District) to see if there are any mitigation possibilities with your organization. There has not been any discussion yet on moneys. So, yes, we "initiated this program" by asking the applicant (Republic Wind) to consider mitigation options for the project's adverse effects. EDR will be helping the applicant with this project, so continue reaching out to them for potential mitigation possibilities.

Hope this helps, thanks,

Krista

Krista Horrocks | Project Reviews Manager, State Historic Preservation Office

Ohio History Connection | 800 E. 17th Ave. Columbus, OH 43211-2474

p. 614.298.2022 | f. 614.298.2037 | khorricks@ohiohistory.org

Did you know the Ohio SHPO now accepts electronic-only submissions for state and/or federal review under Section 106 and ORC 149.53? Please send your submissions to section106@ohiohistory.org. We have also updated our [Survey Report Submission Standards](#).

The Ohio History Connection's [mission](#) is to spark discovery of Ohio's stories. Embrace the present, share the past and transform the future.

From: chris aichholz [<mailto:caichholz@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Krista Horrocks <khorrocks@ohiohistory.org>
Cc: Diana Welling <dwelling@ohiohistory.org>
Subject: Re: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

Krista

Thank you for your response! Can you tell me did the State Historic Preservation Office initiated this program or was this done at the discretion of this EDR? Also can you give me any insight to the type of money we are talking about with these programs - average ballpark numbers?

Thank You

Chris Aichholz

On Thursday, April 15, 2021, 11:44:02 AM EDT, Krista Horrocks
<khorrocks@ohiohistory.org> wrote:

Thank you for cc:ing us on this e-mail, Chris. We have recorded your questions in our project files.

Thanks,

Krista

Krista Horrocks | Project Reviews Manager, State Historic Preservation Office

Ohio History Connection| 800 E. 17th Ave. Columbus, OH 43211-2474

p. 614.298.2022 | f. 614.298.2037 | khorrocks@ohiohistory.org

Did you know the Ohio SHPO now accepts electronic-only submissions for state and/or federal review under Section 106 and ORC 149.53? Please send your submissions to section106@ohiohistory.org. We have also updated our [Survey Report Submission Standards](#).

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From: chris aichholz [<mailto:caichholz@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Krista Horrocks <khorrocks@ohiohistory.org>
Subject: Fw: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

I received your email on an out of office for Diana Welling

"I will be on vacation the April 14-16, 2021 with limited access to email. If you need immediate assistance please contact Krista Horrocks at khorrocks@ohiohistory.org. Otherwise I will respond to your email upon my return on April 19, 2021. Thank you!"

Thank You

Chris Aichholz

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: chris aichholz <caichholz@yahoo.com>
To: kolson@edrdpc.com <kolson@edrdpc.com>
Cc: dwelling@ohiohistory.org <dwelling@ohiohistory.org>; Matthew Butler <matthew.butler@puco.ohio.gov>; Matt Butler OPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>; mary.mertz@dnr.state.oh.us <mary.mertz@dnr.state.oh.us>; shpo@ohiohistory.org <shpo@ohiohistory.org>; Anthony Paradiso <aparadiso@senecacountyohio.gov>; Mike Kerschner <mkerschner@senecacountyohio.gov>; Tyler Shuff <tshuff@senecacountyohio.gov>; Bill Reineke <bill.reineke@ohiosenate.gov>; District 088 <rep88@ohiohouse.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 12:41:22 PM EDT

Subject: Republic Wind - Seneca County Park District

Mrs. Kristen Olson

After reading a story in our local paper (Advertiser Tribune) this morning (<https://advertiser-tribune.com/news/314810/seneca-parks-accepts-4-acres-of-land-announce-future-plans/> - also attached) I was left with many questions regarding the proposal the Seneca County Park District had received from a company I was unfamiliar with in regard to the proposed Republic Wind project. I did a little research and realized that EDR or Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. was hired by APEX/Republic Wind to submit the "Cultural Resource Report" or "Appendix S" to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) - Link to that document below

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/DocumentRecord.aspx?DocID=9314d386-3fca-4de9-88ed-31e15ceccc3d>

As this peaked my interest I acquired via public records request the letter that you sent to the Seneca County Park District dated March 17th 2021. Once I reviewed that letter I noticed that it mentioned, you were to "develop a plan identifying potential mitigation projects to offset the visual impacts of the proposed Project on historic resources located within the viewshed". It also continued with, "We have identified the Seneca County Park District as a stakeholder that might benefit from funding to offset potential impacts to historic resources from the Project". This letter left me with a few questions that I would like some answers to:

- How much money would APEX/Republic Wind be offering in this "program" to the Seneca County Park District?
- Would the park district have to rescind their intervention in **OPPOSITION** the republic wind project if they would have accepted monies from this "program"?
- Was this program suggested or demanded by the Ohio Power Siting Board?
- Is the Ohio Power Siting Board aware that you offered this "program" to the Seneca County Park District?
- By sending this letter is APEX/Republic Wind admitting that there will be significant negative impact (21 IWTs within 2.5 miles of the Bowen Nature Preserve) to the Seneca County Park District and Bowen Nature Preserve?
- Does this violate the OPSB's process as the Seneca County Park District is an active intervenor in **OPPOSITION** to the Republic Wind Project?
- Did you send a copy of your letter to the Seneca County Commissioners as well as the park district?

Also, as an FYI I have copied the OPSB staff on this email as I plan to file this in the Republic Wind project case file. Also copied is a representative of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office who you claim requested you to develop this program. I have also copied the Seneca County Commissioners, State Senator Bill Reineke, and State

Representative Gary Click. Finally, I have copied Mary Mertz who is the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Attached

1. For everyone's reference attached is the letter in which EDR or Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. sent to the Seneca County Park District with the date of March 17th, 2021.
2. The reply letter from the Seneca County Park District regarding EDR's proposal/program.
3. Two screenshots taken from the Advertiser Tribune article covering the Seneca County Park Districts meeting
4. A map with filed turbine locations based of FAA coordinates (submitted by APEX/Republic Wind) in relation to the Bowen Nature Preserve (21 IWTs within a 2.5 mile radius of the preserve)
 1. If you would like the full resolution map/image I can send that as well
5. Seneca County Park District's Opposition Testimony Link:
 1. <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/DocumentRecord.aspx?DocID=352b3974-b4a3-4124-b9dc-3ef4dcd5954f>

Thank You

Chris Aichholz

Concerned Resident

Seneca County, Ohio

CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to csc@ohio.gov or click the Phish Alert Button if available.



Seneca Parks
3362 S. TR 151
Tiffin, OH 44883
419.447.8091

**Board of Park
Commissioners**

Jakob Boehler
Lori Hall
Lee Martin
Bill McAllister
Janet Shutt

Executive Director
Sarah Betts

MISSION

The mission of the Seneca County Park District is to preserve, protect, manage, and promote our natural resources; to educate and develop an appreciation of the natural, rural, historical, and cultural aspects of Seneca County.

April 13, 2021

Nicole Fragnito
EDR Cultural Resources Specialist
217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100
Syracuse, New York 13202

RE: Republic Wind Farm – Historic Resources Mitigation Outreach
EDR Project N. 15095

Dear Ms. Nicole Fragnito,

The Seneca County Park District Board of Commissioners has elected to decline the offer of mitigation funds in connection with the Republic Wind project.

Bowen Nature Preserve falls within the boundary of project. This nature preserve was entrusted to the Park District by a descendant of early settlers of Seneca County. His intent was the preservation of the property's natural beauty for the enjoyment of all who visit, now and for generations to come.

If Republic Wind is allowed to go forward, a visitor to Bowen Nature Preserve will see towering wind turbines in every direction. This would be in jarring contrast to the beauty, serenity, and historic nature of Bowen Nature Preserve today. The impact that this wind project would have on the nature preserve is beyond description.

No amount of money could offset the deleterious effect this project would have on Bowen Nature Preserve. For this reason, we have chosen to decline "mitigation" funds.

Sincerely,

Lori Hall, Chairperson

Jakob Boehler, Board Member

Bill McAllister, Board Member

Lee Martin, 1st Vice Chair

Janet Shutt, 2nd Vice Chair

Cc: Kristen Olson, via email



March 17, 2021

Sarah Betts, Executive Director
Seneca County Park District
3362 S. TR 151
Tiffin, OH 44883

**RE: Republic Wind Farm – Historic Resources Mitigation Outreach
EDR Project No. 15095**

Dear Sarah Betts:

As you may be aware, Republic Wind, LLC is in the process of developing the Republic Wind Farm (hereafter, the Project), comprised of up to 58 wind turbines and associated infrastructure located in York Township, Seneca County and in Adams, Pleasant, Reed, Scipio, and Thompson Townships, Sandusky County, Ohio.

Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) prepared an historic resources survey for the Project, reviewed by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (Ohio SHPO), which included the identification of historic resources (e.g., historic buildings, cemeteries) that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as the evaluation of potential visual impacts to these resources.

As part of their review of the Project, the Ohio SHPO has requested that Republic Wind, LLC develop a plan identifying potential mitigation projects to offset the visual impacts of the proposed Project on historic resources located within the viewshed (i.e., areas where infrastructure might be visible). Mitigation projects that have been proposed for other renewable energy facilities in Ohio have included activities such as monetary contributions toward the restoration and maintenance of historic properties, development of educational materials, and development of public history materials such as roadside markers.

We have identified the Seneca County Park District as a stakeholder that might benefit from funding to offset potential impacts to historic resources from the Project. Please respond to this letter by March 31, 2021 to indicate your interest in participating in the process of identifying potential historic resources mitigation projects for the Republic Wind Farm. EDR will follow up with you to verify your interest in participating in this process if we have not received a response by this date.

Please note that as the permitting process for the Project is ongoing, all discussions regarding historic resources mitigation are preliminary, and mitigation projects will not be funded or undertaken if the Project is not constructed. In addition, historic resources mitigation projects must be reviewed and approved by Ohio SHPO before funding can be authorized.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss the information herein, please contact me at kolson@edrdpc.com, or by phone at 315-471-0688 ext. 688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K Olson", written in dark ink.

Kristen Olson
Project Architectural Historian

Seneca Parks accepts 4 acres of land, announces future plans

By **VICKI JOHNSON**

Staff Writer

vjohnson@advertiser-tribune.com

Seneca Parks' board accepted 4 acres of land on CR 6 at no cost Tuesday.

Executive Director Sarah Betts said the land, east of TR 131 and St. Johns Bridge, was formerly occupied by the Ruffing Family Care Center. It was transferred to the park district by the Seneca County Land Revitalization Corp. Closing is to take place by the end of May.

The Land Bank funded the razing of the building on the grounds last fall. Prior to that,

the Land Bank committee approved transferring the land to the park district.

Betts said future plans for the site include a handicapped-accessible river access in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scenic Rivers program. She said former board member Roy Zinn is conducting research on the site to find out where St. Johns Mill originally was located.

In another matter, the board declined an offer of historic resources mitigation outreach funds from Environmental Design & Research, Landscape

Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, DPC - also known as EDR.

The letter said the park district was identified as a possible recipient of funds for historical mitigation projects for Republic Wind.

The commercial wind project is awaiting a decision from the Ohio Power Siting Board. If approved, it would place 58 wind turbines in Adams, Pleasant, Reed, Scipio and Thompson townships as well as York Township in Sandusky County.

■ See **LAND**, Page 3A

LAND

■ FROM PAGE 1A

Seneca Parks' Bowen Nature Preserve would be surrounded by wind turbines.

Betts said the letter does not say how much the company was offering, but any amount would be minimal compared to the negative impacts of viewing wind turbines at a natural scenic park.

"It is not reducing the impact whatsoever," she said.

McAllister said accepting money would be a conflict with the park district's stated opinion in the matter.

"It would make us much closer to the pro-wind side of this issue and we know it's a hot potato and we've already testified opposing it," he said. "If we would accept funding, it would conflict with our earlier stance."

In her report, Betts provided a first-quarter update on accomplishments related to the comprehensive plan. The park district has committed to keeping the plan "front and center" with regular reviews.

She said ODNR matching funds have been approved for improvements to the ODNR Scenic Rivers Abbott's Bridge River Access. The park district maintains and uses the access and shares the parking lot with ODNR and the two entities are splitting the project cost. Betts said the work in the engineering stage and expects it to be completed this summer.

She noted that memorial benches were placed this month at Fruth Wetland and Clinton nature preserves as well as at Schekelhoff in partnership with Tiffin Park & Recreation

Department. The benches were made possible by donations from Dean Henry and Bill and Cathy McAllister.

Betts said "fun and innovative" programs and activities continue in celebration of the district's 25th anniversary. See www.senecacountyparks.com for details.

Program Director Linda Rose said a fall Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist class is planned this fall after it was delayed this spring by the pandemic. Seneca Parks is partnering with Franciscan Earth Literacy Center as they did for the first class in 2019 to develop the second OCVN class. Anyone interested in the certification program through Ohio State University can email Rose at Lrose@SenecaCountyParks.com.

Summer camp registration is open. Program listings and announcements can be found on the park website and Facebook page. Camp topics this year are Adventure's Eve, Working for Wildlife, Nature Camp, Little Ones Nature Days and Adult Nature Camp. For more information, email Rose or visit www.senecacountyparks.com.

Rose also said Out & About Preschool registration are arriving for next year.

During his report, Nature Preserves Manager Troy Gibson said his department has been preparing equipment for the warm season, getting ready to start mowing and landscaping.

He said miscellaneous steel has been cleaned up at Garlo NP, three footbridges at Steyer were revamped, wet areas at Clinton were corrected to make the

loop accessible year round, the river access at Clinton is getting some work done and the area around the parking lot at Bowen has been graded.

He said he is still waiting for a tractor that was ordered 13 months ago.

Electrical upgrades have been started at the new buildings at Garlo and Bowen, and security cameras are being installed at Garlo.

Also Tuesday, the board approved hiring Helms Construction of Findlay for three projects at Garlo NP. Helms was the only bidder for the projects.

Improvements to be made at Out & About Preschool include a new floor, a canopy over the entrance door and new doors that open out for safety. Cost is estimated at \$22,000.

In the Sentinel Building, an overhang is to be added to the south side of the building to provide storage, and a storage loft is to be added to the new maintenance building at Garlo. Estimated costs for the projects are \$21,000 and \$22,000 respectively.

The board also approved:

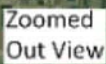
A supplemental appropriation of \$60,000 to the Salaries Fund in anticipation of reorganizing the staff and hiring a person in conjunction with building new nature centers.

Approved \$3,000 for the purchase of two laptop computers for staff use.

Approved the disposal on unneeded computer equipment.

Members met in executive session to discuss personnel.

The board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. May 11 at Roppe Lodge, Fruth Wetland NP, 10130 W. SR 18, Fostoria.



This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/28/2021 4:37:42 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-2295-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Chris Aichholz, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing