

Commissioners:

SCOTT L. METZGER
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT
*Director of Administration
and Chief Clerk*

J. DAVID SMITH
Solicitor

Telephone (570) 320-2124
Fax (570) 320-2127

COUNTY of LYCOMING
48 WEST THIRD STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

www.lyco.org
county.commissioners@lyco.org

**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Mussare Commissioner Mirabito, Director Matthew McDermott, and Solicitor J. David Smith.

REVISED AGENDA:

Added Informational Item:

3.2 Presentation by Jamie Sanders: Lycoming Composite Mountain Bike Team

1.0 OPERATIONS

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Convene Commissioners' Public Meeting
- 1.4 Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 1.5 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

None

2.0 REPORTS

- 2.1 Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify invoices due through 8/9/23 to be paid on 8/2/23 in the amount of \$603,824.60.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 3.1 Shannon Rossman – Update on the White Deer Golf Course conversion process. **Ms. Rossman gave an update and overview of the project. She explained the steps necessary to complete the application for the project as well as the agencies they need to seek approval from. They will be replacing one type of recreational opportunity area with a different type of recreational opportunity area. The immediate plans are to make the bridge safe, develop a parking area and a path down to the water so people can fish and kayak/boat. The long-term plans include extending the trail further. Penn College has**

been very helpful. We will continue to partner with them throughout the project.

- 3.2 Presentation by Jamie Sanders: Lycoming Composite Mountain Bike Team
Mr. Sanders made a presentation advocating for a bicycle skills park that would benefit the community and outdoor recreation. He requested \$500,000.00 from the County toward building the park. Several of the children from the team spoke about how the program benefits them. They described some of their experiences and what they have learned. Presentation is attached.

Mr. Mussare told the children that they have a voice in government regardless of their age. That's what they are doing today by coming to the meeting and asking for something. If they have a good plan, do things correctly and know the right people it is in the realm of possibility. He asked how much of an area would be needed and if they had any ideas of where a good location would be.

Mr. Sanders responded that 3.5 acres would be a starting point, but a larger area would allow for future growth. He recommended that the park be located close to the river walk which will allow access from different parts of the area.

Mr. Mussare and Mr. Mirabito discussed land that may be able to be used for such a project that is owned by the Authority and DCNR.

Sue Stackhouse from STEP AMERICORP spoke about the purpose of her organization and her involvement with the Composite Mountain Bike Team. The mission for the team started last year and it is to help the team grow. The goal is to have participants from every school district and eventually teams within the schools.

Mr. Mirabito advised that there are resources to help those interested in joining the team to get the equipment they need. He pointed out the physical and mental health benefits for those who are engaged in the program.

Ms. Stackhouse reinforced that there are financial resources available for the children. Anyone interested and/or in need should contact her.

Mr. Mirabito referred to Priority Bike Manufacturing in Montgomery, PA. This is an example of ways to kick start the economy and teach skills at the same time.

Mr. Metzger thanked everyone for coming and the presentation they gave.

Mr. Mussare exclaimed that it was a great presentation. He referred to the children as the future leaders and stated that they are an example for other

children.

Mr. Mirabito informed them that this was not a pipe dream, there is money available and they should contact the Planning department to learn how to access and apply for grants. He also suggested that they contact state representatives and some other departments that can assist them.

4.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

4.1 Jessica Segraves – Approve the following Personnel Actions as conditional offers of employment, subject to the successful completion of a background check and all other employment conditions as outlined in Attachment (A).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Ms. Seagraves informed everyone that there are currently are 15 open positions within the County. This is down from 65.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Jessica Segraves – Vote to approve Agreement with Aerotek, Inc. (2023 budgeted item).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

5.2 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve Loan Agreement with Susquehanna Valley CASA in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. Mussare informed the public that this organization is very important to our community and a critical part of the system. They currently need volunteers to work with the children and be an advocate for the children.

Mr. Metzger explained that this is a loan to the organization so it can continue to operate and will be paid back once CASA receives their state approved grant monies.

Chris Branton, Treasurer of CASA Board spoke. He briefly explained the CASA program – Court Appointed Special Advocates. The children that they work with are involved with Children & Youth. The advocate works with the court appointed child, one on one, then reports on what the child needs and wants regarding custody, health, family, etc. They become the voice of the child. This information is then presented to the judge. Volunteers are needed. CASA provides training for all volunteers.

5.3 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve 2023-2024 Election Integrity Grant application in the amount of \$371,620.91.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

6.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

None

7.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers who wish to address the Board of Commissioners will be limited for no more than three (3) minutes on any particular item. The speaker must state his/her name and address for the record. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board the Board Chairman.

Tom Adams, Williamsport. Mr. Adams read a Psalm. He expressed his opinion on how God has worked to make America great and the consequences to those who don't believe/support the bible. He commented that it is great that the children from the bike program are helping keep the trails clean.

Dr. Robert Cooley, Professor, Penn college. Mr. Cooley thanked the Commissioners for allowing the Bike Club to make their presentation. He commented that the timing of this is unique since the greenway is developing and expanding. Several projects are taking place to connect different areas. He commented on how similar trails benefit tourism and revenue in other areas. Mr. Cooley believes that these improvements and projects can help Williamsport to become a hub for outdoor recreation that rivals Pittsburgh's hub. With that growth will come the opportunity for more stores to open. It will also benefit both colleges to drive enrollment. Mr. Cooley is currently working on putting together a formal resource guide for the students at Penn College.

Mark Mussina, Montoursville – Mr. Mussina questioned if there were ways to create opportunities for students who want to stay in the area. He also questioned if strategies could be developed to target students in specific academic fields such as environmental studies or outdoor recreation, as well as students in urban areas. Per Mr. Mussina Williamsport is very unique. It is a rural area with an urban feel.

Mr. Mirabito reported that PA Wilds is the state marketing entity for PA Wilds. Lycoming County is the entranceway to the PA Wilds. He proposed engaging in marketing endeavors with PA Wilds to market the area through school systems. Citizens could also become involved in the process by contacting schools they attended. He referred to the Marshall plan. A plan to get the state to create programs that bring people from congested urban areas to rural areas by creating incentives such as reduced student loans, similar to what they are doing to encourage businesses to come.

You Tube Public Comment

KeystoneChiefFirst



KeystoneChiefFYI. There was about 16-18 minutes missing from the beginning of this live feed.

William Fenderson Reach Road coming off 180 need to be fixed this has hole in it and it has been like this for the last 2 years and this is the hub of the factories. {Going into Reach Road}

8.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room, 1st Floor, Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

To View This Meeting Follow the Link Below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq-rYEh_1MY

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

- District Attorney – Eric Birth, Assistant District Attorney, Full-Time Replacement, \$64,856.38 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Transfer Date: July 31, 2023.
- Resource Management Services – Jackie Clinard, Truck Driver/Floater, Full-Time Replacement, \$18.72 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Transfer Date: August 6, 2023.
- Facilities Management – Steven Whitenight, Deputy Director, Full-Time Replacement, \$64,759.50 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: August 7, 2023.
- Pre-Release Center – Rollin Miller, Resident Supervisor I, Full-Time Replacement, \$18.10 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: September 3, 2023.



Lycoming Composite Mountain Bike Team

- Founding team in the Pa Interscholastic League (2015)
- Goal: build strong minds, bodies, character, and community, by getting more kids on bikes
- 27 middle and high school athletes, 12 volunteer coaches



What does the team do?

- **Activities**
 - Skills practice
 - Riding trails
 - Trail maintenance,
 - Racing
- **Lessons**
 - Teaches self-reliance
 - Demands strength, balance, problem solving
 - Allows access to nature
 - A healthy way to have FUN!



Practice Areas

- **Current practice areas**
 - South Williamsport Park and Hughesville High School
- **Local areas:**
 - Rider Park
 - WMWA
 - Tiadaghton/Bald Eagle/Loyalsock SF
- **No dedicated practice facilities to help riders develop skill**
- **We propose building a mountain bike skills park for the whole community**





Mountain Bike Skills Park

Pump track

- For all ages, toddlers on run bikes to the most experienced cyclists

Progressive jumps and drops

- Advanced skills in a controlled environment

Technical terrain features

- Obstacles like rocks and logs that are commonly encountered on trails



Bicycling in Central Pennsylvania

- Did you know that one of the oldest gravel bike races in the country, Iron Cross, happens right here in Williamsport?
- Our backroads and trails draw people from all over the East Coast and Canada (and even locals)
- Gravel and youth mountain bike racing are fastest growing sectors in competitive cycling



Events in our area

- Iron Cross, October, Lycoming County since 2015
- Transylvania Epic, May, Centre County since 2010
- Grinduro, June, Sullivan County since 2022 (previously Endless Mtns Gravel)
- Unpaved, October, Union County since 2017

Participants: ~200 to 1000+

Youth Mountain Bike Racing in PA

2022 Annual Impact

Williamsport as a host city for a league event that draws 100's of riders?

1320

STUDENT-ATHLETES

68

TEAMS

Other events in central pennsylvania draw 750+ athletes along with family and coaches (perhaps 1500 total)

106K+

HRS RIDDEN BY STUDENT-ATHLETES

38K+

VOLUNTEER HRS

Economic impacts considerable

\$1.8M

EVENT ECONOMIC IMPACT

734

COACHES

But we must develop our cycling infrastructure

6413

HRS OF TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

Why we are asking for support

- Lycoming County is uniquely situated as a trailhead of the PA Wilds area
- Our area has the opportunity to attract and retain residents who value experiences like the outdoor recreation
- Strong community of cyclists

Recommendation:

- A bicycle skills park would help our community provide an accessible and equitable way for cyclists of all ages to enjoy outdoor recreation



Proposal for a Mountain Bike Skills Park
Lycoming Composite Mountain Bike Team
August 3, 2023

Lycoming Composite Mountain Bike team competes in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Mountain Biking league

- There are state leagues like this throughout the country. The goal of this group is to build **strong minds, bodies, character, and community, by getting more kids on bikes**
- Pennsylvania's league is entering its 8th season (est. 2016)
- Our team was one of the founding members
- Team represents 27 riders who are in middle school and high school, with a core group of 12 volunteer coaches.
- Our team has been growing steadily over the past few years, doubling after the pandemic and increasing by about 50% this year.
- But unlike many other teams in the area we don't have a practice facility
- We propose building a mountain bike skills park for us to practice on, but more importantly, it can be used by the whole community

Benefits of Mountain Biking

- Mountain biking is a great sport that teaches self-reliance, nature appreciation, demands skill and requires practice, but most importantly it's fun!

What is a Bike Skills Park?

- A small area (about 2-3 acres) that has natural and built features including
 - A pump track that can be used by all cyclists from toddlers on run bikes to the most experienced cyclists
 - Progressive jumps and drops that teach advanced skills in a controlled environment
 - Technical terrain features that teach riders how to negotiate obstacles like rocks and logs that are commonly encountered on trails

Outdoor Recreation in our Community

- Lycoming County has seen flat or negative population growth
- Demographic trends suggest that people are moving to smaller cities (Badger et al. *New York Times*, 5/13/23)
- Williamsport is potentially one of these small cities
 - What will attract people to our community?
 - o Cost of living
 - o Amenities like cafes, bookstores, music and performing arts, restaurants
 - o Outdoor recreation opportunities (hiking, hunting, fishing, biking, boating, etc.)

Cycling is an attraction of Lycoming County

- Our paved and unpaved roads bring cyclists from all over the eastern seaboard and beyond.

- Gravel and youth mountain bike racing are the fastest growing segments of the bike industry
- Events in Lycoming and neighboring counties draw hundreds (even thousands) of riders over the course of the season.
 - We host one of the longest running gravel races in America, in its 20th season this year
 - Iron Cross, October, Lycoming County since 2015: 160 (2018), 223 (2019), 279 (2021), 197 (2022)
 - Transylvania Epic mountain bike stage race, Centre County since 2010: 221 (2023), 261 (2022)
 - Grinduro, June, Held in Sullivan County since 2022 (previously Endless Mtns Gravel): 260 (2022), 329 (2023)
 - Unpaved, October, Union County since 2017: 1071 (2021), 1098 (2022)
- **Great Allegheny Passage:** Pittsburgh-Cumberland MD, over 1M visits annually, \$75M in direct spending in trail communities.
- **Pine Creek Rail Trail-** 140K users, approx \$3M annual revenue.
- Bike parks, trails and events create experience opportunities that draw users from a wide geographic range.
- They have been shown to spend up to \$100 per day per person on soft goods and services.

Impact of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League (see pamtb.org)

- 1320 athletes, 734 coaches, 68 teams
- \$1.8 mil. event impact
- 6413 hours of trail stewardship statewide on public land (26k+ hrs. over lifetime of league)
- 38k+ volunteer hours
- **We could be a host city for a league event that draws 100's of riders. Other events in the central pennsylvania draw 700 athletes plus family and coaches (perhaps 1500)**
- **But in order to have a thriving cycling scene, we have to have a strong local community of bicyclists and support from the community**

Broader impact of outdoor recreation

- Why support a mountain bike skills park?
- Lycoming County is uniquely situated as a trailhead of the PA Wilds area
- Our area has the opportunity to attract and retain residents who value experiences recreating the outdoors, whether it is through bicycling, hiking, boating, fishing, hunting, or others

Recommendation: A bicycle skills park would help our community provide an accessible way for cyclists of all ages to enjoy outdoor recreation.

PENNSYLVANIA

INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING LEAGUE

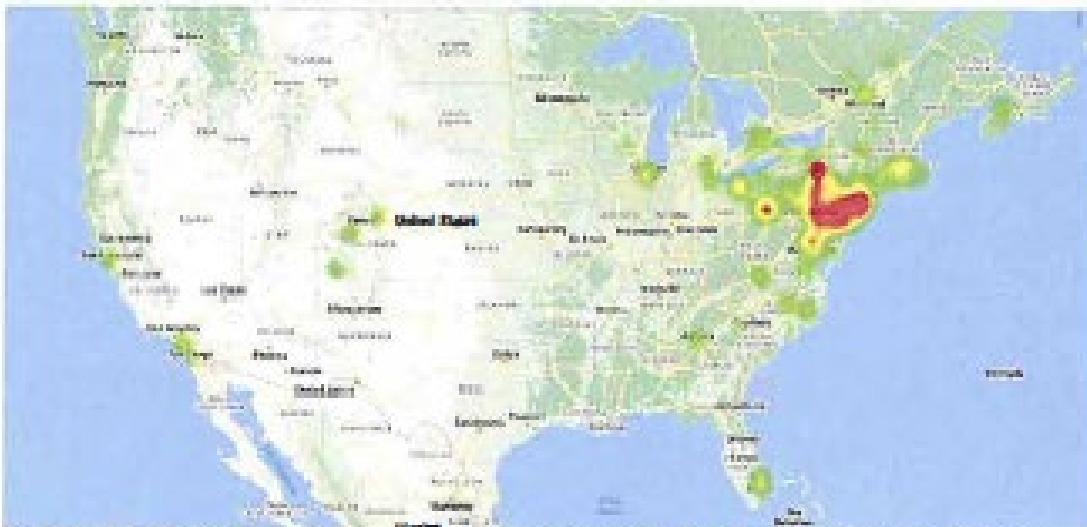


1061 Flowers Lane | Marysville | PA | 17053 | 717.350.3039 | info@pamtb.org | www.pamtb.org

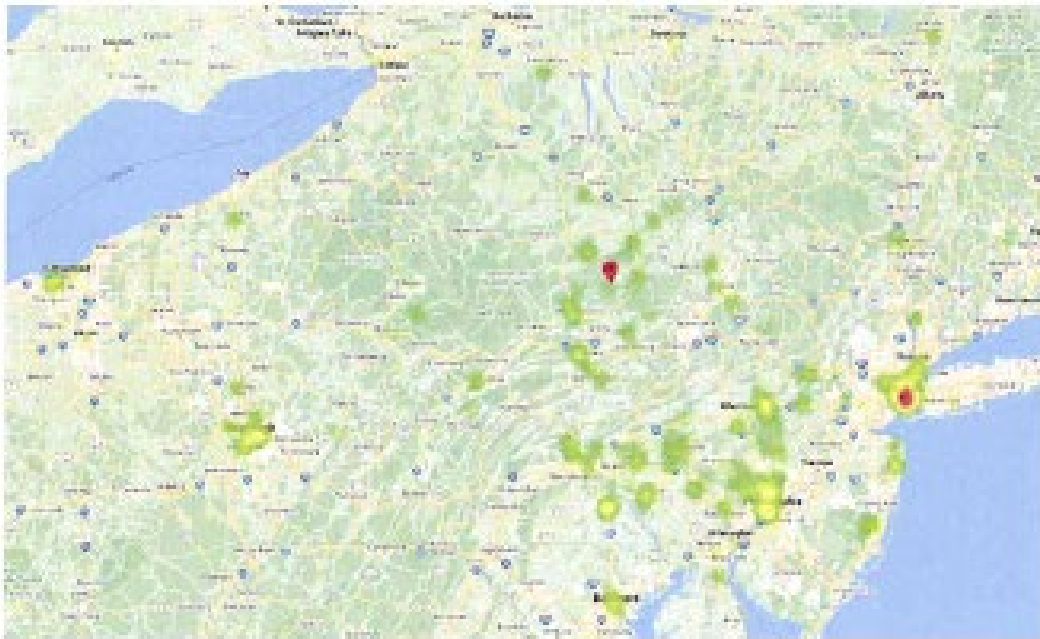
A synopsis of the impacts of the 2023 Grinduro PA in Pennsylvania

The Grinduro gravel cycling event held in Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, from June 16 to 18, featured a series of rides including a prologue, night ride, Grinduro, Grindurito, and the Hangover ride. Grinduro PA is one of six world wide stops in the international Grinduro series. (www.Grinduro.com)

In its second year, Grinduro PA attracted 329 registered riders coming from various regions across North America, including Canadian provinces and multiple U.S. states. Another 120 volunteers contributed to the success of the event. The event aimed not only to provide an engaging and memorable cycling experience but also to contribute to the local economy through participant spending and tourism, to cycling growth in the area, and to the efforts to build and sustain the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League (PICL), the host organization. (www.PAmtb.org)



Heat map of event participants to Grinduro 2023. Green areas indicate that at least one person attended from that location with yellow and red indicating greater concentrations of participants from those locations.



A close up of participation from PA, close by states, and a touch of Canada. While many participants are from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern US, many are coming from beyond 50 miles to participate.

Event Overview:

- Prologue ride and Full Moon Night ride on Friday, followed by Grinduro and Grindurito (the main events) on Saturday, and concluding with the Hangover ride on Sunday morning.
- 329 riders registered
- Participants hailed from diverse locations, including Canadian provinces, states along the eastern seaboard, inland states, Colorado, California, and Chicago, Illinois.
- Registration increased by 26.5% from 2022 (year 1 of the event) to 2023
- Female riders helped to drive that growth with the percentage of female riders participating in Grinduro also increasing this year from 16.5% to 23.6% of participants.



Economic Impact:

Direct local expenditures in the Sullivan County and Williamsport region by PICL to host Grinduro: +/- \$35000

This includes approximately:

- \$10,000 in donations to local organizations, including the Lycoming County Composite interscholastic mountain bike team
- \$5,500 in wages to local community members for the year round efforts involved in the creation and hosting of Grinduro PA in Sullivan Co.
- \$13,000 in local lodging expenditures
- \$7,500 in direct expenditures at local businesses in the region

While Grinduro impacts were not directly measured in 2023 exit surveys, we do have some idea of economic impacts possibilities of the event based on data collected from other PICL events and from the unPAved gravel cycling event hosted in Lewisburg, PA.

Location	Pittsburgh
Date	Fall 2019
Total Number of Student-Athletes in League	760
Total Number of Participating Parties	353
Total Number of Non-local Parties*	338
Total Lodging Spend	\$97,046
Total Food and Beverage Spend	\$70,450
Total Souvenir Shopping Spend *	\$ -
Total Transportation Spend	\$46,450
Total Event Registration Spend *	\$ -
Total Economic Benefit	\$218,996
* Excludes a total of 30 miles of participation in the event	
Average economic benefit per student-athlete based on league size	\$289
Average economic benefit per student-athlete based on race size	\$600
Average economic benefit per non-local student-athlete based on race size	\$630

PICL events were measured using an economic impact tool from People For Bikes. The events were measured during the 2019 season. Here we chose to highlight the Pittsburgh event of that year as it is the closest in size to Grinduro and shares a high percentage of non-local participants.

Not reflected in these calculations is event registrations (due to a difference in how the League's season fee is collected). Grinduro collected just under \$48,000 in entry fees.

unPAved of the Susquehanna River Valley's economic impact was calculated through the Department of the Interior's economic impact calculator and by the Susquehanna River Valley CVB. This gravel based cycling event attracts over 1200 participants to its October weekend and generates year-round visitation to the Lewisburg area. It was last measured during the 2021 season when it attracted 1220 participants. The Department of the Interior's calculated measured the event weekend's impact as:

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GREAT GRINDURO EVENTS												
Event	Date	Attendees	Local	Regional	Non-Local	Visitor Impact/Attendee/day	# Days	Days Impact	Entry \$	Attendee's	Local	Total Local Impact
unPAved	2023	1200	34	79	1166	\$	3,448,800	2.3	\$	2,694,000	1,262,150	\$ 2,711,070

The Susquehanna River Valley (SRV) tourism office also ran an analysis of the event and their calculations produced an economic impact projection of about \$1.5 million for the event. Anecdotal evidence from Lewisburg also points to increased year round cycling tourism as the number of bikes and riders visiting the town to ride gravel has risen significantly in the years since unPAved first launched. This year round visitation is a result of unPAved demonstrating that Lewisburg is a gravel cycling destination. Grinduro is starting to do the same for Sullivan County.

While the numbers from Department of the Interior and SRV calculators are quite different, it is clear that there is significant benefit to the community from hosting cycling events that attract a nation and international audience.

unPAved can be seen as a proxy for Grinduro. Using the most conservative numbers from the measurements we have, we could extrapolate that Grinduro generated \$1230 per participant in economic growth for a total 2023 impact of \$404,500.

Growing year round and growing the community:

The event is also impacting local outdoor recreation offerings and has been part of the push for trail expansion in the county.

Investments in trails are investments in community health and wellness and in outdoor recreation based tourism and the Grinduro team is part of trail development at the Loyalsock Foundation's Center in Laporte, in the recent groundbreaking for the first dedicated mountain bike singletrack in the Loyalsock State Forest, located just south of Worlds End State Park, and in the opening, maintenance, and improvements of trails in Loyalsock while preparing for the event.

Media Exposure:

By virtue of PICL's statewide and Mid-Atlantic reach and Grinduro International's worldwide reach, the region is benefiting from event coverage across social media. As the event builds, the awareness of Sullivan County as a cycling destination will continue to build. Bicycling Magazine, Grinduro PA's media partner, is the number one cycling publication in North America. Professional athletes from across the US tapped into their

audiences to share updates about Grinduro PA too. The event generated thousands of exposures across social media this year. As awareness builds, year-round cycling visitation will increase conveying economic and health benefits emanating from the event far beyond the days of the annual weekend.

Community Engagement:

We're also excited by the interest from the community in Grinduro. The event is generating community engagement, bringing locals together with participants, and anecdotally generating interest in riding within community members too. As a result of Grinduro's presence, members of the community are finding new ways to enjoy and appreciate the opportunities right outside of their backdoors as they help us host this international event.

The Grinduro gravel cycling event in Sullivan County, PA, over the weekend of June 16-18, with its diverse range of rides and participants from across North America, likely had a significant positive impact on the local economy. Direct spending on registration, accommodations, dining, transportation, and equipment, combined with increased business for local establishments, contributed to the economic boost. Furthermore, media exposure and community engagement aspects added to the overall benefits for the region.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to host Grinduro in Sullivan County and we would love to work with you to continue to build this event and grow the support necessary to further expand Grinduro's reach and impacts.