

MINUTES

DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
October 30, 2013

A special meeting of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) Board was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 1:00 pm at the Johnson County Mayor's Office, Mountain City, Tennessee.

Board Members Present:

Larry Potter
Richard Strang
Gabby Lynch
Frank Arnold
Mike Farmer
Jerry Grindstaff
Carolyn Hawkins
Roby Phillippi
Ray Stout
Alicia Summers

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Potter at 1:07 p.m.

This was a specially called meeting of the DMRA Board to discuss private liability insurance for the upcoming Soft Opening.

Public Comment Period

There were no public addresses.

Discussion

Mona Alderson addressed the Board for Chairman Potter. L. Potter was notified by the Motorsports liability insurance company regarding what their policy would or would not cover once Doe Mountain opens for public use. There had been some back and forth with the company as to whether or not uses other than OHV would be covered, *e.g.* horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, *etc.* The Board previously voted to open on November 9th, so this special meeting was called to give the Board more discussion time about what the Soft Opening options now are: 1) delay the Soft Opening pending the Board's effort to amend the DMRA's legislation and bring the DMRA under the Tennessee State Claims Commission, which would protect the DMRA against any insurance claims, regardless of origin, 2) seek to obtain more comprehensive coverage for the other recreation uses besides OHV, which would require soliciting additional quotes (only one other comprehensive quote for \$18,000 has been received), or; 3) open on November 9th with only OHV users accommodated; "ancillary" hiking passes could be sold as well for pedestrians that are on the mountain in association with OHV activity. Allowing uninsured hikers on the mountain would be a risk that the Board would have to agree to take. R. Stout noted that he thinks OHV pass sales will be the majority of revenue anyway. M. Alderson reminded the Board that the Board needs to spend its own funds to begin releasing the RTP grant reimbursements once the RTP project breaks ground next year; therefore, the Board should be thoughtful about spending everything in the bank on insurance. G. Lynch raised concerns about the message the Board

would send to the general public if the Soft Opening occurs only for OHV, leaving other user groups out for the time being. G. Lynch referred back to the DMRA's legislation which mandates development for multi-use recreation. R. Phillippi asked if the more expensive comprehensive policy would cover hunting, and the answer was no. Discussion ensued about which user groups would generate the most revenue via user pass sales. G. Lynch noted that an analysis of potential user group revenues is part of the ongoing Master Plan process. M. Alderson said that the DMRA will have to undergo a separate rulemaking procedure to officially set its fee structure, although for the time being, the Soft Opening may occur with the current fee structure as devised by the Roads & Trails Committee. R. Stout motioned that the Soft Opening occur on November 9th with OHV passes and "ancillary" hiking passes only sold. C. Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority with 7 yes votes and 2 no votes.

M. Farmer cautioned that the messaging of this decision is going to be important - the Board must explain very carefully why other user groups are not included in the Soft Opening. C. Hawkins remembered what was going to happen before the mountain was saved (clear cut) and said that the Board should always remind the public about that.

The next regular DMRA Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 1:00 pm in Johnson City, TN at the First Tennessee Development District office.

Adjournment

F. Arnold motioned to adjourn. R. Stout seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Potter at 1:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Gabrielle K. Lynch
Secretary/Treasurer