

MINUTES

DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
October 6, 2015

The meeting of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Doe Mountain Visitor Center, Mountain City, Tennessee.

Board Members Present

Mike Farmer
Gabby Lynch
Frank Arnold
John Gregory
Jerry Grindstaff
Carolyn Hawkins
Dave Jones
Terry Maughon
Lawrence Keeble
Larry Potter
Ray Stout

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Farmer at 1:12 p.m.

R. Stout motioned to approve the August 4th minutes. L. Potter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period

No public addresses were made.

Old Business

RTP Grant Update: M. Farmer presented in Bob Richard's (TDEC's) absence. A Draft Request for Proposals was passed around for construction work to begin at the Morefield entrance (parking area and trail repair). The Morefield Branch streambank repairs that were completed last year by Brushy Fork Environmental Consulting, Inc. are holding very well, and the stream looks great. It appears that the Harbin Hill Rd. visitor center bathroom will cost more than originally expected, and the structure will have to be sited on DMRA property and not the Johnson County property next to the visitor center. G. Lynch discussed the new procurement procedures for the federal grants, which will involve the DMRA opening its own checking account. The DMRA will need to follow State of Tennessee guidelines for selecting vendors and purchasing supplies.

G. Lynch motioned that Chairman Farmer proceed with hiring Brushy Fork Environmental Consulting, Inc. to complete architectural & engineering services for the RTP grant. J. Gregory Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

R. Stout motioned that Chairman Farmer release a public Request for Proposals, document at least three quotes, and select a contractor for the construction phase of the Morefield portion of the RTP project. Carolyn Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ARC Grant Update: DMRA's ARC grant contract was recently signed, and the DMRA has two years to spend the money.

Financial Report

Frank Arnold presented. The DMRA cash balance as of September 30, 2015 was \$78,821. L. Potter made a motion to approve the financial report. J. Grindstaff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Individual Committee Reports

- a. Roads and Trails – M. Farmer presented. Seventy-five water bars have been installed across about 3 miles of Trail 21 just in time for the heavy rains. The trail into Mountain City (behind Pioneer Village shopping center) has been flagged and needs to have its right-of-way corridor surveyed. Once survey is completed, the owner/neighbor may deed the right-of-way to the DMRA. L. Keeble noted that much resistance still exists regarding OHVs riding on the paved roads in town. The insurance company that covers the Town of Mountain City has said that it won't cover liability from the use of OHVs on town/county roads. Huntsville, TN has adopted a two-weekends-per-year opportunity when OHVs may access paved roads, but what the DMRA is exploring is daily OHV access across certain roads. M. Farmer will provide L. Keeble with relevant T.C.A. laws governing this issue. Johnson County Trails has a RTP grant to acquire trail rights-of-way across Johnson County, and Chairman Farmer would like to partner with that group to research valid/legal rights-of-way to and from Doe Mountain. M. Farmer motioned that the DMRA issue a Request For Qualification and retain an attorney to review legal rights-of-way to and from the DMRA property, with the Firetower Road being a top priority for legal assessment. J. Grindstaff seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposing vote. M. Farmer noted that many requests have been fielded by people wanting to camp on the mountain.
- b. Hunting/Shooting Sports – No report.
- c. Natural Resources – No report.
- d. Master Planning – No report.
- e. Administration – G. Lynch reported that the DMRA's FY15 audit process has begun. M. Alderson reported that the Appaloosa Bay lawsuit hearing scheduled for Oct. 2nd has been delayed until November 20th.
- f. Adventure Tourism/Business Development – No report. D. Jones noted that the State's Adventure Tourism program was recently transferred to the TN Department of Tourism.
- g. Marketing and Outreach – L. Potter reported. The committee wants to get some fresh photography of the mountain. People feel that not enough is being

done with the DMRA's website and Facebook page; they are not interactive enough and don't seem to be attracting much traffic.

Other Business

J. Grindstaff discussed an adjacent landowner who would like to purchase 40 acres from the DMRA in order to smooth out his boundary line. J. Grindstaff motioned that Chairman Farmer determine the State-approved process by which the DMRA could sell property and report back to the Board at the November 2015 meeting. L. Keeble seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Tennessee Development District Office, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Adjournment

M. Farmer motioned to adjourn at 3:00 pm. R. Stout seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabrielle K. Lynch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gabrielle K. Lynch, Secretary