

MINUTES of the December 15th, 2009
Woods Bay/Bigfork 440 Working Group
Held at 9:30am Harvest Foods, Bigfork

Present are: George Darrow, Tracy Reiling, Bill Myers, Kitty Rich, Clarice Ryan, Verdell Jackson, Jim Frizzel, Kevin Gownley, Bob Chrysler, Paul Rana

Minutes of December 2nd were reviewed and approved

This meeting is being held without the presents of the DNRC in order to discuss the Non-Profit Status and the public meeting to be held for the purpose of updating the community on our progress

A copy of the summary needed to apply for Non-Profit status with the Federal Government was emailed out to the committee for review and the meeting today was spent on making minor adjustments to it. In doing so it is very apparent we need to have our public meeting to get into some of the contentious issues of recreation and access options.

In review, the non-profit status is complete with the state of Montana and can be used for taking donations. We can take up to 10,000.00 before needing to complete the non-profit status with the federal government.

Bill talked with Jack Stanford at the Bio Station and he is actively working with the collage to look for options to acquire the 440. Most importantly options that would not involve the public needing to come up with funds to purchase rights or leases, although we will most likely need small amounts of funds to keep the committee organized and operating. Any money collected through the non-profit can be, at anytime refunded or donated to another 501c.

Kevin also talked with Jack Stanford. He feels that the 440 needs to be put into an easement and be turned into a living classroom. With the involvement of the state legislators and the university system, this could be done without community funds. The land board has the ability to change the designation and the university could work with the forest service.

George reviewed that this started out as a protest from the community over the land banking transfer. The community did not want it to happen. After more meetings the DRNC said they were no longer pushing for the land banking transfer. The 440 adjoins a 640 parcel that is designated a research area. The unique features of the 440 lend itself to this idea.

The other comparable area is the Owen Sourwine and it would be nice to get Jack Stanford and someone from the Autobahn/ Sourwine area to speak to the group.

Verdell spoke to Kevin's question of the viability of the university options. Because of the laws in both the state and national constitutions must be adhered to. It will come down to determining the market value of the 440 and this will need to come from an appraisal. Again the access issue comes into play DRNC will not value the property without access so it will appraise on the high side. Again the question comes up of a monetary value in using the property for education/classroom.

Verdell also talks about Mon-Trust the organization of lawyers that will be working to bring up the value of the property for the school. Verdell was asked to look into some of the legal questions and will attempt to update us at our next meeting.

Paul Rana noted that a good 7 weeks is needed to set-up and promote a public meeting and we should keep this in mind for planning.

Kevin will try to set up Jack Stanford to attend our next meeting.

Kitty will try to get Brent Mitchell from the Autobahn to address Natural Area questions at an upcoming meeting.

Our next meeting time and location will be determined after we have heard from Jack Stanford and I will inform all.

**WE WILL NEED ALL OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO MAKE THE EFFORT
TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. PLEASE GET INVOLVED AND RENEW YOUR
COMMITMENT TO THE 440! WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

DRAFT