

MINUTES DRAFT
Of the October 13th, 2009
Woods Bay/Bigfork 440 Working Group
Held at 8:30am Harvest Foods, Bigfork

Present are: Jim Frizzel, Greg Poncin (DNRC), Kevin Gownley, Tracy Reiling, Bill Myers, Kitty Rich, Clarice Ryan

Minutes of the September 15th meeting were reviewed motion made to accept with 2 name changes and 1 word added.

A copy of our 7 Goals will be added to these minutes.

Jim opened the meeting by reporting on his conversation with Paddy Trussler. The commissioners will grant an easement to DNRC and it would be exclusive to them and non-transferable. It would only be granted for fuel, weed and timber management and public access but not motorized public access. He declined invitation to attend the meeting. Jim asked if the access is non-transferable, is the expense for building a new road a deterrent to the DNRC and could the money to build the new access road be saved and DNRC use the temporary access granted by homeowners? Greg answered that again they need to look long term and will not rehash old arguments on road costs and access. Before a new road is put in an environmental review (MEPA analysis) will be done. Public comments will also be taken at that time.

Kitty Rich acknowledged the DNRC requirement of permanent access and the Homeowners Assn. insistence on temporary has indeed come to a stalemate and we need to move on.

Jim Frizzel would like to think after the studies are done it would be to the advantage of the DNRC to accept the temporary access from the homeowners. They rest of the group thinks...not.

Kevin Gownley went to the Bear Creek project the DNRC has been managing/harvesting on and took photos. He is very concerned that we look as a group at how these other projects are managed and see for ourselves the process and outcomes. The photos were not what we would want to happen on the 440 and Bill Myers seconded those feelings.

Bill Myer then reported on his call to Jack Stanford of the University of Montana Yellow Bay Biological Station. He is very interested in our project and has conducted classes there in the past. Regarding the possible land exchange with the Lubrecht area the school owns, he thought there was restrictions in the donation agreement that might prohibit breaking it up. But interestingly, the Montana School of Mines is part of the U of M umbrella so this might open up other possibilities within the university system. Mr. Stanford will look into this and be back in touch with the group, possibly attending a meeting in the future.

Bill also spoke with Hal Harper in Governor Schweitzer's office. He is very familiar with the project and the office is supportive of our efforts to preserve the land.

As to getting a vehicle off the ground to accept tax deductible donations as a non-profit incorporated organization, Bill dove in and got the ball rolling. He contacted Senator Verdell Jackson and along with a lawyer friend of his they initiated the setup for non-profit status Montana. Bill then contacted Tracy Reiling to and asked if she would continue to act as the Secretary and agent for the corporation. Verdell offered to act as the President and incorporator. Bill is also listed as a trustee. A Tax ID number was also received from the Feds. The next step is to set up the corporation as a non-profit with the Feds. Bill will work on finding free legal help from someone within the community.

Kitty Rich was surprised and pleased that after much talking some actual footwork was done and we now have something to offer as a way of accepting donations. Greg Poncin also appreciated the work that had been done and seeing the group move forward taking ownership of the project.

Tracy asked about the other access points that had been discussed at the last meeting and if surveys show all of the public access points available from the Woods Bay side. It seems after hearing from others there may be more than we are aware of. Greg Poncin informed the group that as part of the surveying contract let for portions of section 20, the surveyor was instructed to research whether DNRC had any other legally recorded rights for access into that section. The surveyor's research of the Lake County records showed no rights on behalf of DNRC for access into that section.

We need to work towards pinning down a date for our public meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 12th, 9:30 am at Bigfork Chamber meeting room.
Meeting adjourned

**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!**

Woods Bay Section 20 Group

Our Seven Goals:

- 1.) **Compensation to Beneficiary**
- 2.) **Land Management/Access – Timber, Weeds, Recreation**
- 3.) **Fire Safety – Fuel Reduction**
- 4.) **Education – Living Classroom**
- 5.) **Preservation of Wildlife Corridors and uniqueness of area**
- 6.) **No Development**
- 7.) **Do this in a timely manner**

We recognize different solutions/combinations of solutions may be most effective to address:

The Short-Term Need The Intermediate Need The Long-term Need