

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE BOARD
Ferry County Commissioners
July 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Miller with Commissioner Dansel and Commissioner Blankenship present. Sign in sheet on file.

Pledge of Allegiance

Forest Service Coordination:

Commissioner Miller asked to discuss the South Fork of Boulder Creek Road. Mr. Smolden informed the Board that there was a meeting with the Ranger in Newport and that she had met with Mike Paulson to talk about the south end project. Mr. Smolden also stated that there had been no changes made to the Boulder Creek Road.

Commissioner Miller opened with outcome based expectations for the Deer Jasper project. Commissioner Blankenship stated that the first concern is Lynx habitat. Under the County Planning process the Lynx need to be taken into consideration. Second is the tree density that will remain after the project. The Board is also afraid that the 40 miles of road that is up for decommissioning might take place.

Commissioner Blankenship spoke about tree density, and the effects on the forest such as fire hazard. Commissioner Blankenship would also like to see the diameter cap changed before we go ahead with the project. Commissioner Blankenship also stated that Growth Management Act requires us to protect endangered species, there is Lynx habitat in those regions and it should be taken into consideration. Commissioner Blankenship would like see the eastside screens removed.

Commissioner Blankenship would like to see the cap removed on the forest. Commissioner Blankenship has stated that tree density concerns have to do with water yield. The outcome could be causing water temperature problems, reduction in fish habitat, and flow issues. Potential Wilderness Areas needs management. It can be managed without harming the character of the forest. Mr. Smolden stated that this is possible but it can only be approved by the Chief of the Forest Service. There is concern about the actual description and the "puppet process" used to identify the Potential Wilderness Areas (PWA). PWA(after 2005)and Inventory Road less Areas (IRA) inventory review was completed without County input. Commissioner Blankenship has made numerous requests for the IRA Inventory Review maps and would like to recommend review of the IRA. Commissioner Blankenship asked Mr. Smolden for this information. One of the issues is the use of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) monies; these cannot be used for restoration. They must be used to restore complexity and structure to the Forest. Because of the diameter cap the Forest Service cannot qualify for restoration.

Commissioner Dansel has three areas of concern. He would like to see timber sales prospectus', and all the timber sales that took place back to the 1970s. Commissioner Dansel stated that he would like to see the pre-advertisement document, and the timber sales documents. Commissioner Dansel would like the Forest Service to start over with the Deer Jasper project, because true coordination never happened. The County would like to have the opportunity to start over. The Forest Service has a ten year plan; it is updated and reviewed every year. The County was not involved in the strategy for the project(s). The Board's position is that being notified does not constitute coordination. The County would like to be able to have input on decommissioned roads. The Board would like to see the Forest Service follow the Federal Law that states that they are to coordinate with local government about the public lands in their area. Mr. Smolden said they were put up for possible decommissioning back in February and April of this year.

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Commissioner Blankenship stated that there should be a high priority on structure for Lynx habitat, and creating rabbit habitat to help sustain the Lynx. If the Forest Service's position is that we don't have Lynx then Commissioner Blankenship would like to see the area open to snowmobiles.

The Board would like to know the process used to determine the value of the roads. Mr. Smolden stated that he is working on that now. Commissioner Miller stated that this would be a good opportunity for coordination in allowing the Board to have input on the value of the roads. The Board would like to be part of this process and how the roads are used in the County for the citizens. Commissioner Blankenship stated that the dead trees could be harvested for firewood and would like the Forest Service to recognize the potential economic impact of wood. Mr. Smolden stated that he would expect more firewood than lumber coming out of this project.

Mr. Smolden will take the Boards proposal to start over on the Deer Jasper project back to his supervisors but this would mean Mill closures according to Mr. Smolden. Commissioner Dansel disagrees and stated that this would be the fault of the Forest Service due to the fact that there was a lack of coordination. Mr. Sanchez would like clarification about what and when the Board would like to talk about the proposed projects. Mr. Smolden stated that he is attempting to meet the County's needs. Commissioner Dansel would like local county input and believes that the County should be met with first in the process, not after the fact.

With the GMA planning the forest area is critical grazing habitat. Commissioner Blankenship stated that we should be talking about the boundaries of the project when they are drawn as soon as they are drawn and why the boundaries are where they are at. The Board stated that they need to evaluate all the impacts of the proposed boundary areas. Commissioner Blankenship asked for timelines for the projects. Commissioner Blankenship does not want Deer Jasper to stop but would like to see more trees come off the forest. Enhancing endangered species habitats, grazing areas and road density. The idea is to keep the roads open for possible future use. Commissioner Blankenship suggested opening the road for certain times of the year, otherwise the only thing accomplished is keeping the people out. The Board proposed a working session to address all the concerns. Mr. Sanchez would like all requests to be in writing.

House Bill 1632

Commissioner Blankenship spoke about the changes that will be coming as part of House Bill 1632. The bill will allow OHV to attain a limited highway license. A limited highway license, cannot be on numbered state highways, but can be on all County roads that are 35 mph or less. Commissioner Blankenship wants to know if the licenses will be valid on Forest Service land. There are certain Forest Service roads that are public roads and Mr. Blankenship believes that those areas should be open. Mr. Sanchez said that they will be looking into the areas that will be affected by the bill, if any, and keep the Board updated as he receives more information.

Introduction of Encroachment Officer Parks Department:

The new Lake Roosevelt Parks Department Encroachment Officer Jaime Smith presented a presentation to the Board. Ms. Smith's presentation highlighted areas along the 312 miles of Lake Roosevelt shoreline that she will be overseeing. Ms. Smith discussed areas of concern where private land owners have encroached upon the public lands. Examples were utilized in her presentation and contact information for Ms. Smith is now available at the Commissioner's office.

Unfinished Business:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM

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BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY WASHINGTON

Brad L. Miller
Brad L. Miller, CHAIRMAN

Brian Dansel
Brian Dansel, VICE-CHAIR

Mike Blankenship
Mike Blankenship, MEMBER

ATTEST:

Hayley Aubertin
for Hayley Aubertin
Clerk of the Board