

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 6:15 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

PRESENT: Commissioner Eric Tobin, Chairman
Commissioner Eric Johnson, Vice Chairman – via telephone
Commissioner Scott Brown, Member
Commissioner Hugh Coward, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk
General Public

Chairman Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:15 p.m.

PRESENTATION – KALAMAZOO RIVER ACCESS POINTS

Chairman Tobin welcomed Mr. Michael Schroeder of LHB Corporation, the engineering firm retained by Enbridge for the Kalamazoo River Access Projects.

Mr. Schroeder provided photos of the projects as follows:

- ***Saylor's Landing:*** Located on 15 Mile Road in Marshall Township, this site includes a boat ramp, restroom, pavilion, picnic area, trail, kiosk, and overlook.
- ***Paddler's Grove:*** At this time construction is complete on the trail to the river, overlook, pavilion, playground, and kiosk at this site located in Emmett Township on River Road, off of Beadle Lake Road. The construction of an accessible canoe/kayak dock at this site is slated for next Spring.
- ***Angler's Bend:*** This site is on D Drive North at 11 Mile Road in Emmett Township and includes a trail to the river, kiosk, and riverside sitting area.
- ***Historic Bridge Park:*** Construction continues at Historic Bridge Park on Wattles Road in Emmett Township and includes riverside and upper parking areas, restrooms, rain gardens, kiosk, etc. Mr. Schroeder informed the Board that most portions will be completed by the end of this year.

Mr. Schroeder commented on the tremendous support they received from elected and appointed leaders from local government, and he thanked the Parks Trustees Board, Mr. Henning and his staff for their work on these river access site projects.

Commissioner Brown asked if the project at the Ceresco Dam was still in the plan. Mr. Schroeder replied that it is and documents have been submitted to the DEQ, but the time frame is still unknown.

Commissioner Vreeland noted that the Parks Trustees Board has limited power over the parks, but he offered assistance to help wrap up projects. He asked if a decision had been made regarding the transfer of ownership of the river access sites. Mr. Schroeder responded that there have been numerous discussions regarding the transfer of ownership but a final determination has not been made.

Commissioner Tobin commented that he attended the dedication for the river access sites. He asked if there was a maintenance endowment set up for the sites. Mr. Schroeder replied that there is an endowment for perpetual care of the improvements made by Enbridge and that entity will be charged with administering the funds.

Mr. Henning thanked Mr. Schroeder for his presentation and for rescheduling the tour for staff. He added that Mr. Schroeder and his staff have gone above and beyond in their dealings with Road Commission staff. Mr. Henning thanked him for working with Enbridge to provide this gift to the residents of Calhoun County.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the October 5, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a. Received the Environmental Services Coordinator's Report
- b. Received a pavilion replacement/repair and bathroom roof repair bid for Kimball Pines Park
- c. Received a quote for parks equipment.
- d. Received Resolution 2011-02: Kimball Pines Structure Repairs
- e. Received Resolution 2011-03: Kimball Pines Storm Damaged Timber Sales

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Resolution 2011-02: Mr. Henning apologized for the last minute addition of the resolutions. He explained that the Parks Trustees Board is an advisory board so we have no authority to sell timber or repair roofs. Mr. Henning noted that the bid was publicly noticed and advertised and only one bid was received in the amount of \$44,564 for the repair and replacement of the structures in Kimball Pines Park that were damaged during the storm on May 29, 2011. Mr. Henning requested Board approval of Resolution 2011-02 recommending to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that the bid be awarded to Summit Building Services, LLC.

Motion made by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve Resolution 2011-02: Kimball Pines Structure Repairs.

Commissioner Brown noted that he is not a huge fan of single bidder situations. Commissioner Coward agreed, but added that the County can kick it back if they want to get more bids.

Voice vote: Motion carried.

Resolution 2011-03: Mr. Henning provided Resolution 2011-03 regarding Kimball Pines Storm Damaged Timber Sales and explained that we have consulted with two separate foresters for an assessment of the potential timber value. He noted that both foresters consulted urged harvesting of the downed timber prior to snowfall while the timber held some residual value. The County is interested in moving forward and has asked for a recommendation from the Parks Trustees Board. Mr. Henning requested Board approval of Resolution 2011-03 recommending to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners to enter into a contract with Tree Tech, Inc., of Augusta, Michigan to serve as administrator for downed/damaged timber salvage.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve Resolution 2011-03: Kimball Pines Storm Damaged Timber Sales.

Considerable discussion took place on the foresters' recommendations, the timber sales contract, deed restrictions, and park clean up. Commissioners questioned what is in the best interest of the park regarding removing or leaving the brush and stumps and requested more information from a biologist. They also asked who would be providing on site oversight to ensure only downed and/or damaged trees were harvested.

Motion failed.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to table action on Resolution 2011-03: Kimball Pines Storm Damaged Timber Sales until requested information was provided. Voice vote: Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS COMMENTS

County Commissioner Julie Camp Seifke thanked the Board for extending the courtesy to participate in discussions.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Rob Rumsey, Emmett Township resident thanked the Board for the public comment period and noted that he continues his efforts in the Ott Preserve to clean up the trail, keep it safe, and increase interest and access. Discussion continued.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioner Brown asked if staff had received a report from Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire regarding the Haunted Forest event. Mr. Henning replied no.

Commissioner Vreeland stated that he appreciates Mr. Rumsey's and Mr. Sootsman's attendance and comments at the meetings and their dedicated service to the parks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or following the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners meeting.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Tobin adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman