

Mountain Resources Commission August 6, 2010 Business Meeting Summary

After a tour of the Grandfather Mountain facility and a luncheon including presentations by Phil Francis regarding the Blue Ridge Parkway and Penn Dameron regarding Grandfather Mountain, the Commission members held brief committee meetings and then convened their business meeting. Attendees included:

Commission Members Present: David Gantt, Harris Prevost, Maxine Dalton, Max Hopper, Rodney Locks, Wayne Abele, RuthAnn Suttle, Charles Vines, Bill Gibson, George Santucci, Jay Leutze, Tommy Jenkins, Tom Massie

Commission Members Absent: Bob Shepherd, Angie Chandler, Jim Coman

Others Present: NCDENR Secretary Dee Freeman, Rep. Cullie Tarleton, NCDENR Asst. Secretary David Knight, Governor Perdue's Western Representative Juleigh Sitton, Judy Francis, AICP, NCDENR Staff to the Commission, NC Division of Community Assistance Ginny Faust, Southern Environmental Law Attorney DJ Gerken, Asheville Board of Realtors Mike Butrum

BUSINESS MEETING

Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. He asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves, expressed thanks that Rep. Frye and Sen. Queen were able to join the group briefly for lunch, and then recognized Rep. Tarleton and Secretary Freeman.

Rep. Cullie Tarleton thanked the staff of Grandfather Mountain for hosting the meeting and inviting him to attend. He said the Commission was a much-needed voice for the western region and expressed appreciation to Senator Joe Sam Queen for initiating the legislation that established the Commission. He also recognized Secretary Freeman from the North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources and complimented his efforts in the department.

Secretary Freeman then addressed the room and said he was from the western part of the state and lived much of his life in this area and has many wonderful memories of the beautiful places that are here. He said the Commission has an important charge and it is important to all of us to address the many environmental issues facing the region. He emphasized that his department is here to help, and wants to continue working with the Commission and the legislators of the region. The focus should be on important substantive issues, and they should be presented in such a way as to make it easy for the department, the legislature, and the Governor to consider and take action. Though the

budget is very tight right now, resources will come to you when they are available again in the times ahead.

Approval of June 11, 2010 Meeting Summary & Five Year Goals

A motion to approve the summary of the June 11, 2010 meeting as presented was made by Wayne Abele; a second was made by Tom Massie, and was approved unanimously. Chairman Gantt also reminded the Commission members to make sure all their Statement of Economic Interest paperwork had been received by the state. Judy will follow up and make sure all members have filed as required.

Chairman Gantt then asked the Commission to consider the official adoption of the five-year goals that were developed in the May strategic planning work session and refined at the June meeting. Jay Leutze asked that the adoption of the mission statement at the June meeting be reflected as accomplished on the goals. Wayne Abele made a motion that the Five Year Goals be adopted with that update. The motion received a second from Max Hopper and was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Chairman Gantt then asked a representative from each committee to report out to the large group.

Legislative Committee: Tommy Jenkins said that he and Jay Leutze have met and both are recommending that policy recommendations should be made in a way that will be easy for the legislature and the Governor to seriously consider them. The committee will also be working hard to gain support for funding of environmental programs and the Commission's needs. Judy said she will help them set up conference call once they determine a time that is most convenient for them.

Administrative Committee: Harris Prevost said that Max Hopper will serve as the Committee Chairman. They are scheduling a call in early September and members will collect sample by-laws to make recommendations to the Commission. They will have a preliminary draft ready for review and operating procedures for next meeting. They want comments about how to manage the Commission's relationship with the Technical Advisory Council. Harris Prevost is working on development of a logo and letterhead for the Commission.

Fund-Raising:

George Santucci will serve as the Committee Chairman. They will be looking at a range of possible public and private sources of funding. The committee has a conference call set for September 3rd at 9:00 AM to discuss developing leveraging strategies and promoting the Commission's accomplishments to attract funding.

Outreach and Education:

Maxine Dalton said the committee will be holding a future meeting prior to next Commission meeting. Preliminary discussions have concluded that initial outreach should begin with the regional Councils of Governments, and by asking community leaders what

issues are most important to them and really listening to their response. They will develop a power point presentation for Commission members to use that explains the Commission and its activities. Charles Vines said that the Commission should proceed with all our partners with openness and transparency and remain responsive to our various constituencies. Tom Massie said all Commission members need to identify groups to approach and dates to do presentations. He said the Commission can't be divisive and needs to hear back from local governments.

Discussion of Technical Advisory Council Appointments

Chairman Gantt reviewed the Commission's enabling legislation regarding the appointment of the Technical Advisory Council. Appointees that are not state employees will get per diem whenever it is allocated by the General Assembly.

Judy Francis gave an overview of the spreadsheet she provided to Commission members that showed the results of the straw poll the Commission conducted regarding potential appointees to the Technical Advisory Council. Nearly fifty nominations were received from Commission members and were included on the spreadsheet. She explained that five of those names received a majority of votes in the straw poll. They are Bill Eaker, DJ Gerken, Paul Muller, Rick Wooten, and Jim Fox. Rodney Locks made a motion to appoint those five people to the Technical Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Bill Gibson and approved unanimously by the Commission.

The Commission members then looked at four additional names from the spreadsheet that were very close to receiving a majority of support in the straw poll. The names included David Ray, Steve Tedder, Bill Yarborough, and Marvin Hoffman. Jay Leutze made a motion to appoint those four people to the Technical Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Max Hopper and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Max Hopper stated that membership in the Technical Advisory Council should be based on the needs of the Commission at various points in time, and not carved in stone. Maxine Dalton said the Commission needs to make sure that the right knowledge is represented on the Council. She is not necessarily concerned about equal geographic location, though that should be a secondary consideration.

Judy said that there were still five open seats on the Council so the Commission should look at making sure all their technical concerns were covered. Bill Gibson made a motion to appoint Eric Romaniszyn from Haywood Waterways to the Technical Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Charles Vines and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Tommy Jenkins made a motion that Karen Smith, or her designee, from the NC Division of Community Assistance office in Asheville be appointed to the Technical Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Ruth Ann Suttle and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Further discussion about the remaining two seats on the Council continued and four names were put forward: Betty Huskins, Mack Pearsall, Walter Clark, and Andy Brown. Max Hopper made a motion to close the nominations for the remaining two seats. The motion was seconded by Wayne Abele and unanimously approved. Chairman Gantt asked for each Commission member to vote for two of the four nominees and conducted an open hand count. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes were Andy Brown and Walter Clark, and they were appointed to the Council.

Judy said she would send out notifications to the appointees as well as background material so they can familiarize themselves with the Commission and their goals. She will invite them to the next Council meeting.

Additional Comments

Maxine Dalton said she would like the next meeting to be held in Madison County at the Hot Springs Community Center. Judy Francis said that Rep. Ray Rapp has asked for time on the agenda to speak about slope policy and he represents the Madison County area.

Chairman Gantt asked Judy to coordinate the logistics of the meeting, which will be held on September 17, 2010. Rodney Locks said he would be unable to attend the September meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.