

Official MINUTES
PIGEON RIVER COUNTRY EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE
April 4, 2014

A meeting of the Pigeon River Country Equestrian Committee (PRCEC) was held on Friday, April 4, 2014 at the DNR Roscommon Office. Chairman Dick Kleinhardt called the meeting to order at 1:00

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Kleinhardt, Don Horrocks, Norma Laine, Barb Curtis, Bonnie Cornelius, Darlene Alexander and Carol Hyzer

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Walters, Kerry Mase, Chuck Fanslow, Charlotte Prochazka, Vicki Reinhardt, and Carol Clute

EX-OFFICIO ABSENT: Scott Whitcomb, Forest Management Division

DNR PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Division: Anna Sylvester, Charlie Maltby and Richard Hill,

OTHERS PRESENT: Connie Kleinhardt, Diana and John McConnell

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR: The Chair welcomed all members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: **Motion** to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2013 meeting was made by Carol Hyzer and seconded by Bonnie Cornelius . Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jinjyr Miller was unable to attend today's meeting so item 3 will be omitted from the Agenda. **Motion** to accept the revised agenda was made by Darlene Alexander seconded by Don Horrocks . Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Directors Response to Comprehensive List. Prior to the meeting Dick Kleinhardt had sent all members a copy of the Director's response to the Comprehensive list that the Committee had prioritized at the last PRCEC meeting in December. (Response attached) Discussion took place on each item. Dick Kleinhardt has spoken with the Director prior to today's meeting and provided additional information.

A DNR Department team was assigned by the Director to work with the PRCEC on achieving the points of agreement. On this team will be Scott Whitcomb, PRCSF Manager, Anna Sylvester, Chief of Regional Field Operations PRD and Brian Mastenbrook, Wildlife Biologist. A draft work plan is being developed which will identify deadlines for completion of the work. This team will keep the PRCEC informed of progress in the implementation of the work plan.

Update on Equestrian Campground and Trails / MNRTF Expenditures and Estimates for Remaining Work.

Work has not yet been completed on all aspects of the upgrade to the Elk Hill Trail and Group campgrounds. Just over twenty three thousand dollars has been spent. A one year extension on spending the allotted grant monies of \$300,000 is possible. These dollars are not restricted to just Elk Hill but can be used on other EQ initiatives. Discussion took place regarding materials and construction cost that were needed in several EQ camping areas.

Elk Hill: The initial estimate on the Solar Well far exceeded the budgeted amount. PRD is taking new bids on the project. Some discussion took place as to not getting a Solar Well but instead to have the additional well be operated by hand or generator. Norma Laine suggested that the current well in the Group campground be converted to a Solar Well if the cost was not excessive. Anna Sylvester will check into the feasibility and cost of this type of conversion and the cost of moving the entrance gate so other uses would have access to the well.

The ADA approved Mounting Block will be placed when that location is finalized. The new tops for the out houses are built and two new vault are needed for the Group campground giving this campground four out houses.

Permits will be needed from DEQ and Natural River for repairing the horse access trail down to the Pigeon River at the Trail Camp. The check points that divert the water running downhill need to be cleaned and improved. The pathway itself needs work to prevent erosion and run off into the river. Erosion control is also needed for the currently closed trail that goes from the Group Camp to the Trail camp on the river.

There is a need for gravel on the access road into the new horse camping area by Hardwood Lake (at the old oil well pumping station site).

Tether posts are needed at the horse camping areas by the Witness Tree and Hardwood lake (old pumping station).

Stoney Creek: The entrance road to this campground is a County road. The DNR cannot pay for County Road repairs with Trust Fund Money. Don Horrocks has been

working with the Cheboygan County road Commission on the road repair issue and Richard Hill, Parks and Recreation will also be involved. Stoney Creek Campground is in need of an extra outhouse, two sites need to be leveled, brush needs to be removed and the campground roads need edging. Until the County entrance road issue is resolved additional monies will not be spent here. Access into the Lee Grand property is also requested.

Lee Grande: Two individuals in the Lee Grande area have indicated an interest in working on a Trail Proposal that would designate EQ trails within the State owned Lee Grande property that would connect to the Shore to Shore Trail and other potential trails in the surrounding State Forest. Trail proposals have several steps to go through for approval so this will be an ongoing project for this year. No current costs are involved.

Gladwin: Chuck Fanslow has requested approximately 40 new picket posts, gravel and a group fire ring.

4 Mile Camp: Carol Hyzer requested ten picnic tables, five fire rings, gravel, picket posts and to fix the roofs of the outhouses.

Smith Road: Picnic tables in this location are requested by MTRA. Anna said that this is primarily a boating site so boating monies could be used here.

Anna Sylvester said that **Ionia** and **Sleepy Hollow** also have project requests that the Department will consider as funding becomes available.

Big Oaks: The Director has signed the Land Use Order opening up the Big Oaks Campground as an Equestrian Campground. As soon as the weather permits an assessment will take place regarding what changes are needed to make this accessible for horse trailers. A formal plan will be developed and brought back to the PRCEC for input. EQ volunteers will help on this project. PRD is looking at improvements in the outhouses, new picket posts, gravel for road, picnic tables, fire rings and constructional services. Because of Oak Wilt Disease, no Oak trees can be cut until after July. General time line is estimated to be August or September for all the work to be done and the campground opened for EQ use.

As soon as the weather permits, Cody Stevens, Forest Division and Jennifer Kleitch, Biologist want to make an on the ground assessment of the Proposed Trails in the Big Oaks area before a final decision is made on the EQ trails. A follow up meeting will be held with Jinjyr Miller, Kerry Mase and Darlene Alexander regarding these trails.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: John and Diane McConnell, property owners next to Pigeon River Country State Forest spoke about their desire to have riding access to the forest.

NEXT MEETING: Not scheduled.

ADJOURN: At 4:20 the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Kerry Mase, Secretary and Darlene Alexander
Acting Secretary for the April 4, 2014 meeting.