

LINCOLN COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2012

**\*\*\* Ponderosa Room – Libby City Hall \*\*\***  
**5:30pm**

**1. 5:35 – Meeting Called to Order by Board Chair, Paul Tisher**

Present: *Bonny Peterson, Ted Clarke, John Damon, Mark Romey, Dave Johnson, Paul Tisher*

Staff: *Kristin Smith*

FWP: Candace Durran, Alan Wood, Gael Bissell, Mike Hensler, Tonya Chilton,  
Stimson Ray Jones, Barry Dexter, Frank Torresy, Darryl Pfeiffer and Bruce Roland

**2. Approval of Minutes from June 19<sup>th</sup> & July 17<sup>th</sup> – Mark asked Kristin to make a note in the minutes about the change in conversation from the Stimson Conservation Easement to the Forest Plan. Ted moved, Dave seconded.**

**3. Agenda**

**a. FWP Public Meeting on Stimson/Conservation Easement**

Candace with FWP introduced herself and the context of the meeting as a final step before FWP submitted the Conservation Easement to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. She stated they were there to answer any questions and take public comment and noted that a public meeting in Troy was being held the following night.

Ted wanted clarification on an apparent discrepancy – the EA stated that camping would be an allowed activity, but the Easement document itself restricted camping.

Gael and Allan asked for the page number and noted that the EA was in error and the Easement document was correct – there would not be any camping.

Ray from Stimson stated that was long-standing company policy for liability reasons and probably would not change..

Barry from Stimson stated the company would be repeating the access for hunting this year around the Ruby Loop.

Ted asked about public access to Stimson that was wholly surrounded by private land.

Darryl with Stimson stated that virtually everything is already accessible via a Forest Road or County Road (eg., Lake Creek, Iron Creek, etc.)

Ted asked about signage and how people would know about it.

Darryl stated that there were no immediate plans, but they will continue to be part of the FWP Block Management Program which does have signs.

Allan stated that FWP could produce a map showing access to the Stimson lands.

Kristin asked for clarification about the parties involved. Allan stated that the Trust for Public Lands was negotiating the easement, but FWP would be the easement holders.

Bonny asked for clarification on the allowable 8 divisions.

Candace explained that even with the divisions, the easement still runs with the land and all of the conditions. There can be no residences, or permanent structures. Gael said provided some flexibility for the landowner.

Dave asked about the impacts of removing private land from the Troy area.

Gael referred to the land use & socioeconomic analysis in the EA and stated about ½ of developable land is being removed.

Ted expressed concern about public land in the County and the conservation easement limiting development and the future tax base.

Alan stated that FWP came to the Planning Board with that concern in mind and asked which pieces should come out, but when discussion taking pieces out with people in Troy, folks objected.

Bonny said she loved the easement and that it could help market the area with an emphasis on conservation and wildlife.

Kristin asked how many jobs are with Stimson in the area. Ray stated approximately 50-100 (depending on season) family wage jobs.

Paul said another way to look at it is that the remaining private land is more valuable as a result of the easement.

Ray stated that the forest jobs can be in perpetuity with the easement in place. That Stimson is a family business and would like to keep it that way. Every other company is carving up their land and Stimson is motivated to keep it in tact.

John Damon stated he liked the easement as it was in his backyard. He suggested that it was up to FWP & Stimson to decide which pieces to develop – not the public, since no one would ever agree.

Paul stated that since the Forest Service borders so much of the land, if it were developed, the public would surely be locked out.

Dave thought there was a place for development in those 28,000 acres, but he did not know where.

Mark stated that Stimson had been before the Board at least twice and it was not fair to put the question of development on them at this late stage.

Frank with Stimson stated that it was precisely because of the develop-ability of some of the land that offered the value for protecting it.

Ted asked if snowmobiles were allowed or not.

Darryl stated that the Block Management Plan currently prohibits motorized use beyond gated roads and that would continue.

Ted asked about access for handicapped people.

Frank stated that was one of the reasons for continuing access during hunting season on Ruby Loop.

Gael stated that the public management plan is reviewable, whereas the terms of the easement are not. If snowmobile community wants to approach Stimson & FWP about

the impacts during an annual public meeting they could do that and ask that it be considered for future access.

Bonny asked about the public participation process and whether FWP could include an announcement in the Tobacco Valley News even though the lands are far from Eureka, they are still in the County.

Gael said she would get an ad in there.

Mark said he thought it was a good deal for the County.

Paul said he used to work on the land when it was in the previous ownership and everybody thought it would be developed. Stimson bought it and stepped up by making a huge concession to not develop it.

**4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Kristin announced that she had moved to a contract employment status with the County.

**5. PLANNING BOARD COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There was a bit more discussion about the easement.

**6. 7:30 Meeting Adjourned**