

BMRA OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING; APRIL 10, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chairman Tom Mitchell

Roll Call: Rick Hawkinberry
George Caraway
John Harris
Tom Mitchell
Greg Trulove by telephone connection

Also present: Jack Slack, TMTC Vice President

Reading of minutes of previous meeting was waived by general consent.

Chairman opened meeting with a procedural question regarding the adoption of a requirement to conduct business based upon an agenda. He stated that TMTC Board had bound itself to an agenda, by adopting that provision in its Bylaws. This meant that no business matter could be an action item by the Board at the meeting at which that matter was introduced. This procedure required that any matter of new business must be carried over to the next duly called meeting; at which it could properly be called old business and acted upon by the TMTC Board. This provision insures time for deliberation on any question before the Board, and prevents hasty action.

There followed discussion about the need for deliberative processing by the TMTC Board versus the need for expedient action on operational problems and situations at BMRA. It was agreed by all present that the BMRA Operations Committee should not adopt an agenda requirement to conduct business.

There was a request to establish prior notice of Committee meetings to committee members; the Chair reminded all that the meetings were scheduled in advance for the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm; and asked that all mark their calendars.

The Chair called for old business and several reports were given:

Rick spoke on the setting of the new traffic signals by TXDOT; we were waiting for the State to present any requests for additional information, and to begin construction.

George and Greg spoke on the proposal to allow night riding at BMRA. Several copies of the draft document by Greg were available, and all were given an opportunity to read them and ask questions. Several provisions were discussed and suggestions were offered to clarify and improve the language in that document. It was agreed that the document as amended was satisfactory to be presented to the TMTC Board.

Chair spoke on the building of the new entrance gate for BMRA; TMTC President Gary Hazel wished to move toward the construction as soon as possible. Due to conditions in the local construction market, several attempts to secure a third bid for this project have not be productive. A motion to go forward based on the existing low bid of \$8,300 was made and seconded, and the motion was passed 3 – 1, with TMTC V-P Slack indicating his approval as well.

A brief discussion regarding the loan of the SWECO trail dozer to TP&W and Trails Unlimited (Cam Lockwood) followed. TP&W will provide transportation to-and-from

the training site, and TMTC/BMRA will have the right to send several persons to the training session. Topics taught will include trail design and construction, and proper use and maintenance of the SWECO. It was agreed that this would be useful and worthwhile, and the Property Manager and other interested persons would be considered for attendance. All present were in favor of this action, and Jack will report our approval to TP&W.

Each person was asked to speak on old business items of interest:

Jack spoke on the previous discussion about creating a new membership survey document for exclusive use a BMRA; it was agreed to go forward on this.

John spoke on membership renewal concerns, and the possibility of obtaining wildlife preserve status for BMRA. Discussions included both timber and agricultural exemptions and the advantages/disadvantages of each.

Rick spoke on information he has regarding proper helicopter pad construction, and the fact that no further contact has been received from the folks interested in establishing a ham radio tower at BMRA.

Greg spoke on the issues of surveying and establishing proper fences around the perimeter of the property.

Chair spoke on his desire to see a trial usage of fly ash as a means of controlling erosion and trail damage. Chair also reported that he had sent a letter to the Upshur County Appraisal District requesting that the 72 acre property that was purchased in 2006 be rendered together with the existing BMRA properties, and placed under the existing timber exemption.

Chair called for new business:

The upcoming mapping project at BMRA was discussed, and all were asked to be present if possible and to recruit other qualified volunteers for April 20-21-22. A motion was made and seconded for the Committee to authorize the purchase of two GPS devices for use during this project, as well as for future use. Motion was passed by general consent, and Jack was asked to relay that information to Treasurer Leslie Ramirez and to coordinate the purchase with her so that the devices would be in hand by April 20th.

Trail maintenance issues were discussed, and concerns expressed that Lawton Watts was somewhat overreaching in some of the repairs he was undertaking with the SWECO. Several areas had been "repaired" to the point that the character of the trail was significantly affected. It was agreed that the up-coming training session would be a very good chance to focus Lawton's efforts in a more useful way.

John spoke on the issue of the fenced area behind the pavilion (gas well site); Burke Royalty has given us the fence, in exchange for not being required to dismantle and remove it. It was agreed that the fenced area would be very useful as a more secure yard to contain BMRA tools and equipment, including the seabox storage sheds and covered carport. We will begin the moving of all such equipment as soon as time permits.

Greg spoke on the need to establish proper signage at BMRA regarding firearms. This discussion included a historical review of TMTC Board actions regarding questions of hunting and rights of persons with concealed handgun license.

Rick spoke on desirability of having surveillance cameras in and around office areas, both for preventative affect, as well as for recording possible illegal/improper actions.

This discussion included possible costs and available technology. George and Rick volunteered to provide some research into possible equipment and costs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Submitted by Tom Mitchell, Chairman