

BMRA OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING: MAY 8, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Chairman Tom Mitchell.

Roll Call; George Caraway  
John Harris  
Rick Hawkinberry  
Jimmy Jones  
Tom Mitchell

Also present; Mitch Murthree, Trails Unlimited, contractor for USFS  
Gary Hazel, TMTC President  
Jack Slack, TMTC Vice President  
Dick Stuart, TMTC Secretary  
Lawton Watts, BMRA Property Manager  
Eric Schoor  
Chris Jester

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

Meeting convened at late hour due to prior meeting with Brad Sellers, the fabricating contractor who has been awarded the contract to build and install the new automated entry gate at Barnwell. There was a pre-job conference regarding the construction, and several TMTC Officers and Committee members attended. Mr. Sellers expects to begin the job within 2 – 3 weeks.

Mitch Murthree was introduced and spoke to those present about the trail design and maintenance training provided by his employer, Trails Unlimited. His company is a prime contractor for consulting, training programs, trail design, and supervision of trail construction by the United States Forestry Service. They had provided a training school for the proper usage and maintenance of the SWECO dozer, as a trail building tool. TMTC & BMRA had loaned our SWECO for their use, at the request of Steve Thompson, with TP & W. We had been expected to have several persons attend that training, but due to a glitch in communications, did not receive notice in time to schedule our attendance. Officials from the USFS and TP & W, arranged to have Mr. Murthree attend this meeting and reschedule a short training course at Barnwell over the coming weekend. Several present expressed interest in attending, some were unfortunately unable to do so due to Mother's Day activities. The sessions will be textbook instruction on operation of the SWECO, maintenance of the machine, and a hands-on exercise in its use. All were urged to attend if possible.

Chair asked that each person speak on items of concern:

JH asked for consideration to require that expenses that exceed some predetermined amount (he proposed \$3,000) be bound over for action at a later meeting. This would

alter the April decision to allow action on any item during the meeting at which it was proposed. Discussion included the comment that as long as this group was functioning as a committee under the Board of the TMTC, this is a moot point because their approval is required before the committee may act. When Barnwell becomes a freestanding entity, limits of this nature will certainly bear consideration.

JJ and TM reported on their meeting with the Upshur County Appraisal District; and the effort to have Barnwell placed under a universal timber exemption and a consistent per acre valuation. The UCAD representatives told of a new classification for recreational, scenic and park usage, that might be an appropriate reclassification with a saving that would be equivalent to agricultural or timber exemptions. TM has met the Chief Appraiser and the Deputy Appraiser who handles our file, and spent several hours driving them around the park, and explaining our operations to them. They have not committed themselves, but did indicate that we would be given careful consideration for reclassification.

GC reported that he had not made contacts with neighbors regarding the proposed night riding trial runs, and stated that dates for scheduling any runs would be dependant on making the necessary contacts. He also reported that hardware costs to purchase video cameras and recorders would be from \$600 – 700, and that Mark Hulsey had agreed to donate his labor to help install the equipment.

GH reported to the meeting the earlier conversation with the fabricating contractor for the new gate, and said that a 2 week lead-time was discussed. He also reported the scheduling of the Superlift event for 2007, it will be over the weekend of 10-11 November, and will be coordinated by Jack Brinks, Dick Stuart, and himself. This is a closed weekend for BMRA, and we will post this closing when our calendar can be properly posted on the websites.

JJ reported that Burke Royalty Co. has presented a release from contract document for TMTC to execute that will end our agreement regarding the gas well located beside the pavilion. It provides a \$500 payment in lieu of completing the water well, as per our original agreement. There was discussion about our being able to leverage better terms, but he doubted we would realize any improvement. It was agreed that he should act in our best interest, to either accept or negotiate further, if it seems worthwhile.

RH reported on his belief that helicopter landing sites would best be located near the office/pavilion, near the ECOR campsite, and near the top of Humdinger trail. He also gave details of several problems with bills not being paid in a timely fashion, and there was discussion about the need for TMTC to pursue better controls over accounts payable.

TM reported on Lawton Watts request that we arrange to remove dead trees along the western boundary of the park before they began to fall and damage the neighbor's fences. Discussion followed about hiring the removal, or doing so with a work crew of volunteers. The general sentiment was that we should do this ourselves, as a money saving effort. Several persons stated their willingness to participate in this effort, and it

was agreed that there would be a specific workday scheduled for the coming Saturday, 16 June.

No additional business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.  
Submitted by Tom Mitchell, Chairman.