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Chichaqua Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
July 20, 2006
Chichaqua Longhouse
7:00 p.m.

Chair Summerville called the meeting of the Chichaqua Master Plan Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item #1 – Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Keith Summerville; Scott Rolfes; Fred Noon; Sherri Roberts; Marsha Burrignt; Harry Kimberley; Randy Forburger; Paul Miller; Lynn Schreurs for Jim Wooley; Chuck Kakac for Jeff Joens; Sue Davies for Virginia Soelberg; Jane Clark for Dan Malloy

Committee Members Absent Without Alternate:

Becky Schaper; Rick Kimberley; Bruce Mountain;
Warren Nielsen

Staff Present:

Loren Lown, Mark Dungan, Doug Sheeley, Dan Hrubes, Pat Boddy, and Melissa Ritter (recording secretary)

Item #2 – Review of October 2005 meeting and approval of minutes

Brief refresher on minutes of previous meeting was given by Keith Summerville.

Keith stated it has been longer than usual to have meeting, but was waiting until Mark Thompson's position was filled, Mark retired in December. Keith gave quick update on research priorities, better data for hydrology is needed and there is some improvement.

Keith asked Melissa to post to web page the minutes of the October 2005 meeting.

Amendment to October 2005 minutes – On Roll call Sue Davies was here for Virginia Solberg.

IT WAS MOVED BY CLARK, SECONDED BY ROLFES, THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 6, 2005 MEETING OF THE CHICHAQUA MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE “SUE DAVIES FOR VIRGINIA SOELBERG” BE APPROVED.

VOTE YEA: UNANIMOUS

Item #3 – Introduction to new CBG Area Manager, Doug Sheeley

Loren Lown introduced Doug and gave some background information on him.

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Doug Sheeley also talked briefly about his background with road side management, geared toward native vegetation management. What attracted me with this position was to work head on with conservation management, and use my education on that and in an area of this size. Chichaqua and Polk County is a very unique area.

Sherri Roberts - I had a problem with the fact that he had no law enforcement capabilities, I went to the Conservation board at their last meeting.

Keith Summerville - Doug Sheeley is living on site at the Chichaqua residence, Polk County DNR Officer, Jeff Swearngin will be the one to contact with issues on law enforcement. If you are dissatisfied contact the board, and Keith stated he doesn't feel it will be an issue. Issues that need tackled inside the boundaries contact Doug.

Jane Clark – Asked if Doug is the one to call about problems.

Keith Summerville – Yes, Doug will be the one to call and if needed he will contact Jeff.

Item #4 – Chichaqua Restoration Update – Buttonbush mitigation

Loren Lown - east side of the park, Mitigation site, Stanley Consultants is the engineer, City of Urbandale and DOT. 40 acres of water, less than 3 ft deep of water, even in this drought type should still have 10 acres of water, good wildlife drawer.

Lown - removing invasive species, buckthorn. Mark Dungan and I are working together we have a new piece of equipment to assist in removal, Herbicide and burning should help the spots but it will be a mess during the transition, areas we are effectively managing.

Everyone went outside for Loren and Mark to show area where the Mower was used. Pat Boddy arrived.

Loren discussed Dr. Rosberg coming out and discussed the way they are planning to do restoration and the field test area for best results.

Item #5 – Update on CBG flora and fauna research

Joe Boyles has completed the bird survey, herps, Broke down the areas that have been burned to the areas not burned, not getting dominant shift to area, burn sensitive henslow sparrows are doing well, fire is not hurting the bird community or the structure of the birds, Swans turned up again, has been hearing sand hill cranes, not seeing as much.

Lown - hopeful they have raised there young, Sandhill cranes only come to areas that they would normally live, so it is great to have them here.

Shrubby grass land patch, found that the shrubbery didn't affect the birds, so no burning is ok for the birds.

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Project that under grads are doing, Jeff Parmaley, looking for endangered species, snakes turtles, snakes, turtle traps, frustrated by the ditches and oxbows, September is when they may come out more, distributional data, gps mapped.

Ornate box turtles, released, sandhill prairie release in a large area, enclosure, came down in 2002, captive area were freed, drift fencing is still there, dug in drift fence, put buckets to trap them, 1-5 years old, radio transmitters, glued onto turtles, hibernate is where they lay eggs in the same area, the heat isn't helping, Age of turtles, know there is reproduction, so can't say how old they are, activity dropped, this experiment goes through September if we get rain should have some movement, funded through several areas, small project on demographics milkweed, Tom Rosberg, Buckthorn removal, control seed bank regeneration, what is native that is underneath the buckthorn, undergraduates working on this.

Lown - 8 different plots, run fire through to kill seedlings, would like data to prove the management track.

Boddy - There was a geology and hydrology meeting in April. They are back on track to get the grants money in for projects.

Starting to get universities out here to do studies.

Kimberley - hydrology, sweet corn flooded last year?

Keith - doing these studies will help to understand what is going on.

Lown - if we have a high skunk river we have water everywhere.

Keith - ISU is where hydrology work is done, the ditches, they are letting the water build up. Finding out which way the water is going will help to see where the issues are and find out what the problem areas are.

Rofles - are they required to do well monitors, the mitigation sites will have the well monitors.

Loren - they offered to leave the wells in place, and we could get our own monitoring systems.

Stanley is putting in two monitors.

Rofles - Has USGS been involved? No

Item #6 – Open Discussion/Public Comments

Lynn Schreurs - since we are meeting on a semi annual basis, do you see a threat with the master plan that is in place?

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Boddy - political ramifications, issues somewhat related to that, beyond our control, such as taxes, in the school area, If I were to take the master plan and look at the priority the hydrological piece is the highest priority, the perception that this place takes away from the taxes.

Fred Noon - the beltway that will be going through this area to Elkhart, EIS Environmental Impact Survey, initial request for input, hwy 65 to Polk City redone, EA hwy 65 to I-35 exit not all the way to Polk city. 9 months meeting for beltway,

Pioneer hunt club, where is the ground? Kurt Lehman, how many acres 240 acres, part of what attracted us, shooting area, national shooting sports criteria, open year round, Are you putting any structures, picnic shelter, clubhouse.

Lown, what type of shooting, nature of sport.

Kurt - no rifles pistols, skeet shooting, no live pigeon shooting, no game release , plant more habitat, we want to hold a few special events every year.

How many members? 350 members, moving to hwy 65 and think will pick up business members.

Kurt - we want to be good neighbors, if you drive by it doesn't look like much, it opens into a low area, dead end road. Hunters education , scholastic program,

Long ways to break ground.

Todd Roberts do we have better updated land maps?

Lown - everything is on the maps.

Roberts - give maps of the area to members.

Rolfes - concerned about the growth and the beltway.

Summerville - Meet again in the fall, discuss advocacy regarding the beltway.

Summerville – said would schedule the next meeting for October 19th, 2006.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Melissa Ritter