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**Chichaqua Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting  
October 19, 2006  
Chichaqua Longhouse  
7:00 p.m.**

Chair Summerville called the meeting of the Chichaqua Master Plan Advisory Committee to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item #1 – Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Keith Summerville; Sherri Roberts; Paul Miller; Lynn Schreurs for Jim Wooley; Chuck Kakac for Jeff Joens; Virginia Soelberg; Jo Hudson for Dan Malloy; Becky Schaper; Randy Forburger (arrived at 7:25 p.m).

Committee Members Absent Without Alternate:

Scott Rolfes; Fred Noon; Harry Kimberley; Rick Kimberley; Bruce Mountain; Marsha Burright; Warren Nielsen

Staff Present:

Loren Lown, Doug Sheeley, and Melissa Ritter (recording secretary)

Summerville – stated that there are not enough members present for a quorum so can't approve any items.

Item #2 – Review of July 2006 meeting and approval of minutes

Summerville – there was a problem with the Polk County Conservation website, the minutes were not posted.

Everyone was given copies of the minutes from 7/20/06, revised minutes from 10/06/05, and a meeting agenda.

Summerville – asked that everyone take a moment and look over the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SCHREURS, SECONDED BY MILLER, THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 20, 2006 MEETING OF THE CHICHAQUA MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.  
VOTE YEA: UNANIMOUS**

Item #3 – Remarks from CBG Area Manager, Doug Sheeley

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Doug Sheeley – I am getting to know the area and projects, and getting to know the neighbors involved in the area.

Toured Sandhill area with World food prize, on Tuesday.

Loren Lown – talked about the Award.

#### Item #4 – Project Update: Amazing Prairie Festival

Amazing Prairie festival, Lown, 558 people attended maze, hayrack rides, do trials, canoes, birdwatching,

Summerville - crossing the threshold with knowledge of the greenbelt, Fox news, and an editor with conservation.

Soelberg - people like festivals, it worked, using the word festival.

Summerville - future management will depend on the youth and what they learn.

#### Item #5 – Project Update: Buttonbush Mitigation

Lown - button bush mitigation, Corps and Fish and Wildlife worked out a way to move mitigation projects to Chichaqua, 40 acres of water at full pool, deepest 4.5 feet (3 acres) rest on 3 ft or under, July or August dry down to 20 acres, they delivered seed and Lown and Sheeley will plant the seeds, in November, finished around the first of the month, no items need corrected, Bailey did the work, the water is flowing through the culvert.

Randy Forburger arrived

Summerville - is there a gate to allow water in?

Lown - we put in a box culvert, with sheet pile control.

Summerville - were is the walk in access,

Lown - they can come down from the north, or through the eastern field

Summerville - no ada access right now, they mow the path if they will need to mow.

Lown - currently there is not ada access, you are not required to make all ada accessible, we are working to make a trail by the residence ada accessible.

Lown - we don't have a wetland mitigation bank.

Lown – There are unit classifications known as HUC 8's the Corps and Fish and Wildlife won't let people mitigate outside of their HUC 8 making a bank difficult.

#### Item #6 – Project Update: Thorn Valley Acquisition

Lown – Thorn Valley is solid rose and honey locust, heavily grazed, we are looking at it to see what we can do with it.

Roberts - How many acres?

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Lown - 113 acres

Applied for reop grant, looking for more grants,

Summerville – what about the Great Outdoors fund?

Lown - we are hoping that they can raise some money for it.

Summerville – the county is being pushed out of the market, it illustrates the need for complimentary land purchases around Chichaqua. Urban growth objective.

#### Item #9 – Pioneer Gun Club Shooting Range Discussion

#9 can we move up

Summerville – July meeting, acquisition of some land around the Holy Cross church, advisory committee, can't dictate the use of the land, but want to give folks the opportunity to talk to Pioneer Gun club, keep comments on target

Roberts – from a neighbors stand point I have my own issues, the amount of lead that will be dropped on the land, with the new buttonbush mitigation, shooting on one side of the road, concerned about the birds that will come, gunshot going off all day, concerned with if wildlife will stay around

Summerville – lead, dnr mines the lead out,

Lown - dnr doesn't but private companies do

Kakac - doesn't now of anything that the DNR does.

Kakac - DNR does more in Missouri,

Summerville - did you dig out the Banner pits

Kay Maddsen, read a lot about it, high water table and sandy soil, very large aquifer, it has never gone dry, drains right into the creek into Skunk river.

Summerville – Water table, we don't have hydrographs , can't say if water table is at those levels, lead shot, I'm not sure how much lead shot can get into water.

Kurt Lehman - Pioneer gun club, shot would be dropping out that far, we want the land to be flat, can't have people mine it, need to have a lot out there. 300 yard safe zone.

Summerville, can you put a liner in?

Kurt – I have never been heard of liners being put in.

Have done sampling of the ground, sod bound land

Is it sandy soil.? Kay

You are up hill l from where the water drains down to

Scarlet – Charles, What are you moving to this property,

I work close to Sheriffs station.

Scarlett – I can hear them qualifying, I don't want you there.

Kurt, we have addressed, pistol and rifle ranges, we want set hours. So not as much noise.

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Summerville – is there any sound dampening?

Kurt - there is a 80- ft difference in

Ann Daniels – I have to agree with him, Why would you choose this location, we train horses on our property, why can't you build south of Des Moines, do you have any concern for our neighbors.

Stage coach stables, we have never had problems, you hear pops

Jeff Daniels – We would be most impacted by our neighbors, we are not unused to gunshots, continuous and traffic that is associated with  
Amount of rounds

? - We are a non-profit organization; we are not that busy during the week,

Jeff Daniels - 200 people,

Kurt - we would have one weekend that we would have a lot of fire, Labor Day weekend, weekends we do have more business.

Charles Scarlet – I would have to put all my animals in the barn,  
Daniels concerned , they knew what they were moving next to you are moving next to established homes, breeding operation, as neighbors we are very concerned.

Summerville – because of the concern you are going to need to have a public meeting.  
The land to the east is going to be switched to houses if it gets re-zoned, if you don't want row houses, you need to be more active in planning and zoning.

Dan flaling – they have a comprehensive plan to keep it ag.

Summerville - You can get changes to plans all the time.

People are going to move out here, gravel roads are gone and houses are going to be built.

? - No vision of coming in here and announced that we are coming didn't think everyone would like us. We will do everything we can to be good neighbors. Who??? We are planning some meetings Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sound reduction issues, anything that you can do will be very important.

Lown - Lead shot should not be used over water because birds can't digest. Lown, the DNR went to no lead shot.

#### Item #7 – Discussion of Use of Prescribed Fire in Greenbelt

Lown – 2-5 year rotation of fire, control woody vegetation. Burn to clear weeds, kills annual weeds.

Doug – have been spraying for weeks, Canada thistle, native vegetation, through together all these areas, 4 year rotation, 1600 acres, last spring we planned to burn 2000 acres, last spring we were not able to (burned 300 acres) try to make both upland and lowland fires,

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Forburger – when do you burn?

? - Burn in the spring

Sets back cool season grasses if burn to early. Also didn't want to burn out snakes and turtles, watch the weather and ....

Lown wants to burn sandhill, starting to get woody vegetation, 172 acre, airport mitigation, would need to mechanically remove brush if don't burn it soon.

Summerville teams\

Lown before we borrowed people and we now have 12 people trained to burn, and will still rely on other agencies to burn.

Schaper – how many people do you need for that.

Lown, we can handle that with our team, Dan Hrubes is out mowing firebreaks now.

Todd Roberts – it doesn't hurt habitat to burn in the fall.

Lown – we have a lot of corn around us, we can't burn while corn is drying out in the fall.

Kakac, - FWS can burn in fall,

Lown, we will do some small woodland fires at the parks.

Todd Roberts – tree planting area, needs mowed there is thistle in there.

Lown – I will let Mark D. now about it.

Summerville – need to burn sandhill also.

Summerville – thinning out the oak savanna area, to the east,

Sheeley – saw it to late

#### Item #8 – Summer Research Discussion

- a. Ornate Box Turtle
- b. Blanding's Turtle
- c. Frog Observations

Summerville – reptile research, ornate box turtle, 8a, drift fence, trap turtles, happy to report, found ten of the original box turtles that were brought in 2000, carved on the shell 7 males, 3 females, 1 baby, so we have local reproduction, out of the ten box turtles, re caught turtles, glued transmitters, tiny, trained students to use receiver, every week, to a measurement of where they moved. The female moved around a lot, using about ten of

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the acres where vegetation has a lot of open space. I know where the reproduction is taking place. Found the transmitters in fish, that had attached to frogs.

Viability analysis, pets and cars, best not to tell people where they are at.

Blanding's turtle – found them in sandy soil, they have to have several sites, they move around a lot

Snake boards, smooth green snakes, rough green snakes, timber rattler, put drift fence

Item #10 – Open Discussion

Schaper – May I ask what everyone here thinks about the gun club, will it interfere with what we are trying to do here at Chichaqua?

Schreurs – we can't tell Larry Shaw what to do with his property but the nature of their business, will bring traffic and noise, if we had had money it would have been in our benefits to buy the land.

Summerville – mitigation to address the noise level

Roberts – when you are out harvesting seed and hear gunshots all day, and I'm concerned about property values, avian populations, concerns about the impact.

Soelberg – Can they go to planning and zoning?

Roberts – They are going through the Board of Adjustment trying to get a conditional use permit. They were taken off the agenda for 10/16/06 meeting and deferred to November meeting. I am concerned, every weekend they plan to have activities.

Summerville – Does the DNR do anything with the removal of lead from firing ranges?

Chuck Kakac – The Missouri DNR makes money off of going out and removing lead from ranges, currently Iowa does not remove lead, only private companies remove lead in Iowa as of now.

Will see about scheduling a meeting for March or April 2007.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Ritter