

RESOURCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
August 17, 2007
2:00 p.m.

Standing Committee: Resource Committee
Committee Presided by: Curtis Snell, Chairman

Committee Members Present:

Buel Anglen	Bill John Baker	Jack D. Baker
Harley Buzzard	Julia Coates	Bradley Cobb
S. Joe Crittenden	Jodie Fishinghawk	Meredith Frailey
Janelle Fullbright	Don Garvin	Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Tina Glory-Jordan	Chris Soap	Curtis Snell
David Thornton	Cara Cowan Watts	

John Masters, ex officio member

Committee Members Absent:

None.

Committee Members Present Not Serving on Committee:

None.

Staff Present:

Michael Lynn	Barry Hood	Linda Donelson
Angela Drewes	Dave Roberts	Darlene Foreman
Todd Enlow	Jeannine Hale	

Visitors:

Jim Ketcher Shirley Crowder

Quorum Established: Yes

Legislation: Yes

Minutes: See Attached

**RESOURCE COMMITTEE
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**August 17, 2007
2:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / ROLL CALL:

Chair Snell called the meeting to order. Councilman Soap gave the invocation. Roll was called and a quorum was established. Council member Frailey introduced ex officio member John Masters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16th regular session. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Natural Resources:

Ms. Angela Drewes gave a brief overview of the Natural Resources Department. She stated at this time all of their projects should be approximately 86% complete. The chemical weed control is not where it should be due to the funding being cut by the BIA across the state. They will receive approximately 1/3 of the funding received in past years. They are no longer doing seed bed preparation due to the lack of return on the investment. She announced there Ga Du Gi projects include hauling sand for the Dry Creek water line project, and working with the facilities staff with tree trimming. They continue to look for a docent for Saline Courthouse. She encouraged the Council to contact her at 822-2988 with elders who might be interested in the docent position. They continue to work on phase 1 of the master plan at the Saline Courthouse. Phase 1 is the Spring House and the new bridge. They have completed a guest registry for the Saline Courthouse. She provided a handout of the guest registry for the Tahlonteskee Courthouse near Gore. The Natural Resources staff has pulled weeds, painted, planted flowers in order for the site to look more presentable. The site continues to need work to address structural issues. Two of the structures are replicas and one is original all of which need attention. These needs have been placed in the capitol improvement plan and submitted to the strategic budget committee. The GEO Data staff conducted a tour for a community group in Oaks. She encouraged contact with the GEO Data staff to gain information regarding their areas. They facilitated the locating and securing of the poles for the stickball fields at Markoma. They have completed the clearing for the power lines at Sallisaw Creek Park. Before September 30th the funds allocated for this site will be spent on providing electricity to the site. This is the first phase to get security the next phase will be to hire someone to stay at the site and put in a gate system to cut down on the vandalism. They have been working with the Environmental program in regard to the American Bearing Beetle survey at the Chewey road project. They have participated in a group effort with the Muskogee County Conservation District and the Creek Nation to acquire a no till drill to be available to tribal citizens at a reduced rate. The Natural Resources staff rid the concession stand at the pow wow grounds of a bee infestation. They are currently working with the environmental programs on the 2008 wildlife grant opportunities to determine what grants to write and request. They continue to meet with a diverse group of tribal programs focused on growing and enabling sustainable Cherokee communities. Recently Pat

Gwin, an environmentalist, has received 300 turkey feathers which were given to traditional archers and tribal artisans and crafters.

Council member Glory-Jordan inquired if there is assistance for farmers and ranchers for the thistle problem. Ms. Drewes stated at this time the only assistance is provided is for their leased land. Council member Glory-Jordan requested they search for possible grants available. Ms. Drewes suggested the possibility of this County developing their own Tribal Conservation Group.

Councilman Thornton inquired about the amount of funding spent at the Tahlonteskee courthouse. Ms. Drewes stated they spent approximately \$1500.00. Councilman Thornton inquired if the people there on site running it do it just for the living quarters. Ms. Drewes agreed. Councilman Thornton stated the State is interested in moving the courthouse to the site of Sequoyah's home. The site now is not the original site. Councilman Buzzard inquired who owned the site at this time. Ms. Linda Donelson stated the State actually still owns the site. There was an agreement with the state to put so much money into the property and then the property would be turned over. Councilman Jack Baker stated he spoke with the head of the Oklahoma Historical Society who was not aware the transfer had not taken place. He is in possession of the deed and will complete and sign the quick claim deed. Councilman Jack Baker will pick up the deed. Council member Cowan Watts stated she would not be in favor of giving anything up to the state of Oklahoma. Councilman Buzzard requested Ms. Drewes work up a budget to get the courthouse repaired. Ms. Drewes stated it is in the capitol improvement plan. Councilman Buzzard inquired about the heavy equipment school that used to be at Kenwood. Ms. Drewes stated she was unsure but would inquire and report back. Councilman Buzzard stated he would like to know how that program was funded. He inquired if the Tahlonteskee courthouse was included in the tour route. Mr. Todd Enlow stated it is included in the tour route.

Real Estate Services:

Ms. Linda Donelson provided an overview of the Real Estate Services office. She stated Real Estate Services has received and returned 912 phone calls, had 94 individual clients in the office, completed 58 site inspections and completed 3 heir ships. They had 1 individual hunting lease, 1 smoke shop lease, 3 residential leases, and 13 grazing leases all approved from the BIA. These 13 leases complete the 5 year grazing lease cycle of the 90 units. One mutual help home transferred in trust, 2 mutual help homes taken out of trust, 5 home visits, 6 jurisdictional calls, 7 quiet title suites, 4 will interviews, and 32 county researches. They performed their first mandatory trust application submitted to the BIA on the Arkansas Riverbed settlement area. The acquisition area consists of 5 sections of property. One of the sections is in McIntosh County, 3 sections in Muskogee County and 1 section in Sequoyah County. The property asked to be put in trust is 255 acres off of Ross road in Muskogee County. This will be the first test of the Riverbed Settlement Act. They are working on a restricted of land in Ramona for a William Shawnee family. There was a foreclosure on a citizen's home in Adair County. The home was on fee land but had to cross restricted land. The easement to cross the restricted land wasn't valid therefore the bank has put a hold on the foreclosure proceedings. They have contacted the attorney regarding the transfer of 3 acres to a Collinsville cemetery for a community building.

Councilman Garvin informed Ms. Donelson of a piece of property for sale at the corner of Highway 2 and Interstate 40 in Warner.

Council member Glory-Jordan inquired if the 47 revision was dead. Ms. Donelson stated basically it is dead. Council member Glory-Jordan suggested putting in efforts of revision.

Roads & Transportation:

Mr. Michael Lynn gave a brief overview of the roads department. He provided the following update of IRR roads:

- Cedar Crest Road and Bridge – In final negotiations with land owners
- Daytown Dry Creek – just began – 8 ½ miles broke in 3 phases
- Red Barn Road –50% complete
- Fairview Euche phase II – finishing up in the next 60 days
- Honey Hill – final stages of right of way acquisition – County commissioners and DA working on condemnation
- Rice Woodard –in final stages of right of way. Condemnation has been filed on 5 land owners
- Stick Ross Loop – Overlay ¾ complete – will be complete in the next few weeks
- Barber Road – survey work complete, design is in progress
- Hulbert Lost City – 80% designed – ties into Red Barn Road
- Twin Oaks Bull Hollow – 50 – 60% designed – same as Saline Creek Bridge – bridge is complete

Mr. Lynn announced there are 3 motor fuel/motor vehicle projects from Mayes County going to Executive and Finance Committee this month all sponsored by Councilor Frailey: N437 Road, Cole Strang overlay, and Cole Strang striping of \$131,356.00. He announced they have a couple Ga Du Gi projects in Sequoyah County at the Watts Wildlife area they will be doing a road and a parking lot. They will be designing the parking lot for the Sequoyah Home site. He provided an update regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the Hilltop Circle road. County Commissioner Doug Hubbard is responsible for the upkeep and has promised it will be maintained.

Councilor Soap inquired about a time line for the bridge project. Mr. Lynn stated it is hard to tell once it is turned over to the district attorney for condemnation. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the Ft. Gibson project. Mr. Lynn stated it is approximately 80% designed and should be complete by years end. Councilor Glory-Jordan asked if Hulbert Lost City Road will connect with four mile corner. Mr. Lynn stated Hulbert Lost City road is actually to the locals Grace Hudlin Road. Councilor Glory-Jordan suggested reviewing the true Hulbert Lost city road. Mr. Lynn introduced Mr. Barry Hood as the road construction manager and stated he would report in his absence.

Mr. Lynn announced the public comments section is a standing item on the agenda to capture public comments on any road issue. They always accept comments on the long range transportation plan.

Facilities:

Mr. David Roberts reported the facilities department maintains housekeeping, grounds maintenance, landscape, building maintenance, and remodel. He announced the pow wow grounds, and Markoma electrical upgrades are almost complete and the softball field score boards are up. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the concessions and bathroom upgrades at the pow wow grounds. Mr. Roberts stated those upgrades would not be complete until after the holiday. Mr. Todd Enlow stated in regard to the \$250,000.00 funded for the upgrades at the pow wow grounds they completed an engineering study. The study was complete in late may with a

cost of \$20,000. and the cost for the concession upgrades at \$190,000. leaving only \$40,000. to complete the rehab on the bathrooms. The bathrooms have been a major source of complaint. They have designed the expansion of the building to add on in 2 directions. This would allow one building with a men's restroom and a women's restroom with 2 showers and a changing station. The initial estimates came back at \$75,000 and \$100,000. per building. They will resubmit bids requests for the one building. They also didn't want to be in the middle of construction during the holiday events. He stated the lift station needed to acquire the new sewer system is at least 6 weeks out.

Councilor Buzzard suggested they spruce up the big sign in front of the complex before the holiday.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **A Resolution Authorizing Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Group to Submit a Formal Grant Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Hazardous Waste Management Program for Tribes.** Council member Cowan Watts made a motion to approve the item. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Sponsor Cowan Watts stated the grant is for \$79,000.00 with no match from the tribe. This is a previously highly successful program for the tribe. Motion carried.
2. **A Resolution Authorizing the Environmental Programs to Submit a Formal Grant Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Tribal Pesticides Grant.** Council member Cowan Watts made a motion for approval. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Sponsor Cowan Watt announced this is a \$50,000.00 grant with no match required. This is a study to determine if there is a pesticide issue in our streams. Motion carried.
3. **A Resolution Authorizing the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs to Submit a Formal Grant Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Brownfields Cleanup Grant.** Sponsor Cowan Watts stated this is an application for clean up grants to improve existing sites and reclaim them for use. This site pertains to 2 sites, Markoma and Saline Courthouse. The grant is for \$100,000.00 with a request for a matching fee waiver on the Saline Courthouse. The Markoma match fee is 20% and will be covered by their Markoma escrow account. Neither the grant nor the matching fee can do the indirect cost. With accounting the IDC is required so this will be submitted to the SBC in the amount of \$1610.00 to be paid by the tribe. Council member Cowan Watts moved for the approval. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **A Resolution to Institute Tribal Preference Requirements on Land Leases.** Councilman Bill John Baker stated this is a proposal for Cherokees to have preference in regard to leased land. He stated the resolution is provided today for review and then made a motion to table to the September meeting. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 3:07 p.m.

APPROVAL/ DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: Jack Baker

Comments: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: Curtis A. Hull

Date: 9/10/07