



MAY 7, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD

A meeting of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) Board of Directors was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the Doe Mountain Adventure Center, Mountain City, Tennessee.

Chairman Reese called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

I. Board Members Present

Dan Reese	Jerry Grindstaff	Carolyn Hawkins
Gabby Lynch	Ray Stout	Dave Jones
Kristy Herman	Mike Farmer	
Mike Taylor	Frank Arnold	

DMRA Staff and Guests Present

Tate Davis, Executive Director
Gloria Griffith
Bob Richards
Angie Stout

II. Minutes from the March 5, 2019 meeting (as amended) were reviewed. F. Arnold motioned for approval of the minutes. **C. Hawkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

III. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

IV. Financial Report

F. Arnold reported that the DMRA cash position is \$50,469.73 as of April 30, 2019. The DMRA's Johnson County bank account's cash position is currently \$6,137.83. Discussion ensued about the chronic problem of late reimbursements and invoice payments relating to state and federal grants. Late reimbursements and delayed contractor payments are creating cash flow and reputational issues. M. Taylor motioned to approve the financial report. **K. Herman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

V. Special Discussion Item: RTP Phase II Grant Opportunity

D. Reese noted that in April, the Executive Committee had received word in April from Gerald Parish of TDEC/RES of a RTP Phase II opportunity, and that these funds needed to be obligated very quickly. Mr. Parish had visited Doe Mountain in late March to meet with the Executive Committee about resolving issues with the RTP Phase I grant. M. Taylor thanked J. Grindstaff and the Johnson County Commission for lending initial support to provide \$50,000 in match for the RTP Phase II public grant funds. M. Taylor also spoke about how important the Commission's support is to Doe Mountain in general and his feelings that Johnson County residents do indeed support Doe Mountain and want to see it succeed. G. Lynch provided some background for the Board as to the sequence of events that brought the RTP Phase II opportunity to the DMRA's consideration.

Guest Bob Richards, Owner/President of Bob's Trails, Trees, & Gardens, then spoke to the Board about his involvement with the DMRA's first RTP grant and how excited he is about the Phase II opportunity and the positive impacts it may have to the DMRA, Johnson County, and the City of Mountain City. Mr. Richards then walked the Board through a draft RTP Phase II budget that he had prepared, at the Executive Committee's request, based on T. Davis' ongoing assessment of recreation area trail/visitor needs. Board members asked Mr. Richards a variety of questions about grant budget elements, timing of the grant application process, etc.

Discussion ensued around the "DMRA Future Needs & Projects 2020-2025" list prepared by T. Davis. The motivation behind the list was multiple conversations with the Board about having a list of "shovel-ready" projects for when funding opportunities arise. J. Grindstaff asked if the list was in order of priority; T. Davis and G. Lynch confirmed that, no, the list was in no particular order. T. Davis also noted that the list is not exhaustive; there are other projects such as picnic pavilions and a shooting range that are not RTP-eligible.

R. Stout motioned that the Board approve moving forward with the RTP Phase II grant project, which includes filing a grant application, that the DMRA will provide the required 20% match to the project, and that Bob Richards is the Board's preferred RTP Phase II grant administrator/contractor. **C. Hawkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.** T. Davis noted to the Board that Lance Lowery from the First TN Development District had called him and offered the FTDD's administration services for a Phase II grant at a 6% rate. The Board asked T. Davis to get that quote in writing.

VI. Executive Director's Report

T. Davis reported continued monthly increases in permit sales. March 2019 was the DMRA's #1 best permit sales month since the trail system opened. Facebook followers have more than doubled since May 2017. A series of events and accomplishments on the mountain was reviewed. T. Davis then informed the Board that he and F. Arnold are presenting the RTP Phase II grant opportunity to the Mountain City town council this evening and will ask the council for grant match support at the same level that was approved by the Johnson County Commission (\$12,500 per year for four years).

VII. Individual Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee: G. Lynch reminded the Board that all Committee chairs need to work on draft policies for full Board consideration at the July Board meeting.
- b. Marketing & Outreach/Business Development: No report.

- c. Roads & Trails: No report.
- d. Hunting & Shooting Sports: F. Arnold reported for T. Sain, who was absent. The Committee voted at its last meeting to proceed with plans for a shooting range on Doe Mountain.
- e. Natural Resources: No report.
- f. Master Planning: D. Reese noted that the RTP Phase II grant opportunity will result in the Committee considering its next steps.

VII. Other Business: None.

VIII. Set Next Meeting Date/Time/Place

The next meeting will be set for Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Tennessee Development District office in Johnson City, Tennessee.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by D. Reese at 2:54 p.m.

Minutes Taken By:



Gabrielle K. Lynch
DMRA Corresponding Secretary

The mission of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority is to transform Doe Mountain into a safe, fun, family-oriented, multi-use outdoor recreational destination that promotes local economic development while conserving and protecting its beauty, woods, water and wildlife.