

SPECIAL SESSION COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 9:00 a.m.

Members of the Court Present:

Charles Watson	County Judge
Keith Clark	Commissioner Pct. #1
Jimmy McDaniel	Commissioner Pct. #2
Doyle Dickerson	Commissioner Pct. #3
Fayne Warner	Commissioner Pct. #4
Janice McDaniel	County Clerk

Ranger Eddie Taylor and Don Eddings with the U. S. Forest Service were also present.

Judge Watson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1-Off-Road Vehicle Trail Proposed by U. S. Forest Service

Judge Watson asked all present to sign the tablet being passed around and to please indicate whether they are for the Trail or against it.

A slide show was presented by the Forest Service on a Trail located outside of the town of Gilmer, Texas.

Ranger Taylor said right now, we are just trying to find out if there is community support for the Trail. There are five proposed sites with Red Hill Lake being the one that has received positive reports from the community. He said he has been fighting to keep Red Hill Lake open but it is hard to compete against the larger parks such as ones in the Smokey Mountains. If we do decide to go forward with the project, it would probably be at least 2 to 3 years before it would be ready to open.

The Trail and Red Hill Lake would be bid out and run by a qualified concessionaire. The concessionaire would be responsible for everything associated with the Trail and Red Hill Lake but the Forest Service would ultimately have control over all.

If the project is approved, the Trail is planned to have a 50 inch width with a buffer of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile between the Trail and private land.

Frank Cloud from the Beechwood I Subdivision area spoke in favor of the Trail. He said people do not have any place to ride their ATVs and this

would provide that. He also said he feels the Forest Service will oversee the running of the Trail and Red Hill Lake.

Tom Beall said his property adjoins the Red Hill Lake and Forest Service land. He believes it will cause his property value to drop. He had questions about the policing of the area and about keeping people from coming onto his property. He is against the Trail.

Ranger Taylor said the concessionaire would be responsible for the policing, maintenance etc. but if problems arose, the Forest Service would step in. He said they would like for Mr. Beall and any other adjoining property owners to be a part of the planning from the start of the project. He said we would like your input.

Neil Beall, also an adjoining property owner, said he has the same concerns as his son has. He wanted to know if it would be closed during hunting season or if it would be open year round.

Ranger Taylor said that would all be worked out during the planning or the Trail.

Don Iles, City Manager of Hemphill, Texas, said Tom Beall is his best friend and he hates to go against him. He thinks it would be a positive venture for the County. He feels it would bring in revenue in another area than what the lakes bring in.

Gene Graham from the Milam area said this would give kids and families something to do and not have to go out of the County. He said the Forest Service won't let it go wrong. He is for the Trail.

Judge Watson closed the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Charles E. Watson CHARLES WATSON

Keith Clark KEITH CLARK

Jimmy McDaniel JIMMY MCDANIEL

Doyle Dickerson DOYLE DICKERSON

Fayne Warner FAYNE WARNER

ATTEST: COUNTY CLERK

Janice McDaniel JANICE MCDANIEL

September 15, 2010

Dear Ms. Mayo,

This letter is to serve as notification of my opinion regarding the proposed ATV park at Red Hill Lake. I live and own land a few miles north of the proposed park. I have lived in this area approximately 15 years.

I have several reasons to oppose this park, but the most important is the ramifications it will have for the value of my home and land. I feel that this park will decrease the value of both. Also, the park will inhibit my ability to sell the property. If someone is considering moving to the area and they have a choice to buy property in the vicinity of an ATV park or in another area, they will without a doubt choose to purchase the other property.

If the commissioners choose to support this park, I believe it will punish landowners in that part of the county.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Susan McCulley
409-625-4117

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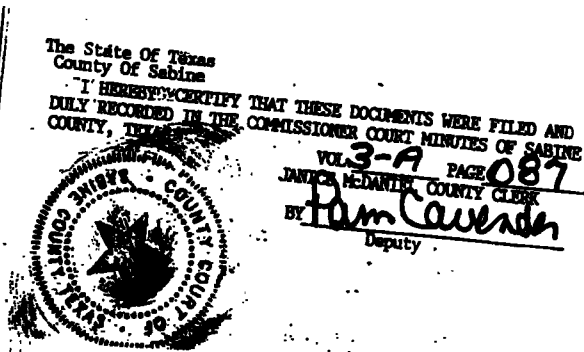
Public Hearing on Off Road Vehicle Trail

9:00AM

September 15, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Tom Beall		✓
J.P. Beall		✓
Frank Cloud	✓	
Peggy Cloud	✓	
Beau Mayo	✓	
Don ILES	✓	
Gene Graham	✓	
Susan McCuller		✓
GORDON THIBODEAUX	✓	
Jamey Mayo	✓	



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