

Camp Butner Joint Land Use Study

Policy Committee Meeting

August 28, 2008
9:00 a.m.
South Granville Water & Sewer Office
209 W. C Street
Butner, NC

In Attendance

Voting Members

Edgar Smoak, Town of Butner
Hubert Gooch, Granville County
Jack Day, Town of Stem
Kathleen Snyder, Durham City/County Planning
(for Ellen Reckhow, Durham County)

Non-Voting Members

John Shaw, NC National Guard

Technical Staff

Barry Baker, Granville County Planning

Jonathan Cooper, Kerr-Tar COG
Melissa Hodges, Granville County Planning
Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar COG

Others Present

Harry Coleman, The Butner-Creedmoor News
Richard Veazey, Restoration Advisory Board Co-
Chair
Tommy Marrow, Town of Butner
William West, Daily Dispatch

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions – Chairman Smoak opened the meeting at 9:10.

Public Comment Period – Chairman Smoak asked for comments from the public. There were none introduced.

Accept Meeting Summary from May 29, 2008 Meeting – Motion made by J. Day, Second by H. Gooch to accept the May 29, 2008 meeting summary as presented by staff. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion / Decision Items

- a. **Committee Alternates** – Chairman Smoak asked that the Policy Committee consider allowing Alternates to serve on behalf of voting members. This will help attain quorum at meetings, and will allow staff to serve in the voting capacity should the elected officials have conflicts. Motion was made by J. Day and Second by H. Gooch to allow Alternates to serve on the Policy Committee. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Public Workshop Review** – Shelby Powell reviewed a summary of the Public Workshop held in June 2008. H. Gooch stated that he was pleased with the turnout and thought the presentations went well. E. Smoak agreed, and thanked everyone for participating in the Workshop. S. Powell advised that another Workshop was slated for late January.

- c. **Survey Underway** – S. Powell reported that the Working Group had developed a survey to gauge public opinion on Camp Butner’s current activities, and to determine if there was interest in the community in having more community-based events surrounding Camp Butner. The survey is available online and was directly mailed to property owners within the study area. Staff will report on the survey results at the next meeting.
- d. **Website Statistic Overview** – S. Powell presented some statistics showing the number of hits the JLUS website has received. She stated that it appeared that people did start using the website more after the Public Workshop. Hopefully website use will continue to increase over the life of the project.
- e. **OEA Staff Change** – S. Powell reminded the group that Michael Wilson had been called into active duty, and that David MacKinnon would be our new Office of Economic Adjustment liaison. Mr. MacKinnon hopes to attend future Policy Committee meetings, and possibly some Working Group meetings.
- f. **Grant Performance Report** – S. Powell distributed a copy of the first performance report for the JLUS grant. E. Smoak requested that the performance report be added to the website so the public could follow along with the project more easily.
- g. **Study Recommendations/Brainstorming** – The Policy Committee had a discussion regarding several recommendations that had been mentioned over the course of the JLUS thus far. John Shaw stated that at the county level, we should look at lands within the study area to prioritize for a county recreation area. The All-America Trail in Fayetteville serves as a public-use buffer along Fort Bragg’s boundary. Staff will review the Granville County Greenways Master Plan to see if this has been considered locally in Granville County. Staff reported this was not on the Durham County plans currently. John Shaw further reported that the parcel of land between Roberts Chapel Road and Old 75 was designated as a conservation easement of about 1400 acres. As the population in this area continues to increase, more recreational opportunities will be needed. Other ideas for recommendations were to add GIS data updates for all parties, including a map of Range 10. The National Guard could provide maps to the Chamber of Commerce for distribution for informational purposes.

John Shaw advised that he had received word that the land owner north of Range 10 has put 54 acres of land up for sale.

The South Granville Water and Sewer Authority is operating almost at full capacity. They have applied for an expansion, but were turned down. There is now a feasibility study underway to explore improving the filtration system or installing a spray system to increase the capacity. The study should be complete in one to two months. A spray field would be installed on 1,000 acres near Range 4, mostly in the established danger zone.

Jonathan Cooper advised that he is scheduled to meet with SGWASA and Orange County Water and Sewer Authority to discuss possible easement activity for SGWASA. John Shaw discussed the barracks plans, the new cantonment area, and the MOUT 3-D training ground that is currently unfunded but might be added to a future budget. These activities should all be considered when making recommendations around Camp Butner.

Next Steps

- a. **Continue data collection** – Staff will continue to work with Durham and Granville Counties and the Town of Butner to collect development data and look at recommendation options around the study area.
- b. **Survey Results Analysis** – The survey is set to close in mid-September. COG Staff will analyze the survey results and review the results with the committee at their November 20, 2008 meeting.
- c. **Report Preparation** – COG Staff will continue to compile data and recommendations into a report. A draft outline of the report was distributed to the Committee for their review. More about the report will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. **Next Policy Committee Meeting:** November 20, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Other Business Items -- John Shaw advised that across the Department of Defense properties, urban growth is becoming a problem. For example, in Virginia Beach, there is so much encroachment that the military is looking at Outlying Landing Fields to accommodate the mission. We should look at prevention of impacts and encroachments through conservation. The Department of Defense is holding a webinar on this topic in the coming weeks; information was distributed to Committee members.

Adjournment – There being no further discussion, Chairman Smoak adjourned the meeting at 9:55.