

Camp Butner Joint Land Use Study Working Groups

Camp Butner Multipurpose Building

August 1, 2008

9:30 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Edge, Tar River Land Conservancy
Andrew Murray, Tar River Land
Conservancy
Barry Baker, Granville County Planning
Harry Coleman, The Butner Creedmoor
News
Jonathan Cooper, Kerr-Tar COG

Kathryn Spann, Durham Soil & Water
Board
Melissa Hodges, Town of Butner
Mike Glisson, NC National Guard
Richard Veazey, Butner RAB
Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar COG
Tom Lane, Town of Butner

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions – Shelby Powell, JLUS Staff, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions around the room.

COG Staff Report – Shelby Powell noted that several items had been distributed for review by the Working Groups. These were a detailed summary of the June 23 public workshop, the first quarterly performance report prepared for the JLUS grant, and the Working Group meeting summary from the June 3, 2008 meeting. No one had comments on any of the items distributed.

Draft Report Sections – Jonathan Cooper reviewed his work to date on various sections of the JLUS report. An outline of the report was distributed to the group. Also, Jonathan Cooper presented handouts outlining future structural plans for the Camp Butner Training Site, noting that he had met with John Shaw of NC National Guard to discuss plans for the Site. He noted that the man-hours for the current quarter at the Site are up to 13,000, and that the absolute maximum annual man-hours that could be supported at the Camp was 70,000. Reaching this level of activity, however, was not very likely due to government funding and space limitations on the Site. The Site is not due to expand because it is as large as it needs to be to serve its mission, however the activity level at the Site is expected to continue to increase over the next several years. Jonathan Cooper reviewed several outreach activities performed by or at Camp Butner on an annual basis, including the public hunting season and the Trail Days weekend in March when private horse riders and horse-drawn carriages used trails on Camp Butner Training Site. Jonathan also indicated that the maintenance of conservation easements was difficult for Camp Butner due to limited staffing. Additionally, current zoning and future land use plan designations were discussed. Richard Veazey pointed out that the land use issues were at the heart of the JLUS study. Working Group members were asked to review the

documents, including the study outline, and provide feedback to Jonathan Cooper or Shelby Powell.

Camp Butner Public Opinion Survey – Shelby Powell presented a draft list of questions for the upcoming public opinion survey. She reminded the group that one of the Policy Committee’s main goals of the study is to increase community awareness of the existence of and activities at Camp Butner. She recommended directly mailing the survey weblink address to the property owners who had received the initial property owner notification letters from the Counties. Barry Baker recommended sending hard copies of the actual survey so that people would be more willing to respond, and agreed to devote some of his staff time to enter hard copy survey results. Harry Coleman offered to insert hard copies of the survey into the newspaper directly. It was agreed that a cover letter would invite landowners in the study area to either mail in the survey response or fill it out online, and that the County Planning Departments would be referenced in the letter as a contact for additional surveys if necessary. Further, the cover letter will encourage property owners to fill out the online survey at the local library or county office building.

Working Group members suggested inserting several additional questions into the survey, including:

- Do you work from home?
- Do you hear noise/activity at Camp Butner – if so, when do you notice it (morning, evening, night)
- Do you live in Granville or Durham County or Other?
- What is the size of your property?
- How long have you lived or owned property there?

Also, on the question regarding the respondent’s opinion of Camp Butner, a choice called “Not enough information” should be added to ascertain the opinion of Camp Butner.

Shelby Powell will draft a survey and forward it to the Working Groups and Policy Committee prior to making the survey available online. Once the survey is available online, the Working Group will be notified.

Study Recommendations – Shelby Powell reviewed several items that had come up during various JLUS meetings that could be framed as recommendations from the Study, including the idea of a note on a property deed when you transfer it or on a final plat if you have someone developing property in the study area. Additional recommendations included:

- Zoning changes and/or potential buffer overlay zones
- Encouraging additional federal money in the region to give priority to easements in the study area
- Supporting Ecosystem Enhancement Systems and other programs designed to support wetlands mitigation projects
- Considering buffer zones surrounding the Camp Butner Training Site, perhaps with vegetation requirements
- Limit new noise zones from new ranges to the current noise zone outline
- Consider larger lot zoning in the study area

- Ensuring that zoning decisions in the area are tied to the land use plan and that no higher density zoning is allowed in the study area

Shelby Powell encouraged members to forward other ideas to her.

Next Steps – Shelby Powell advised that the COG staff would continue working on the final report sections, and would begin work on Land Use Compatibility Maps for the next Working Group meeting. Jonathan Cooper will continue to meet with local staff regarding land use planning issues and transportation recommendations. Further, COG staff will draft a Public Opinion Survey and email it to the working groups for review, and then to the Policy Committee for review. Hopefully this survey will be complete and ready for distribution by mid-August. The next Working Group meeting should be scheduled in late September, pending the survey process. Survey results will be discussed at the next meeting, and further recommendations regarding outreach efforts from Camp Butner will come from survey responses. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held August 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority offices at 209 W. C Street in Butner.

Adjournment –There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.