

FERRY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
June 16, 2010

Chairwoman Tamra Stevens called the special June 16, 2010 meeting of the Planning Commission to order. Commissioners Gary Howden, John Hamilton, John Egge, Lorna Johnson and Bob Kirkham were also present. Irene Whipple and Cassandra Novotney were present from the Planning Department. Commissioner Brad Miller and Attorney Steve Graham were also present. Margaret Snook, Ed Watt, and Scott Simmons attended as guests. Senator Bob Morton and Representatives Shelly Short and Joel Kretz were invited guests.

Tamra Stevens introduced Senator Bob Morton and Representatives Shelly Short and Joel Kretz to the Planning Commission and discussed the following issues:

Agricultural Moratorium-Out of Compliance:

- The County was found out of compliance regarding Low Intensity Land Use, specifically agricultural users.

Beyond Legal Requirements:

- Resource Lands Notice, suggested distance was 500 feet and we went 1320feet.
- Challenge to our polygon buffers. Told to apply a buffer to our polygons that the Department of Fish and Wildlife does not “require” but “recommends.”
- Candidate Species have also been added into our Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species.

Priority Habitat & Species List:

- 2006 Priority Habitat and Species List reports species that are “known to be in this area” when in fact other studies show they are not. The county objects to this list if the species are not found in this area.
 - Examples: Ferruginous Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, Fisher, and the Lynx.

Large Carnivores & Public Safety:

- Concerned about wolves and grizzly bears in areas where logging, cattle raising, and recreation occur in the Kettle Grange Area.
- Also, introduction to wolves and grizzly bears in the area.

Best Available Science Source of Conflict:

- Three Appendixes were provided with the Critical Areas Ordinance and the County was still told that we “lacked reasoning.”

Expert Witnesses:

- Our Fish and Wildlife Biologist and our Agricultural Expert/WSU Extension Agent provided documentation that did not satisfy the Growth Management Hearings Board.

GMHB Precedents:

- The Growth Management Hearings Board rules one way on one occasion and opposite on the next occasion, making it hard to ever come into compliance. Example, Stevens County.

Un-Professionalism on GMHB:

- Telephonic conferences, all three members never stay for the entire duration of the meeting.
- When requesting information, they fail to respond in a timely matter.

Bias Toward Appellant:

- Our Department of Commerce often sides with the Growth Management Hearings Board.
- Only held accountable to one person, the Governor.
- Set unreasonable time frames for demands on the county.

Non Ferry County Appellants to GMHB:

- People that do not live here say what needs to be done.

Environmental Bias:

- Add a functional entity to balance.
- Make the Growth Management Hearings Board accountable.

Regarding all of the previously stated issues, Representative Joel Kretz suggested that an audit should be performed and the Growth Managements Hearings Board should be held accountable for their mistakes. He would also like a 1-2 page fact sheet drawn up by the Planning Commission, listing the RCWs and WACs that contain errors and are in need of correction.

Representative Shelly Short suggested a work session and made the comment that best available science needs to do something about how they peer review.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.