

MEETING SUMMARY
NC Mountain Resources Commission
January 20, 2012 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Offices of the NC Department of Cultural Resources, Oteen, NC

Members Present: David Gantt, Bill Gibson, Charles Vines, Mike Butrum, George Santucci, Julie Mayfield, James Coman, Barbara Volk, Jay Leutze, Angie Chandler, Bob Shepherd, Harris Prevost, Max Hopper, Jason Love, Rodney Locks

Others in Attendance: Judy Francis, Kristy Carter

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Gantt opened meeting at 1:00. He asked each member to introduce themselves and mention how they were appointed to the MRC. Judy Francis mentioned some logistical information and said the restored building they were meeting in is now the western offices of the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

Strategic Process Overview

Kristy Carter from the NC Division of Planning Assistance introduced herself and told the group that she would facilitate a process to identify priority issues over the next twelve months. She gave an overview of the agenda and specified how meeting will be facilitated. She went over the meeting ground rules and reminded members to focus on interests over positions. There is a lot of ground to cover and we have only several hours.

Kristy then went over the MRC's established five-year goals and briefly summarized the results of the survey that was circulated prior to the meeting in a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

General Discussion re: Survey Results

Jay Leutze commented that this is a good exercise. We need to periodically meet like this to reaffirm what we want and figure out how to move our priorities forward. Max Hopper said everything is important but we need to talk about trade-offs. How much can we do and what is the speed we can do it? That is the important part of prioritization. Julie Mayfield mentioned that low survey scores might not indicate that we think it's unimportant, but maybe a political reality that is not possible right now if we face these things with pragmatism. Jim Coman said politics has dampened our willingness to be more action-oriented. Jason Love observed that education was the top priority and it's not a controversial thing. Jay agreed with Julie and said this is a pragmatic shift from top issues facing the reality of political influence. We have to spend time building our credibility so our recommendations do get taken seriously. Bob Shepherd said he thought the MRC needs to restart the Mountain Area Legislative Caucus (MALC). Rodney Locks said we have five year goals, but we have near-term apprehension. Max Hopper added that there is broad agreement on goals, but we need to reach agreement on tactics.

Kristy reminded the members that the issue of legislative contacts will be discussed later and so she asked them not to spend time on that when they break out in to groups. She asked them to focus on these concepts: balance restrictions with incentives, discuss regulatory approaches too – for farmland and open space and ways to promote agriculture. Three things that some members wanted to add based on survey responses include: trout stream rules, shade riparian areas, expand definition of

“mountain resources” to include small town and villages. After electronic polling, the only one of these that received more than 50% support for action in the coming year was a “Shade your Stream” campaign in riparian zones – so it will be added to the list of goals for further consideration.

Break Out Team Exercises

Kristy broke the MRC members out into two groups. She asked each group to review their current goals and identify ones that are not a priority. After the groups discussed this, they reached consensus on two items that were non-issues for the coming year: Wind turbine regulations and slope development regulations. Though both groups said they wanted to keep the slope issue as an educational one, they agreed that they were not interested in developing a model ordinance at this time. The groups then broke out once again and Kristy charged them with prioritizing their remaining goals and selecting three of them to focus on this year. There were three areas of consensus that were identified” Strengthening the identity of the MRC, Focusing on Education and Outreach (particularly re: the Sustainability Report Card), and investigating the concept of a planning course focusing on WNC issues at either WCU or ASU. These concepts, and the first steps / action steps to achieve them, will guide the MRC activities for the next 12 months as described in the following table:

Group One		Group Two	
1. MRC Stuff	Support From	1. MRC Stuff	Support From
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branding, Logo, Website 	Admin and Fundraising Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with PR, develop marketing plan, Expert Review standard PowerPoint Research Funding opportunities (NAR, Duke Endowment, CFWNC) 	Staff, MRC, maybe TAC
2. Education, Vitality, Tools		2. Education (Include all tools in a neutral way)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Product First Requirement to use and distribute Model Ordinances, Best Examples, Proposed Ordinances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach and Education Comm. TAC to collate what is relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish vitality index Make it understandable and presentable to laymen, PowerPoint PowerPoint tool boxes, ordinances, education Putting all on website and train MRC members Plan for dissemination, outreach 	TAC, Staff, MRC
3. Planning Course		3. Planning Course	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-engage WCU Research what is available 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore existing resources (Vickey at WCU, MCAD building) 	

		class, other?)	
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Committee Structure

Kristy then asked the group to consider their committee structure and whether or not it is working well. Bob Shepherd said committee structure works and should be continued. Chairman Gantt asked if the administrative committee should be eliminated since the operating procedures have been adopted already. Max Hopper said he thought the committee should still exist because some of their potential work may be needed again at some point, though it may be “dormant” for the time being. All agreed that the four existing committees should continue. The Chairman said he would review the committees and assign each member to at least one. Administrative committee members will be assigned to an additional committee as well, and some other members may be reassigned to a different committee. Judy will send out the revised committee list after David completes his review. He reminded everyone that they need to be involved in conducting outreach activities associated with the report card project. Judy added that the MRC is bound to conduct the outreach sessions as specified in the grant agreement with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

Future Meeting Dates

Judy provided everyone with an attendance record from the meetings in 2011 and a copy of Governor Perdue’s Executive Order re: attendance for her appointees and the state ethics policy for board members. Chairman Gantt said that, even though the attendance policy only applies to Governor appointees, he would encourage all members to abide by it. Judy reminded them that they set the 2012 meeting dates already and they should make sure that they plan to attend each meeting if they are to accomplish the goals they identified today.

Meeting locations for 2012 were discussed briefly. Locations include Grandfather Mountain, City of Brevard, Town of Bakersville, and Lake Tahoma in McDowell County.

Other Comments

Julie Mayfield said that even in this political climate, zoning can still be discussed and we should not let it drop off the radar.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.