

Columbia County Ad Hoc Shooting Range Committee
Jan 22, 2014
Minutes

The meeting was called to order 6:35 P.M

Introductions

Casey Krueger – Regional Warden SCR, Paul Nadolski – Field Warden, Ryan Volenberg-Field Warden, Eric Lobner – SCR Wildlife supervisor, Jim Watson-Columbia County Sporting Alliance, Richard Swenson – Conservation Congress Columbia County, Clark Cupery- Columbia County Economic Development Committee Rep, Mark Aquino – Regional Director DNR, James Foley – Columbia Count Board Rep, Keith Warnke – Hunting and Shooting Sports Coordinator, Debra Byars – Town of Dekorra Board of Supervisors, Becki Tomlinson – Town of Lowville Board member, Sarah Kehrli – DNR wildlife manager , Nathan Nye – DNR fish biologist, Absent: Tim Ashley – Springvale.

Committee Materials: Casey Krueger distributed packet binders with photos of potential range work. Binder includes information of the process, photos, a map of ranges around SC WI, timeline for decisions and construction.

Committee charge:

- Evaluate seven potential DNR owned sites
- Develop criteria to identify most promising sites
- Advise the department on the public involvement process and help conduct the process
- Make a recommendation on a preferred site(s)
- Pros and cons of the seven sites were included in the binder and discussed.
- The county state land’s master plan will have to be amended.
- Committee is to recommend two sites for rollout for public comment, then review public comment and make a recommendation to DNR.

Range Program: Keith Warnke gave overview of range construction and the state’s range program. Discussed the ranges we are working with to gain additional access (map). Objective: to provide as much public shooting access in S WI as we can. Overview of PR funding availability due to the recent increase in receipts for WI. Can do big projects with the money available. Range to build could be 100 yd, 50 yd, and 25 ft ranges, 200 yd range is an option.

Range Discussion:

- Casey Krueger pointed out the pros and cons sheets in the binder. Committee will build on those tonight.
- Sarah Kehrli and Eric Lobner discussed the seven sites. Minimize residences within 1,000 foot buffer around the sites, avoid wetlands and SNA, avoid archeological sites, make site as accessible as possible, and minimize impact to other users. Find centrally located location in the county.

Site Evaluations:

1. Dekorra location – Rest area and wastewater treatment plant. Homes along river, but topography will block the sound. Deer, turkey and squirrel hunters use the property. Access will need to be improved. Endangered reptile was observed on site last year. Town may be concerned with security of water treatment plant. Also town emergency management location.
2. Hinkson Creek Fishery area – Brook, brown trout fishery. Small parking area. Archeological hit. Only good access to brook trout stream in Columbia County. Town roads maintained by towns. Close to Poynette and the interstate, centrally located.
3. Jennings Creek – Deer hunting and turkey hunting on this property. Fairly remote. Campground nearby could be a pro and a con for access to a range here. Not a great fishery area. Heavy beaver use.
4. Mud Lake, Conservation Rd – Town road requires a lot of maintenance. Town likely not want to abandon road. Old home site. State natural area on top of the hill. Some complications with placement of the range. Safety questions were addressed. How to prevent accidental ingress to ranges
5. Mud Lake, Hagen Rd – Not heavily used by hunters. Topography conducive
6. Peter Helland, Sawyer Rd – 1,000 yard buffer exists. Deer drives, trapping in wetlands. Not a lot of other use.
7. Rowan Cr – Fishery area, snowmobile trail in future? Lots of hiking. Site very near interstate on CTH CS. Best trout stream in Columbia County. Heavy use. Residences close to site. Lot of deer and turkey hunters. Flat topography. Not much potential for conflict except noise. Economic development area at the interstate exit. (Rowan Creek site eliminated by unanimous vote)

Why no Pine Island option? Majority wetland and the uplands all have archeological hits.

Follow up:

Provide plans and photos to committee members and others for use at public meetings. Next meeting: February 19th 6:30-8:00—Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.