

# County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee

*Joseph Allen*

*Bernie Blackmore*  
*Chairman*

*Eugene Dawson*

## Minutes – March 3, 2008

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Gene Dawson

Members Absent: Joe Allen

Others Present: Joe Meyers and Mike Meriwether

**1. Meeting called to order** at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether spoke on encroachments on the Skinkle Road property.

Discussion ensued over the wildlife restoration about to begin at the frog hollow property.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to spend up to \$2500 out of the forestry budget for the wildlife restoration at the frog hollow property.**

**Motion carried – unanimous.**

Gene Dawson spoke on the Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Park parking lot and a boat launch at Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA).

Charlie Koop entered the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Further discussion ensued over the Skinkle Road property and the private use of public property.

The Committee also discussed the forestry contract and indicated that they would like to address this issue next month.

Bernie Blackmore left the meeting at 10:00 am.

Because of a lack of a quorum no official action could be taken

Discussion ensued over the private land use management portion of Mike Meriwether's job.

**4. Various Matters**

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

# County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee

*Joseph Allen*

*Bernie Blackmore*  
*Chairman*

*Eugene Dawson*

## Minutes – March 31, 2008

Members Present: Joe Allen and Gene Dawson  
Members Absent: Bernie Blackmore  
Others Present: Joe Meyers, Jack White, and Mike Meriwether

1. **Meeting called to order** at 9:10 a.m.

2. **Public Comment**

None.

3. **Forestry Update**

- Mike Meriwether went over the proposed forestry contract.

The Committee thought that 5 years was a reasonable length of a contract.

Gene Dawson inquired about the total amount in the oil and gas fund and how the amount never changes.

Jack White indicated that he would possibly be in favor of having a county funded forester.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson to recommend the Finance Committee support signing a forestry contract. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mike indicated that he would like to hire the Central Lake 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to do the tree planting at a cost of not to exceed \$1,000.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson to hire the Central Lake 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to do a tree planting on the Frog Hollow property at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mike indicated that we would be closing on the valley road parcel very soon.

Mike also indicated that he is doing a lot of work on the airport tree project.

Mike spoke on the border of the Skinkle Road Property and the houses built on the property line. Discussion ensued over what steps to take on the border issue.

4. **Various Matters**

- None

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

# County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Eugene Dawson

Minutes – June 2, 2008

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Joe Allen, and Gene Dawson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Joe Meyers and Mike Meriwether

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment  
None.

3. OIL Energy

OIL indicated that they wanted to drill within 300 ft of our Antrim County Transportation Building.

Discussion ensued over the history of the lease. The committee discussed the consent agreement that OIL would like the county to sign which would allow them to begin drilling. Mike Meriwether indicated that because this parcel is covered by Village sewer and water, there should not be an issue.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Joe Allen to have the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Jack White, sign the agreement, pending legal counsel's recommendation. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the oil and gas industry and how much money we will be making on the lease we currently have on the property.

4. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether spoke on events happening on County Forests.

Discussion ensued over the Kirkpatrick Forest.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to allow Mike Meriwether to spend up to \$3,000 for improvements on the Kirkpatrick Forest. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the Emerald Ash Borer and how it has spread across Antrim County.

Discussion ensued over the Sevald Property and the different easements needed for the management of these properties.

The Committee asked if legal counsel could attend our next meeting to discuss the Sale of County Property Ordinance and the Skinkle Road issue.

5. Various Matters

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

# *County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee*

*Joseph Allen*

*Bernie Blackmore*  
*Chairman*

*Eugene Dawson*

## **Minutes – June 30, 2008**

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson and Joe Allen  
Members Absent: None  
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Pete Garwood  
Others Present: Stan Moore, Gloria Campbell, Mike Meriwether, Christy Roman, Laura Sexton, Andy Knott, Amy Beyer, Charlie Koop, and Brandon McDowell

**1. Meeting called to order** at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. MSU Extension Budget Request**

Stan Moore, County Extension Office Director, presented the MSU Extension budget and capital outlay request.

Mr. Moore spoke on why the line items for phones and mileage were increased from last year.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the MSU Extension budget request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**4. Antrim Conservation District Appropriation**

Christy Roman handed out a report of the district's 2007 accomplishments.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Joe Allen, to approve the Antrim Conservation Districts appropriations for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**5. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether spoke on the pine thinning at Grass River Natural Area and Murphy Park.

Mr. Meriwether spoke on the Bellaire tree removal.

Christy Roman spoke on the Beals Lake Property.

Discussion ensued over the Forestry Contract.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners sign the Forestry Contract. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**6. Antrim County Fair Appropriation Request**

Teresa Cole joined the meeting and presented the County Fair Appropriation for 2009.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Antrim County Fair appropriation of \$10,000 for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**7. Watershed Center Appropriation Request**

Andy Knott, of the Watershed Center presented the appropriation request for \$1,000.

Mr. Knott spoke on projects in Antrim County.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Watershed Center appropriation of \$1,000 for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**8. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)**

Amy Beyer, of Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), presented the appropriation request for \$1,000.

Amy spoke on the different projects that they are working on to help the Grand Traverse Bay region.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Conservation Resource Alliance appropriation of \$1,000 for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**9. Various Matters**

Charlie Koop spoke on the O.I.L. energy and the Batchelder Road property. Discussion ensued over using a double drill well head on our property due to the fact that OIL could not get a permit on their original property. The committee and the county forester inquired about the drilling paths and how they have changed over time.

Mr. Koop indicated that the representative would need to provide his information in writing.

The Committee tabled the Batchelder Road Property until next month.

Charlie Koop also spoke on two other leases the county has with OIL energy. Mr. Koop indicated that the original lease agreements that we have are for \$28,000 and \$2,000. He indicated that it was a clerical error and the total amount of the lease should be \$15,840. Charlie also indicated that they would like to combine the leases into one.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioners re-do the lease agreements with OIL Energy. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

# County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee

*Joseph Allen*

*Bernie Blackmore Chairman*

*Eugene Dawson*

## August 4, 2008 Minutes

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson and Joe Allen

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Mike Meriwether

Others Present: Charlie Koop

### 1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

### 2. Public Comment

None.

### 3. Forestry Update

- Mike Meriwether spoke on the reverter clauses on county lands and handed out a list of all the properties that would be affected if they were removed.

Discussion ensued over timber sales, the oil and gas fund, and the forestry fund.

Discussion ensued over the projected timber sales for 2008.

Charlie Koop joined the meeting and discussed the Batchelder Road property and the new locations for the oil well pads. Further discussion ensued over the condition of Batchelder road and the major issues the road currently has.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners support the lease with all Right of Way issues to be dealt with the Antrim County Road Commission. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued regarding Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) non-development lease.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners accepts the Grass River Natural Area non-developmental lease. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve a right of way on the railroad grade south of Stover Road pending legal counsel's review. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the star township 40 acre parcel and the oil and gas development.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the site for the oil drill pending the calculation of surface damages. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### 4. Forestry Property Area Ordinance

- Discussion ensued over the forestry ordinance.

The committee directed legal counsel to redraft a hybrid ordinance for consideration requiring the county board of commissioners need a 3/5<sup>th</sup> majority to use the forest land and a 3/5<sup>th</sup> vote of the people to sell the county forest land.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

# County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee

*Joseph Allen*

*Bernie Blackmore Chairman*

*Eugene Dawson*

## September 2, 2008 Minutes

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Joe Allen

Members Absent: Gene Dawson

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Mike Meriwether

Others Present: Charlie Koop and Russ Blasdell

**1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Forestry Update**

The Committee reviewed the Forestry Ordinance. Discussion ensued over the Forestry Ordinance.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners review the Forestry Ordinance for discussion at the October Board of Commissioners Meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over a right of way pipeline easement on the Stover Road railroad grade in Kearney Township Section 29.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve a right of way pipeline easement on the railroad grade south of Stover Road in Section 29 of Kearney Township pending legal counsel's review. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the Star Township 40 acre parcel in section 26 and the oil and gas development.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the 40 acres in Star Township in section 26 for oil drilling pending the calculation of surface damages. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mike Meriwether spoke on the work he has done on the county forest lands. Mike also indicated that he will be doing a “scale sale” on some county forest lands. Mike informed the Committee that the scale sale would be the best way to go on these trees because it is not a traditional forestry cut; and we would also be participating with the Bellaire School District and some private property owners.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve having a scale sale timber cut on Simpson Road, Murphy Park, Hawk Lake, and the Airport properties. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over Biomass Plants.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

# *County Lands, Agriculture and Forestry Committee*

*Joseph Allen*

*Bernie Blackmore Chairman*

*Eugene Dawson*

## **December 1, 2008 Minutes**

Members Present: Gene Dawson, Bernie Blackmore and Joe Allen  
Members Absent: None  
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Mike Meriwether  
Others Present: None

**1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether gave an update on the forestry program and the activities he is currently working on.

Discussion ensued over Barnes Park and what is deemed park land vs. forest land.

The Committee asked Mike Meriwether to go to the Parks Committee and talk to them about the difference between park land and forest land at Barnes Park, to get their opinion as to what should be done.

**4. Kearney Township Property**

The Committee discussed the proposal from Kearney Township to purchase a 10 acre parcel at the Antrim County Airport. The Committee asked Mike Meriwether to walk the property to check the boundaries and the land cover of it. The committee also asked the Coordinator/Planners office to get an abstract on the property.

**5. Public/Member Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.