

**McDowell County Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**2/22/2016**  
**Minutes**

The McDowell County Planning Board met in regular session on January 25th, 2015 at 7pm. The meeting was held on the first floor of the McDowell County Administration Building, in the Commissioners Boardroom located at 60 East Court Street, Marion, N.C.

**Members Present:**

Dennis Whitson, Vice Chairman  
Arvin Hicks  
Bob Brendle  
Benny Stamey  
Tommy Stamey  
Chris Allison  
Eric Adams, Alternate

**Members Absent:**

C.B Edwards, Chairman, Medical Leave  
Sam Dotson, Excused  
Van Boyd, Alternate

**Staff Present:**

Ronald Harmon, Board Secretary

**Call to Order:**

Vice Chairman Dennis Whitson called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum of members was present.

The next item on the agenda was seating of alternate members. Eric Adams was seated on the Board. The next item on the agenda was approval of the meeting agenda. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Bob Brendle, second from Chris Allison, vote taken motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was approval of the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Motion to approve the January minutes was made by Chris Allison, second from Benny Stamey, vote taken motion carried.

## **Lake Tahoma/ Tom's Creek Cell Reception Issue**

The next item on the agenda was a request by the Lake Tahoma Homeowners, asking the Planning Board if they could help with the poor cell reception in and around the Hwy 80 Lake Tahoma area. Ronald explained that the tower approved for the Lake Tahoma area in 2014 had been delayed for financial reasons.

Ronald stated that he had written a letter to Jonathan Yates the attorney that represented AT&T at the time asking that he pass information along to them about the importance of the Tom's Creek Road tower. Ronald further detailed the issues that homeowners had due to poor reception. They ranged from Doctors on call not being able to stay at the lake to small business owners not being able to conduct business from their home. Vice Chairman Whitson said he could attest to the poor reception in the area.

Ronald explained that many people were going away from land lines for phone service. Bob Brendle asked if there was anyone else that could be contacted with AT&T. Ronald stated that it was virtually impossible to make contact with anyone from AT&T to discuss an issue such as this, hence why the letter was addressed to Mr. Yates. With no further discussion Chris Allison made a motion to send the letter to Jonathan Yates, second from Arvin Hicks vote taken motion carried.

## **Firing Range Discussion**

The next item on the agenda was discussion of a firing range for McDowell County. Ronald explained that the state had put a conceptual plan together for a site in the county, and was in the process of asking permitting agencies what if any impediments would cause hinder the site from being permitted. Ronald stated that until the proposed site was approved or denied the Board could work to inventory other sites that might work. Ronald further stated that any additional site should be isolated from homes, business, etc. per instructions from NC Wildlife. The Board held general discussion of the tenets for an acceptable site. They also discussed some areas that could be further investigated if the need arose. Vice Chairman Whitson stated that the Board should bring any property they feel suitable to the next meeting.

Ronald also stated that North Carolina was grossly behind surrounding states in the number of public shooting ranges available. He also stated that the closest public range to McDowell County would be the soon to open site in Cleveland County.

## **Updates and Communications:**

Vice Chairman Whitson asked Ronald if he had anything to report. Ronald stated that he had none.

With no further business Vice Chairman Whitson asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Benny Stamey, second from Arvin Hicks vote taken meeting was adjourned.