

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN SPECIAL SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING A RECREATION GRANT APPLICATION AND CONDUCTING A CLOSED SESSION CONCERNING PENDING LITIGATION. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 10:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Vice Chairman Theron McCabe  
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen  
Commissioner Perry L. Morris  
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk  
Commissioner Steve Tyson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
Ray H. Moser, Assistant County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board  
Jim Hicks, County Attorney

*Recreation Grant Application*

Following an invocation by Commissioner Allen, the Board proceeded with consideration of a PARTF Recreation grant application. Recreation Director, Jan Parker explained that the appraised value of the Latham-Whitehurst property, which was acquired by the County, is \$1,148,000. Grant funds of \$500,000 may be available for improvements at the site. The maximum amount of the grant application is \$500,000. The value of land can be used for a match, rather than through County dollars. She stated that this is a one-time opportunity to apply for this grant, with an 18 month window of opportunity from August 2008 to use the property value as a match.

The proposed improvements to the site include trails, one which is handicapped accessible, parking, picnic areas, including one shelter, two dock/boardwalk structures and restrooms. In case of reduced funding, it would be necessary to eliminate the picnic shelter, bathroom and one dock/boardwalk structure.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the grant application, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. During discussion, the Board was assured by the Finance Officer that the County's umbrella policy would be adequate for liability coverage on the property. As nothing can be paved on the property except the easement area, it was noted that the easement would be adequate for paving to provide access to parking. The motion to authorize the grant application carried unanimously.

There was continued discussion concerning maintenance of the area, which is expected to be minimal. It is projected that a part-time employee will be needed to open and close the area. Concerns were expressed about potential risks from hunting on adjacent lands. It was recommended that adjacent land owners be contacted about these concerns.

*Closed Session*

At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried to consult with counsel on a matter of pending litigation pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

At 11:48 a.m. The Board was declared back in regular session. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, announced that the Board directed counsel as to negotiating position.

At 11:48 a.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board