

Project Committee Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2015

Attendance: Don Pluemer, Dave Fritz, Bill Wisler, Steve Carpenter, Paul Klaas, Jim Sime

Meeting was called to order at 1:15p.m

There was discussion regarding a possible TU easement on the Sime Property on Big Rock. Jim had concerns about the TU easement process, in that it allows year round public access. There have been some concerns that the new DNR easement rules will be unattractive to land owners for this same reason. Several committee members thought if the TU easement process could be modified it may be more attractive to land owners than a DNR easement. This may then result in more public access from landowners who are reluctant to sell the DNR an easement. Jim will contact the state council members who are knowledgeable about the national TU easement process to see if there is some flexibility in their rules.

We discussed the 2014 project on Big Rock. The project report was handed out. It was agreed that it was another successful project.

There was discussion regarding the 2015 projects. 4500 feet on Six-Mile on Dave Drew's Property and approximately 2000 feet on the Widerow property on Blue River. These projects were approved by the board last year, but due to time constraints they were postponed to 2015. Gene VanDyck informed us that Widerow's and the upper half of Six-Mile will officially have easements on them shortly. The paperwork has been signed and the easements are in the last stages of the process. Gene informed Don that the permit process on these properties may be complicated by the fact that he was directed by his supervisor to not assist in completing the permit paperwork. Don has contacted Scott Stewart of the DNR to see if this can be resolved and someone from the DNR can assist us in the permit process on these and future projects.

Don made a motion to include 3000 feet of Pompey Pillar on the DNR land in Iowa County as an additional project in 2015, dependent upon financing. Motion was seconded by Steve Carpenter and passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding a possible 2016 project on Blue River below the project completed in 2013 on the Drew's property. This would be a large expensive stretch that could be a multi-year project. This would be dependent on landowner agreement and possible NRCS funding.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm