

Minutes of the Treece Relocation Assistance Trust

June 20, 2013; 11:00 am - Cherokee County Courthouse

Meeting was called to order by Chair Gene Bicknell

Roll call: Betty McBride; Eddie Hamilton; John Delmont, Jr.

KDHE: Bob Jurgens, Legal: Bill Morin, Cherokee County: Rod Edmondson, County Clerk

MMSC 4-0 (McBride, Hamilton) to approve the May 23, 2013 meeting minutes.

Payment Status: McBride reported bank balances of \$10,472.47 in American Bank and \$61,971.94 in Exchange State Bank. Trustee compensation, PO Box and accounting service expenses presented for payment approval.

MMSC 4-0: (Delmont, Hamilton) to accept the report and payment requests.

Purchase/Closing Updates:

- **ORM03:** McBride confirmed the 6th promissory note payment of \$107.44 was received on May 30th, but the June payment was not in the June 20th mail. A total of \$644.64 has been received as of May 2013. Jurgens sent a late payment notice on June 17, 2013 to Bill & Judy Blunk requesting payment of a \$25 late fee for the late May payment. Another later payment letter will be prepared for June. KDHE to seek legal advice on KDHE payment acceptance after the Trust disbands.
- **MMSC 4-0:** (McBride, Hamilton) Morin shall proceed with a suite in small claims court if the June payment is not received within 30 days of the payment due date.

Buyout expenditure requests: None

Monthly Governor's Report: Jurgens provided a copy of the May 2013 TRA Trust Expenditures/Income Report that was submitted to the Governor, Senate and House of Representatives.

Property update:

- **Deeds not recorded:** ORM-19 (Lamb) – Morin was able to contact the Lambs and has sent the deed to them for signature. In addition relative will contact the Lambs to encourage them to complete the paperwork.
- **ORM04 - Johnston property swap:** Johnston signed the property transfer paperwork on June 20, 2013 and Morin will record the deed at the courthouse after the meeting.

2013 Cherokee County Tax Sale: Cherokee County Commission is planning a tax sale for the Treece properties only. Morin previously provided property research to the County. Rod Edmondson was requested to request a sales tax date of August 29, 2013 at 9:00 am. The Trust will pay all expenses for the sale which shall only include the three subject properties in Treece. Edmondson confirmed the date was requested, tentatively approved by the County Counselor and scheduled.

Easements:

- **Water Main Easements:** Jurgens and Morin confirmed that Cherokee County RWD #3 must petition to have properties added to their rural water district with 50% of owners

approving. Trust discussed Morin helping with paperwork or helping fund the RWD attorney fees. A firm cost is needed before providing financial assistance.

Complete Title of SW Missouri/Sterling Title: No response from Brett Loethen, former owner of the now defunct Sterling Title, Joplin, Missouri concerning his required payment of \$2,740.04 still due to the TRA Trust.

Historical Sign: Morin sent an access easement for approval by the property owner (Jim Woods Marketing) for placement of the historical marker sign on property at the northwest corner of Hwy 69 and State Line Road, including access for the public. The sign will not be ordered until the access paperwork has been finalized. KDHE discussed upkeep with Pam Pruitt who indicated a willingness to help set up a group of former residents to take care of picking up trash and controlling weeds around the marker.

Sewage Lagoon Closure and SWPP:

- Trust must wait for EPA to finish filling the former sewage lagoons before completing the lagoon closure documents.
- A Notice of Termination was presented to Bicknell for signature as the Trust Chair formally requesting KDHE's Bureau of Water release the Trust from the demolition project Stormwater Pollution Permit.

Media:

- **Sunflower Journeys Documentary:** KDHE was contacted by Sunflower Journeys, a KTWU program to discuss environmental and health impacts from the mining in Cherokee County, specifically Treece, KS. Bob Jurgens will be interviewed concerning the environmental impacts and cleanup effort and Farah Ahmed, KDHE Environmental Health Officer will be interviewed regarding the health effects on workers and the residents.
- **Kansas Public Radio:** KDHE discussed the documentary heard on Kansa Public Radio. The show was titled: *Treece, Kansas, A Ghost Town In The Making* was aired on May 19, 2013 (Web site: <http://www.kansaspublicradio.org/news/kpr-presents/6561-treece-kansas-ghost-town-in-the-making>). The half-hour special was produced by Nina Porzucki, Chaela Herridge-Meyer and Carl Scott of [The Recollective](#), a multimedia storytelling collaborative that produces documentary projects for the web and radio. Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the [Kansas Humanities Council](#). The Recollective Web site is at: <http://www.therecollective.net/blog/2013/01/17/treece-kansas-a-ghost-town-in-the-making/>.

Next Meetings: July 25, 2013, 2013, 11:00 am, Cherokee County Court House. August 29, 2013 Mtg.: 11:00 am, Cherokee County Court House following the planned tax sale.

Minutes Prepared by Bob Jurgens, KDHE

Betty McBride, Vice Chairperson

Approval Date