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[MPC Comment] MPC Agenda Item # 50 5-A-18-UR

1 message

Diette Crockett <dcrockett78@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 4:11 PM

Reply-To: dcrockett78@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Cc: dcrockett78@gmail.com, mike.reynolds@knoxmpc.org, Gerald Green <gerald.green@knoxmpc.org>

Dear MPC Commissioners,

My name is Diette Crockett and I am on the board of the French Broad Preservation Association (FBPA). FBPA is our rural community group, formed in 2003, to preserve and protect the historic, cultural and environmental resources of the French Broad River Corridor in Knox County.

We host community events focused on conservation, local history, river floats, clean ups and responsible development. We recently helped host an event at SISBP for property owners on both sides of the French Broad River to connect and also meet local organizations that can help them with assistance in land enhancement programs, along with possible funding.

FBPA also monitors development happenings in our community and supports development that adheres to our sector plan and continues to foster a beautiful rural way of life.

Along with our partners at Seven Islands State Birding Park, we have reviewed the TDEC reclamation guidelines that Blue Water Industries has proposed as a revegetation plan for the corner of Governor John Sevier Highway and Asbury Road. The plan includes introducing autumn olive, lespedeza, honey suckle, black locust and fescue, all of which are non-native and invasive species. On a 100 ft high slope, this would create a considerable area of invasive plantings and would spread the seed distribution to a wide area.

We believe Blue Water Industries wants to create a beautiful and sustainable reclamation site on this prominent corner of our community. We applaud BWI for seeking professional guidance on how to do this.

It is the belief and strong hope of the French Broad Preservation Association that Knox County Commission should require Blue Water Industries to revegetate the slope and roadside area of their property responsibly, using native plants. FBPA and Seven Islands State Birding Park would like to support BWI in their efforts by connecting them to local organizations that can help create a plan with a focus on native species that will more effectively establish revegetation and ultimately lower maintenance costs. Local and regional businesses readily supply everything that will be needed for a successful native re-vegetative effort.

FBPA is excited to possibly partner with BWI on a highly visible project that could potentially inspire and motivate other industry to make fiscally and environmentally responsible decisions in the future.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this issue.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diette Crockett
French Broad Preservation Association, President

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org