REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE:	November 19, 2014
SUBJECT:	Donation of land to the County for US64 French Broad River Access
PRESENTER:	Tim Hopkins, Recreation Director
ATTACHMENTS:	Yes 1. Letter from CMLC 2. Boundary Survey 3. Conceptual Site Plan

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

In 2012 the county began to collaboratively work with public and private entities to identify and develop recreational access to the French Broad River (FBR) in Henderson County. Emphasis for the formation of the FBR Access Collaborative Group (Group) came from Sierra Nevada Brewing Company's interest to draw attention to outdoor activities such as boating access and greenway trails associated with the FBR.

Land along US64W next to the bridge where it crosses the French Broad River was identified. The Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) has secured ownership of the land and is ready to donate it to the county for a river access park. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) has agreed to build and construct the river access park. Henderson County would then manage and care for the park in collaboration with WRC. The park would provide public river access.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff requests that the BOC accept the land being donated by CMLC for the purpose of developing a river access park. This park would be designed and constructed by WRC. Ownership and management of the park would belong to Henderson County and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners accept the donation of 1.6 acres of land for the proposed US64 French Broad River Access.



February 11, 2014

Tim Hopkin, Director Henderson Co. Parks and Recreation Department 801 4th Ave. East Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Tim,

I am writing on behalf of the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) to update you about activities that CMLC and other partners are taking to promote recreational access to the French Broad River in Henderson County. As I mentioned to you and the Recreation Advisory Committee when I presented at their meeting in September, CMLC is in negotiations with the owner of a 1.5-acre tract of land adjoining the French Broad River where it flows under US-64 near Etowah. CMLC's plan is to acquire that property in early 2014 in order to make the site available for public recreational access.

Based upon the commitment expressed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to developing the site as a point of public river access, CMLC plans to proceed with the property acquisition and to make the tract available for development by WRC. As confirmed in the letter sent by WRC Aquatic Habitat Coordinator Scott Loftis to Henderson County on December 17, 2013, WRC is committed to develop and co-manage with Henderson County a public river access at the Etowah site.

It would be the hope of all of the partners involved that Henderson County might be willing to serve as long-term owner of the site and co-manager with WRC. Ownership by the County would build upon the leadership the County has already demonstrated, with its ownership of points of public access to the French Broad River in Blantyre and at Westfeldt Park. As the lead agency within Henderson County providing recreational opportunities to residents, Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department is ideally suited to owning the Etowah site and making access to the river available to residents and visitors over the long-term.

If the County is interested in partnering on long-term ownership and management, CMLC would be pleased to donate the property to the County at no cost. We would also be glad to work with you and WRC during the upcoming acquisition and site development and make the transfer to County ownership at a time that would be most convenient and optimal to the County.

I have attached a copy of the plat of the Etowah property survey. Many thanks for your consideration. Please let me know if you have questions or need any additional information.

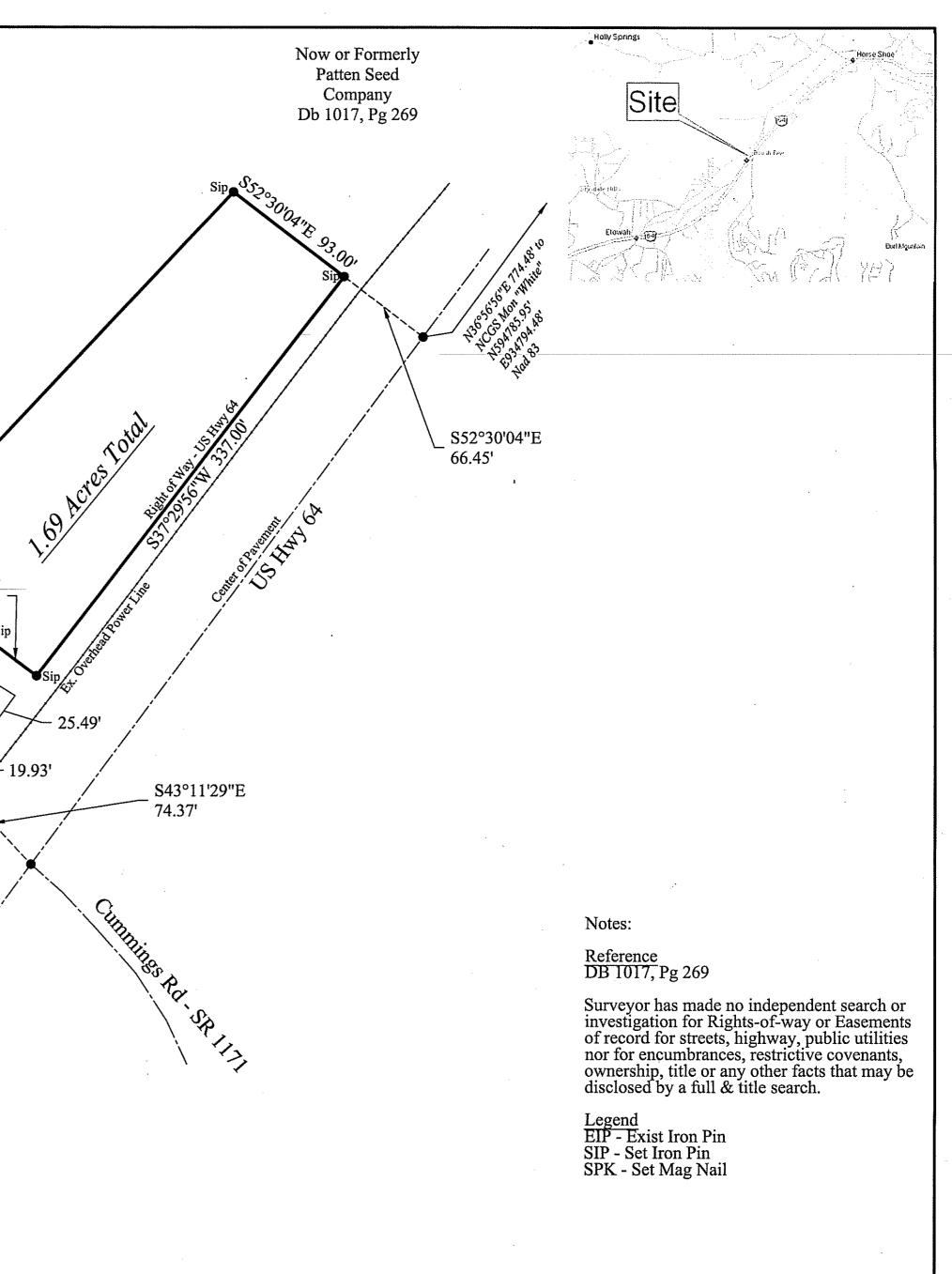
Sincerely, Kieran Roe

Rierán Roe Executive Director



PH: 828.697.5777 • FX: 828.697.2602 847 CASE STREET HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28792-6503 www.carolinamountain.org • info@carolinamountain.org

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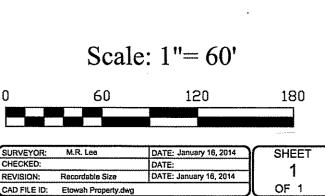


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