

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ALLEN LATIMER, PRESIDENT 2011 PRESIDING**

**February 9, 2011**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The February 9, 2011 meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Allen Latimer, Board President.

Deputy Carl Hurt of the DeSoto County Sheriff’s Department was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----District 1
- Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----District 2 Absent
- Supervisor Bill Russell-----District 3
- Supervisor Allen Latimer-----District 4
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5
- W. E. Sluggo Davis-----Chancery Clerk
- Michael Garriga-----County Administrator
- Tony Nowak -----Board Attorney
- Sheriff Bill Rasco-----Sheriff

**B. INVOCATION**

County Administrator Michael Garriga presented the invocation.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Supervisor Allen Latimer asked if there were any citizens present to address the Board. No one came forward.

**E. PLANNING COMMISSION**

DeSoto County Board of Supervisors  
Planning Agenda

**February 9, 2011**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Ordinance Amendments*

**2011 Zoning Map Update - The Board of Supervisors will consider adopting an update to the DeSoto County Zoning Map to include all Rezoning approved by the Board of Supervisors in the year 2010**

Supervisor Medlin made a Motion to open the Public Hearing to consider adopting an update to the DeSoto County Zoning Map to include all Rezoning approved by the Board of Supervisors in the year

2010 and to open the Public Hearing to consider amending Article 2, Paragraph C, Sections 11 & 12 of the DeSoto County Zoning Ordinance regarding mobile homes and regarding extraction of minerals including sand and gravel, respectively, to change the dates to read December 31, 2011. Supervisor Russell seconded the Motion.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER:

FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, JESSIE MEDLIN	<u>YES</u>
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, EUGENE THACH	<u>ABSENT</u>
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, BILL RUSSELL	<u>YES</u>
FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, ALLEN LATIMER	<u>YES</u>
FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, TOMMY LEWIS	<u>YES</u>

Mr. McDougal presented the 2011 DeSoto County Zoning Map. He stated there was one Rezoning approved in 2010 as reflected on the proposed map.

**Zoning Ordinance Amendment – The DeSoto County Board of Supervisors will consider amending Article V, Paragraph 2.C (11) and Article V, Paragraph 2.c(12), of the DeSoto County Zoning Ordinance regarding mobile homes and regarding extraction of minerals including sand and gravel, respectively, to change the dates to read December 31, 2011.**

Mr. McDougal presented the above item and stated it is an amendment to the DeSoto County Zoning Ordinance text related to Conditional Uses in the Agricultural-Residential (A-R) zone regarding mobile homes and regarding extraction of minerals including sand and gravel, respectively, to change the dates to read December 31, 2011. He stated the date is renewed year by year. Supervisor Latimer confirmed that the sole rezoning approved in 2010 was a zoning map amendment for the Tony Ross property, which is a parcel that was sold to Mr. Ross and excluded from the Mitchell’s Corner Subdivision prior to its final subdivision approval.

Supervisor Lewis asked if anyone was present to speak for or against the applications. No one was present.

Supervisor Russell made a Motion to close the Public Hearing. Supervisor Medlin seconded the Motion.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER:

FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, JESSIE MEDLIN	<u>YES</u>
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, EUGENE THACH	<u>ABSENT</u>
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, BILL RUSSELL	<u>YES</u>
FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, ALLEN LATIMER	<u>YES</u>
FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, TOMMY LEWIS	<u>YES</u>

Supervisor Russell made a Motion adopt the 2011 DeSoto County Zoning Map to include all Rezonings approved by the Board of Supervisors in the year 2010 and to amend Article V, Paragraph 2.C (11) and Article V, Paragraph 2.c(12) of the DeSoto County Zoning Ordinance regarding mobile homes and regarding extraction of minerals including sand and gravel, respectively, to change the dates of each to read December 31, 2011. Supervisor Medlin seconded the Motion.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER:

FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, JESSIE MEDLIN	<u>YES</u>
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, EUGENE THACH	<u>ABSENT</u>
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, BILL RUSSELL	<u>YES</u>
FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, ALLEN LATIMER	<u>YES</u>
FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, TOMMY LEWIS	<u>YES</u>

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minor Lots**

**District 4**

**Johnston Road Minor Lot (6807) – Application is for final subdivision approval of three (3) lots of 1 acre each, one (1) lot of 3 acres and one (1) lot of 154 acres out of 160 acres. Subject property is on the west side of Johnston Road and north of Laughter Road in Section 14, Township 3, Range 7 and is zoned Agricultural (A). (District 5)**

**District 5**

**Lemmon Minor Lot (6808) – Application is for final subdivision approval of one (1) lot of 4.5 acres. Subject property is on the south side of Odom Road and east of Tulane Road in Section 3, Township 3, Range 8 and is zoned Agricultural (A). (District 4)**

Mr. McDougal presented the applications above and stated they appear to be in compliance with the County’s Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, subject to right-of-way dedication and Health Department approval. He noted that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of these two applications.

Supervisor Lewis confirmed with staff that Lot 4 of the Johnston Road Minor Lot would have road frontage on Johnston Road.

Supervisor Lewis asked if anyone was present to speak for or against the applications. No one was present.

Supervisor Lewis made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda subject to staff recommendations and required dedication of public road right-of-way and Health Department approvals. Supervisor Russell seconded the Motion.

**THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER:**

FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, JESSIE MEDLIN	<u>YES</u>
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, EUGENE THACH	<u>ABSENT</u>
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, BILL RUSSELL	<u>YES</u>
FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, ALLEN LATIMER	<u>YES</u>
FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, TOMMY LEWIS	<u>YES</u>

**Other Items:**

**1. Planning Commission & Board of Adjustment Officer Elections for 2011**

Mr. McDougal stated Officer Elections were held for both the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment and that the Board of Adjustment nominations for 2011 are as follows:

- Chairman – Mr. Billy Smith
- Vice-Chairman – Mr. Rudy Davis
- Secretary – Mr. Benny Norwood

The Officer Elections for 2011 for the Planning Commission are as follows:

- Chairman – Mr. Robin James
- Vice-Chairman – Ms. Pat Hefley
- Secretary – Ms. Joan Robertson

The Site Review Committee of the Planning Commission for 2011 are as follows:

- District One – Len Lawhon
- District Two – Randy Jones
- District Three – Wade Carter
- District Four – Robin James
- District Five – Mike Robison

**2. I-69/I-269 International Trade Corridor Study Update**

Mr. McDougal stated the consultants for the I-69/I-269 International Trade Corridor Study were in DeSoto County on January 19, 20 and 21, 2011 to meet with various members of the community throughout the County including members of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. He stated that although the Special Meeting with the Planning Commission on January 20, 2011 was postponed due to inclement weather, the consultants' visit with staff and community members was productive.

Mr. McDougal stated that on Thursday, February 3, 2011, the Planning Commission met as the Steering Committee for the I-69/I-269 International Trade Corridor Study to begin work on planning the approach to the Corridor Study. This meeting marked the kick-off and official project initiation for the Committee and was a success, with active participation by Steering Committee members, County Administrator Michael Garriga, and Supervisor Bill Russell. Mr. McDougal said that Greg Dale of McBride Dale Clarion presented the proposed methodology for completing the study, with a step-by-step approach that will lead us to completion of the study and result in a written Strategic Development Master Plan for the study area, within approximately 18-months. He stated that during the meeting, the Steering Committee acknowledged their intent to prepare the Strategic Development Master Plan to serve as the framework for a "formula" to allow the County to help steward high-quality future development in a way that benefits landowners along the Corridor as well as benefiting the community as a whole. Mr. McDougal noted that copies of the overall project calendar, the proposed project phasing, and a draft of the public participation strategy were provided to the Board of Supervisors for their information.

Supervisor Latimer asked if landowners along the I-69/I-269 corridor would be notified of future meetings concerning the I-69/I-269 International Trade Corridor Study. Mr. McDougal confirmed that notice would be given to all landowners within the study area to offer opportunities for them to participate in study efforts throughout the planning process including invitations to attend all major public meetings.

**See Exhibit E**

**F. CONSENT**

The Board of Supervisors considered the items on the Consent Agenda.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1. Safety Report (1)**
- 2. Chancery Clerk Allowance (1) \$1,550.00**
- 3. Office of Procurement-Solicit Bids**
  - a. Road Department**
    - (1.) One or More Axle Boom Trucks**
    - (2.) Wheel Loader/Tool Carrier**
    - (3.) Mini Excavator**
    - (4.) Rubber Track Skid Steer**
  - b. Sheriff's Dept.: Inmate Supplies**

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES

Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

See Exhibit F

## G. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Summers Hill Fire Commission Appointment

County Administrator Michael Garriga said this appointee is in Supervisor Thach's district and he is not present today due to illness. He suggested holding this item over until Supervisor Thach returns.

## H. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Representative for Congressman Alan Nunnelee

Walt Starr, Representative of Congressman Alan Nunnelee's office, appeared before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Starr said he recently became part of Congressman Nunnelee's staff. He said Congressman Nunnelee has an office in Hernando located at 133 Commerce Street and it will be open next week. This office will serve eleven counties in his district. Mr. Starr said Congressman Nunnelee's territory covers from DeSoto County to Choctaw County and east to Benton County. Mr. Starr said that Brandi Burnett will be in the office in DeSoto County as well.

Mr. Starr thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to speak in the Board Meeting and encouraged the Board to use Congressman Nunnelee's facility in DeSoto County. Mr. Starr said they recognize the importance of the economic basis and growth in DeSoto County. He invited the Board to call whenever their office can help in the county. Mr. Starr said they want to be the Board's conduit to Washington.

Supervisor Allen Latimer thanked Mr. Starr for appearing and asked him to thank Congressman Nunnelee for opening an office in DeSoto County. He said he knows the citizens of the county can count on Congressman Nunnelee.

### 2. North Delta Planning and Development District: Programs Update

Executive Director of North Delta Planning and Development District, James Curcio, appeared before the Board of Supervisors to give an update on the status the Area Agency on Aging Program (AAA) handled by North Delta.

Mr. Curcio said they have changed the way meals are delivered door to door.

Mr. Curcio said the North Delta Board meets twice monthly and County Administrator Michael Garriga attends as well. He said they have made a lot of changes to the program and added new ways to perform certain functions for the program.

Mr. Curcio explained the difference between congregate meals and home delivered meals and the activity on both programs. He said that home delivered meals should be for homebound participants and congregate meals are served at various sites for meals for the people. He said there are two congregate meal sites in DeSoto County. Home delivered meals are all delivered into the homes. Mr. Curcio said every participant is screened by North Delta to make sure they meet the requirements to participate in the program. He said currently the county provides sites for congregate meals and they hope to add more sites in the future and in every county as well.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked how long the waiting list is for homemaker services. Mr. Curcio said he does not know the number but it is quite large. He said all of the waiting lists are being recreated. He said they have a computer system that tracks all of the waiting lists.

Supervisor Allen Latimer asked if they have purged the old lists. Mr. Curcio said that is right.

Supervisor Bill Russell said it would be good to explain how people apply for the services.

Mr. Curcio said anyone interested should call 1-800-844-2433 or 662-561-4100. He said Roger Gordon is the AAA director.

Mr. Curcio said the Medicaid Waiver Program started out with a nurse, a social worker and a case manager. He explained that is when the service is taken to the home with the mission of keeping people out of nursing homes. He said, in December, they got an expansion of 100 clients

Supervisor Bill Russell asked Mr. Curcio to explain further about the Medicaid Waiver Program and the commitment to pay back funds. Mr. Curcio said North Delta Planning and Development District works with a division of Medicaid. DeSoto County has three teams and will coordinate the care for a person who is eligible for Medicaid. He said they will provide homemaker services, meals and respite services. That program has over 300 people on the waiting list.

Supervisor Russell asked if doctors send people to the program. Mr. Curcio said yes, often they do. He said the State Recovery Act allows participants to pledge their property to receive care. Upon their death, the government would recover any costs associated with the persons care from the proceeds of the sale of their home or property.

Mr. Curcio also discussed the corridor study. He said North Delta assisted DeSoto County with the corridor study and will continue to assist with that study.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if the bus program is working adequately. Mr. Curcio said there was a problem with the electric lift on one of the buses recently, but they are working with the manufacturer to fix the problem. He clarified that is with the DeSoto Industries Program.

Mr. Curcio said they also have a loan program through their office to assist small business. The program is called the Mississippi Small Business Assistance Program. He said the program can loan up to \$250,000 with an interest of four and one fourth percent for up to 15 years. He said the program is designed to work with banks. The business owner must have lived in the county for 15 years.

### **3. Impact Missions: Funding Request**

Dr. David Donaldson of Impact Missions said the program has existed from 1985 to 2009. During that time the staffing requirements were based on the number of residents. Last year DHS changed the licensure regulations which added \$130,000 to the cost of the shelter operations. That increase was absorbed by cash reserves and one particular donor. Dr. Donaldson said he keeps the County Administrator abreast monthly. He discussed the history of the financial assistance from the county and reminded the Board that for years, the request for assistance from the Board decreased. Dr. Donaldson said, because of the extra costs involved with the state mandates, he has had to increase the request to the county. He said they cannot lose a \$120,000 donor and keep operating and that is about to become reality. Dr. Donaldson said he has no control over the state licensing regulations. He said, in talking with the Meridian Shelter recently, he discovered that the DeSoto County Shelter has historically received less than other shelters in the state from the state budget. He said he is working to change that now. The shelter receives \$30 per day per diem from the state. Other shelters in the state receive \$55 per day per diem. He said they have made a petition to the State of Mississippi and hope to have an increase in the amount per diem in place this year. If approved by September or October they could receive extra funds.

Dr. Donaldson said he is talking to Tunica, Panola, Marshal and Tate counties now about paying for funding when the shelter takes in a child from that area. He said they have never asked for help from them because DeSoto County gets first placement priority. If we get a DeSoto County child and there is no space available and one of those counties has a child in the shelter, that child has to be moved out to accommodate the DeSoto County child. Dr. Donaldson said he has asked them for a one time donation and to put them in their upcoming budget in October.

Dr. Donaldson said the reason for the DHS changes is because they lost a lawsuit and there has been a contempt case filed against them. If they come back with even more regulations it could really be a problem. He said it costs five times more to run the shelter than the home. From 1985 to 2009 there had to be one staff member per six children and a person on call. In 2009 it changed.

Supervisor Russell said this is a DHS issue. They changed the rules to add these costs and they do not fund it. He said this is what we keep hearing at the county level. The state says they keep cutting taxes, but they are pushing it down to the county and it is outrageous.

Dr. Donaldson said there is a myth that the shelter has funds that they have to try to spend. Anytime changes are made to the regulations it costs additional money.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked what the county budgeted for Impact Missions this year. Dr. Donaldson said \$250,000 plus \$35,000 in advance that Impact Missions took in April and was taken off of this year's allocation of the county budget.

Mr. Garriga said the county budgeted \$225,000 this year. Since 2002 they have been allocated just shy \$2 million. He said it is a DHS function to provide an emergency shelter. He said Supervisor Russell's point is interesting. He said it is a state function and responsibility. Mr. Garriga said when there is a displacement event, the Youth Court gets involved and they sign a custody order to DHS and then DHS must place that child. Mr. Garriga said he asked DHS what will happen if the shelter closes. They told Mr. Garriga they do not know what they will do. Mr. Garriga said \$30 per day per diem is the reimbursement to the shelter from DHS. Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana reimburse \$120 per day per diem by comparison. He said the Board of Supervisors is continually put in a position to sponsor state obligations.

Dr. Donaldson said they are looking at \$480,000 expense for the shelter. He said 80% to 90% are staffing requirements. He said they have to have a doctor and other staff to accommodate the guidelines of the state.

Dr. Donaldson said he began to work with Panola and the other counties as soon as the Board of Supervisors asked him to last year.

Sheriff Bill Rasco said when you ask for other counties to support the shelter, what will happen to DeSoto County children. Dr. Donaldson said if Impact Missions builds a new building, they can use the current shelter for other counties if it is funded.

Supervisor Latimer verified that the shelter needs \$120,000 until October 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he does not know what other counties will fund.

Supervisor Russell asked if would help if the Board of Supervisors asked for a meeting with DHS and perhaps some of the other counties can meet with us as well. He said we know the problem with DHS. Their budget has also been cut.

Supervisor Medlin asked if the lawsuit changed the requirements for staffing was from federal or state. Dr. Donaldson said it was state. He said he does not think anyone at the state level would do anything to hurt a child. He said they are making changes and none of the agencies are owned or operated by DHS. They are licensed by DHS. All of the agencies are trying to get money just the same as Impact Missions.

Supervisor Russell asked if Dr. Donaldson has a "drop dead" date. Dr. Donaldson said three weeks ago. The contract between Impact Missions and DeSoto County requires 60 days notice.

He said they try everything they can before coming to the county. He said they need \$65,000 to keep the shelter afloat. Supervisor Russell said he thinks the citizens have had about all they can stand in the way of taxes. He said he will not vote for a tax increase.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to authorize an allocation of \$65,000 to Impact Missions. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the county budgets \$225,000 this year. He asked how much they have given them at this point. County Administrator Michael Garriga said we gave them the entire budget allocation up front for this year. Supervisor Lewis said he is not sure people understand that Dr. Donaldson runs the Impact Missions, the old Sunrise Home and also the Emergency Shelter. He operates the shelter considerably less than it would cost the county to operate the shelter.

Supervisor Medlin said the last time Dr. Donaldson was here, he made the motion to fund the shelter. He said the \$65,000 will have to come from out of the air. Supervisor Medlin said he cannot support such an allocation.

Sheriff Bill Rasco said the Sheriff's Department has seizure funds. He asked if those funds can be used.

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said he will check into it, but he does not think so.

Sheriff Rasco said he will find \$15,000 in his budget to go toward Impact Missions.

The Board of Supervisors thanked Sheriff Rasco.

Supervisor Medlin said when the Emergency Shelter first came about, the Board was told they were mandated to have the shelter. He asked if that has changed. Mr. Nowak said no, it depends on the source of the federal money. Many sources of federal funding for programs such as this have restrictions that prohibit placing children cannot be put into a secure facility like the mail, if the county is using grant funding. Other grants provide that a child taken into custody cannot remain in a secure facility, like the jail for more than 24 hours. He said it is not a clear answer. The county is not mandated by law to run the facility.

Supervisor Latimer said obviously DHS will step forward. He asked Dr. Donaldson if they double their contributions would they consider cutting contributions from the county. Dr. Donaldson said the minute they made their budget he will do the same as he did in the past by cutting the budget.

Supervisor Latimer asked where the money will come from. Mr. Garriga said he will try to get it from sources other than the cash balance.

#### **4. Procurement Card**

Director of the Office of Procurement, Vanessa Lynchard, said there are some companies who do not accept a purchase order. In addition there are times when the procurement card could save the county money. Vanessa said the IT Department had situations in the past where they contracted with a third party to pay for a purchase for the county because the vendor did not accept purchase orders. The third party then bills the county an additional fee for processing. Vanessa said there are other situations when ordering on-line can save money as well. She said she thinks using the procurement card may be a good way to solve these issues.

Vanessa said she checked the state guidelines and discussed the information with the County Administrator and the Office of Finance and Accounting. She said they agreed that with some strict guidelines that use of a procurement card will be a benefit to the county. Vanessa said a few years ago the county used a procurement card, but it was unsuccessful because there were no guidelines. She explained that there are checks in place with this policy that will prevent abuse.

Supervisor Bill Russell asked what steps needed to be taken to implement the program.

Vanessa said the Board would need to consider appointing her or another county employee as the Procurement Coordinator and authorize applying to the state program.

Supervisor Allen Latimer said the guidelines seem a little rigid. Vanessa said a lot of departments will be able to use the card and save money. She said the procurement card will be very beneficial to Kenny Evans. He can use the card to rent equipment instead of buying a piece of equipment for temporary use. That will save the county a lot of money and make it easier to take care of a problem.

Vanessa said IT Director John Mitchell came to her with the idea when he needed to buy license for the county domain name. They needed a third party to bill to in order to make the purchase. They could not use a purchase order to make the purchase.

IT Director John Mitchell said when it comes to certain registrations and technical issues, a lot of times no one will take a purchase order. Using a third party is very costly. Mr. Mitchell said their original thinking was only Procurement would have access to the card. He said he had no desire to retain the card but just needs to be able to make certain purchases. He said the domain name registration is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

County Administrator Michael Garriga said they have strengthened the guidelines and he is okay with it. He said Chief Financial Officer Tom Arnold looked at it as well. After looking at the guidelines they thought it was the way to go.

Vanessa said people make purchases everyday with no money left in their budget. She said actually the procurement card will make it easier to go over budget. Whoever uses the card will have to adhere to the card guidelines and go through the process. Only the Procurement Dept. will have the card and departments will check it out as needed.

Mr. Garriga said Procurement keeps a good handle on the budget and it can be looked at and handled properly.

Vanessa said actually Michael was reluctant at first because it did not work successfully before. Now we have good controls in place and they believe it will be a good thing for the county.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Bill Russell seconded the motion to adopt the recommendation for the Procurement Card Policy and to appoint Vanessa Lynchard Procurement Coordinator and authorize applying for the state program. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit H.4**

**5. Grants: Apply for Earth Day Grant**

Vanessa Lynchard said that Greenways Coordinator Larry Jarrett said Entergy wants to participate in the Earth Day event. At the same time, Supervisor Tommy Lewis called to express concerns about litter and litter awareness in the county.

Vanessa told the Board that they have already proved their commitment to protecting our environment by the number of environmental programs they fund in the county. Earth Day is a good way to publicize what the Board does.

Vanessa said they would like to meet with agencies and cities to participate and Gia has researched a grant opportunity.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Bill Russell seconded the motion to authorize applying for a grant for the Earth Day Event with Keep Mississippi Beautiful. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
- Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT
- Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES
- Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**6. Redistricting Plan Proposal**

County Administrator Michael Garriga said Chris Watson of Bridge and Watson was unable to appear before the Board so Mike Bridge and Tim Youngblood are here in his behalf. Mr. Garriga said he appreciated everyone for being here. Mr. Garriga thanked the School Board and said he wanted to address them as part of this process. He said the School Board, by statute, selects their own boundaries, but they have traditionally been the same as the Board of Supervisors. He said this process started back in October and there were a series of public meetings in December. During the process, we found out that we may get the Census numbers early. He said we got the numbers on Friday. The group put together a couple of plans and we must proceed quickly. Mr. Garriga said he appreciated everyone’s participation and input into the process.

Supervisor Bill Russell said we held public meetings to get input from the public on redistricting. He said this is not a public hearing today. He said we do not intend to take comments from the public at this meeting. Supervisor Russell said we are here to answer questions and get input and learn about any other conditions that need to be considered for redistricting.

Supervisor Allen Latimer asked if anyone had questions to please step forward.

Mike Bridge said Tim Youngblood works with Chris Watson on these plans. He said Chris is representing the City of Gulfport in an annexation hearing and will be available next week. He said their office is prepared and capable to respond to any immediate need of the county prior to Chris’ return. Mr. Bridge presented three plans. He said two plans were prepared by their office and the third plan was prepared by the DeSoto County Redistricting Committee. He said plans one and two follow the guidelines of the federal government. He said one specific requirement is that there be no change that can deny an individuals voting right. Mr. Bridge explained what they have done in the two plans they prepared is to organize the changes and follow the federal guidelines. He said data from the old Census cannot be used. In addition, they tried to follow natural boundaries and Census tracks. Mr. Bridge said they kept each Supervisor in their respective district while meeting the federal guidelines. He said the minority population is 22.9% which is distributed fairly evenly throughout the county. He said they tried to be aware of creating a minority district whenever possible, but that was impossible because of the minority distribution in DeSoto County. He said the primary objective of the DeSoto County Redistricting Committee did not specifically deal with the required factors for redistricting. He said it is

impossible to follow the map presented by the Redistricting Committee because of the distribution of data and the fact that it does not follow the 2010 Census blocks.

Tim Youngblood presented the map of alternate 1. He said DeSoto County population grew from 107,199 in 2000 to 161,252 in 2010. He said, for example, District 5 population grew from 21,000 in 2000 to 39,000 in 2010. He said with all of the plans they tried to address the concerns that were mentioned in the public meetings. They also tried to address all other additional concerns as well. He said they did not want to hold the elections with questionable populations. Mr. Youngblood said they tried to create districts with as little change as possible for the voters. He said the state redistricting has not been determined and it may or may not have an affect on polling places. Mr. Youngblood said the DOJ requires a 10% or less deviation per district. He said 32, 250 is an ideal population for each district. He said the deviation for DeSoto County is now at 41.9%. Mr. Youngblood said, that is a tall order in re-drawing maps.

Mr. Youngblood referred to the map for alternate 1 and explained that colors are the proposed boundaries and the black lines are the current boundaries. He said this plan has a 6% deviation. It minimizes moving the number of people in or out of the district and it creates six splits in voter precincts. He said this plan has no incumbents facing each other.

Supervisor Bill Russell asked how many split precincts the county currently has. Mr. Youngblood said there are none at this time.

Supervisor Russell asked if the split precincts can be corrected in time for the election. Election Commissioner Paul Beale said yes, it can be done but will take some time. He said it depends on how much change there would be per precinct. He said some polling places are simply not able to handle large numbers.

Mr. Youngblood presented alternate 2. He said this district shows larger geographic changes, but not in population. He said the District 5 population is 32,736 on alternate 2 and 32,291 on alternate 1. He said alternate 1 reflects a 6% deviation and alternate 2 reflects a deviation of 8.5%. He said there was an attempt to minimize the number of people impacted. There is one voter precinct in alternate 2 that has 550 people. Mr. Youngblood said in this plan no incumbents face each other. This plan does create two Justice Court Judges living outside their current district boundary, but judges are not required to live within their district.

Mr. Youngblood referred to alternate 3, which is the DeSoto County Redistricting Committee recommendation. He said the boundary in this plan has a 15.9% deviation. Mr. Youngblood said that percentage does not meet the DOJ requirements. There are six voter precincts split in this plan. Also, incumbent school board members and constables face each other. He said this plan also does not work from a population standpoint according to federal guidelines. He said we understood the committee wanted to look at a democratic or minority voting district and we can spend more time looking at that.

Mr. Youngblood said alternates 1 and 2 are the least changed plans. He said both plans would meet the DOJ guidelines. Mr. Youngblood said they are available to meet with individuals or groups about the plans and are ready to move forward with developing a final plan for the county.

Supervisor Russell asked if the map can be put on the county web site today. Mr. Youngblood said yes. He said that GIS Director Matt Hanks was very helpful in this process. Supervisor Russell asked Mr. Hanks if these alternates will be put on the web site today. Mr. Hanks said yes.

Supervisor Russell said it is a little surprising to him about the disbursement of minority districts in the county. He said minority population is split throughout the county. He said he thinks we need to meet with the consultants individually when Chris Watson is available next week. Election Commissioner Carl Payne said they have discussed incumbents but, not mentioned polling places. He asked if all of the polling places are still in their districts. Mr. Youngblood said he did not know.

Circuit Clerk Dale Thompson said it creates a lot of confusion when polling places are split and when voters have to vote outside their district.

Supervisor Russell suggested getting the polling place information and working on it this afternoon and meet again at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Mayor Greg Davis said there is nothing more frustrating to a voter than trying to determine where they need to vote. This redistricting gives us the ability to look at precincts that correspond with the municipal wards. While we are changing precinct lines, he suggested establishing polling places making it easier for voters.

Ms. Thompson agreed, but asked if it may result in cities having to change polling places. Mayor Davis said polling places have been discussed at the Council on Governments and the cities would be willing to work with the county on the issue.

Mr. Payne asked, with the results of the Census, will that mean we need one more Constable and one Justice Court Judge. Supervisor Latimer said yes.

Supervisor Russell asked, since we have some time to fix the polling places, will it be possible to do what the Mayor suggested for this election.

Ms. Thompson said, whatever this Board decides to do, her office has until June to get the cards out to the voters and other required work after the DOJ approves the plan. Quick approval of any redistricting plan will be helpful.

Supervisor Russell asked if there regulations that would prevent them from accomplishing this task. Mr. Beale said the DOJ has 60 days to review and approve any redistricting submission. He said the Board needs to move quickly. The Election Commission will try to accommodate this process in any way possible.

Kelly Jacobs, DeSoto County Redistricting Committee Chairperson, asked if Horn Lake South will be in District 4. She could not tell by looking at the map.

Supervisor Russell said they still have to discuss the changes and other issues. That may change some things on the map. He said the consultants are here today to answer questions and listen to suggestions anyone may have about redistricting.

Justice Court Judge Larry Vaughn said there are two incumbents in one district for Justice Court.

Supervisor Medlin said the School Board member in District 1 is in the wrong spot on the map. He said they are still in District 1.

Justice Court Judge Karen Sanders she would like to meet with Chris Watson next week.

Supervisor Russell said we are under a tight schedule. We must get the information finalized and to the DOJ. He said in case we do not have the federal response, the Board has asked the Legislature to grant the county authority to extend the deadline for voting. He said we are going to try and get a plan approved by the DOJ as soon as possible, but to do so, the response needs to be sent to the DOJ in the next couple of days. He said he would like to try to get this approved and sent to the DOJ by Friday. He said that does not mean they will get back with us, but at least we have done everything to meet the county's deadline. Supervisor Russell said if the State Legislature approves the request to grant authority to extend the qualifying deadlines, there would be more time to work with DOJ for redistricting. Supervisor Russell said if this going to work, we have to move quickly. The Department of Justice says if we get our request to them, they will make it a priority.

Mr. Payne asked the Board to announce a time for the meeting tomorrow. Supervisor Russell suggested 1:00 p.m.

Supervisor Latimer said he is not opposing anyone else. He said he hopes we can get this done quickly and received back within one week of the qualifying deadline. He said it is not fair for anyone to learn which district they are in late in the voting process. We need to get this done quickly and get the response from the DOJ regarding any action to extend qualifying deadlines at least a week before March 1.

Supervisor Medlin said he agrees with Judge Sanders. He said when we did this ten years ago we showed everyone respect by talking to them about the district lines.

Supervisor Lewis asked how much time it will take to get the package together after the Supervisors approve the plan.

Mr. Bridge said we can accomplish some things today. Mr. Bridge said they would be happy to adjust their schedules in order to meet with the elected officials and have all other necessary conversations regarding the plan. He said there will be some things people would like to see in the plan that they will not be able to satisfy because of Department of Justice requirements. He said they will work within the schedule and parameters this Board establishes.

Supervisor Medlin asked if the consultants can meet with the people this Thursday and Friday and then the Board meet the following Monday. He cited bad weather that is predicted for the county that may prevent meetings the next day.

Mr. Garriga said Friday is a good possibility and weather permitting we could meet with people tomorrow.

Judge Sanders asked if Chris Watson will be available on Monday.

A member of the audience asked if the public can meet with the group as well.

Mr. Bridge said he preferred the questions be funneled through the County Administrator's office and they communicate with his firm.

Supervisor Russell said the Board is not trying to push this down anyone's throat. He said this plan will be placed on the web site today so everyone can look at the plan. If there are public officials who have issues, he will listen to them today. He said if we meet tomorrow, Mr. Garriga can contact all of the public officials with the time for the meeting. He said the information is out there to the public and it is just a matter of putting it together now.

Mr. Youngblood said when the maps are posted on the web site Mr. Hanks can post his email address so people can email questions to him. He said he needs time to research to get answers before the meeting.

Supervisor Russell said as far as meeting with Chris Watson, no one should think they have to wait to talk to him. These company representatives can give the same answers to your concerns.

Supervisor Latimer asked what procedures should be established for the people to ask their questions.

Supervisor Lewis said this is the first he has looked at the plan. He said he thinks tomorrow is too quick for the Board to meet on the final plan. He said we need to take time to let the people make comments and we owe them the courtesy to give them enough time.

Circuit Clerk Thompson asked if the next plan will include the current polling places. Mr. Bridge said yes and Mr. Hanks confirmed they can accomplish that task and as well as putting it on the web site this afternoon.

Constable Liz Medlin said redistricting affects no one financially except the constables. She said she wanted to make everyone aware of that.

Constable Jason Motz asked if this combines Supervisors and Justice Court Judges.

Ms. Jacobs said only if it is approved by the DOJ in time. She said we will otherwise stay at four Constables and Judges until 2015.

Supervisor Russell said, between when we file with the Department of Justice and the time they act on the recommendation, we need to have a Public Hearing. He said if we there is some way the Board can come to a decision by Friday or Saturday, we could have the Public Hearing Monday and then move forward.

Ms. Jacobs said she is representing the DeSoto County Redistricting Committee and both alternate 1 and alternate 2 split minority voting areas. She said until that is corrected neither one of those maps will have the support of the DeSoto County Redistricting Committee.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to recess this meeting at the end of the Agenda until tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

After discussing that the timing was uncertain and the meeting should be recessed at the end of the Agenda, Supervisor Russell withdrew the motion and Supervisor Latimer withdrew the second to the motion.

Supervisor Russell said it is important that people have plenty of time to ask questions and they should do so as quickly as possible.

Supervisor Latimer said he realizes that, but he does not think any vote should be made until after we hear from the public.

Supervisor Russell said the public will to provide its reactions to the Board's decision.

Supervisor Latimer said he agrees with the urgency to get the plan done.

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said the public needs to be able to look at actual plan the Board intends to submit to DOJ so the Board must make a final decision on a plan and have public response to that specific plan.

Supervisor Lewis said he thinks people need time to digest the information.

Supervisor Russell said the point he is trying to make is that we are not committing to finishing this by Friday. He said we are committing to work as hard as we can to get the plan done as soon as possible. He said we can address any requests.

Supervisor Lewis said he does not mind meeting, but he feels we need to give the public plenty of time to look at the plan.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to recess the meeting until Friday, February 11, at 1:00 p.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

Supervisor Lewis said he will be at the meeting, but he does not intend to vote on the plan at that time.

## I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session portion of these minutes is recorded under the portion of the minutes called "Executive Session".

**J. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Naco Courthouse Award**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked that the county apply for the Naco courthouse award.

**2. Homestead Deletions**

At the recommendation of the Chancery Clerk, Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to authorize the Board President to sign Homestead deletions on behalf of the county as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Parcel No.</b>	<b>Reason for Adjustment</b>
Frank, Betty C.	2084 1902 13.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Vanderford, Joann etvir	3059 2901 39.00	add back to state's list Never deleted by county; state deleted
Parker, Bennie L.	4086 1401 428.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Raley, William S.	4086 1302 262.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Raley, William S.	4086 1300 11.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Riddle, Charles W.	2076 2302 197.00	delete from state's list due to over valued/incorrect parcel #
Smith, Gerald Stephen etux	3064 2001 15.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Webb, Odis Lee, etux	2061 1107 86.00	add to state's list; Hsb still alive in Jan 2010
Herron, Lowell G etux	1078 2802 10.00	delete due to over valued
Wright, Earl	1067 2612 2.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Mills, Dennis	2055 1603 27.00	look on 2010 deletion list pg 238
Key, Maggie C.	3089 3000 16.00	look on 2010 deletion list pg 189
Parker, Peggy A.	3058 3301 22.00	delete due to over value
Palmer, Jimmy W.	3095 2200 23.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Read, Hugh D.	3093 0704 348.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Read, Hugh D.	3093 0704 350.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Winters, Terry U.	2073 0602 41.00	delete from state's list due to over valued
Scott, Judith S.	2073 0607 196.00	delete from state's list due to a new owner & new 09 application
Quinley, Robert III	2098 3402 17.00	delete from state's list due to quitclaim deed to wf only

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
 Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
 Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
 Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit J.2**

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to recess the meeting until February 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
 Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
 Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
 Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

THIS the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Latimer, President

DeSoto County Board of Supervisors