

Burnamwood Commission Report

Last Meeting - February 21st, 2019, 6:00pm - Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church

The Commission met and reviewed programming. Applications for summer staff are being received and interviews will be held in the coming weeks.

The Commission reviewed a proposal to add a new Day Camp program designed to provide ministry to Estill County and area children and youth. This will be a program that runs parallel with the existing summer camps, designed for specific age groups and for those with special interests. Campers will be dropped off and picked up the same day. Fees for the camp will be on a sliding scale.

The BAM program has two large and one smaller group signed up for the 2019 season.

A new weekly Volunteer program to help provide maintenance and improvements to the camp was approved and scheduled to start immediately. Volunteers will be painting and making improvements to the camp.

The Burnamwood Bowl-a-Thon is scheduled for Sunday, February 24th. Update since the meeting: The Bowl-a-Thon raise approximately \$2,500.

A Burnamwood Redevelopment Plan is under review and open for comments. This will be presented to the presbytery for review and input at an upcoming meeting. Matt and Robby met with the Coordinating Committee to review the Logging proposal, and are scheduled to meet with the Administrative Committee later in February for the same purpose.

Motion: The Commission moves that 90 acres of Camp Burnamwood be selectively logged with the guidance of a Forest Management Plan designed by the Division of Forestry/Natural Resources Conservation Services. The proceeds of the logging operation will be split in the following manner: 33% will go to the operating budget of the camp. 66% will be designated for capital improvements to the camp. All efforts will be made to limit the impact to the aesthetics/natural resources of the camp and to meet the goals of creating a viable ministry at the camp.

Next Commission Meeting: March 20th, 6:00pm (Conference Call)

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Burnamwood Camp and Conference Center Logging Proposal - Q&As

- How did this proposal come about?

In 2018, the Commission was informed by the Coordinating Commission that the current level of presbytery support was unsustainable. As the Commission researched how Burnamwood's ministry might become more sustainable, it became clear that our facilities are either inadequate or have fallen into such a state of disrepair that significant investment in the camp's infrastructure is required.

- What other ways might the camp raise capital for these expenses?

In addition to selective logging, there are two other options that the Commission continues to investigate. A capital campaign might help address these needs, but would impact the financial resources of congregations, many of whom are already feeling stretched. Another option would be to sell a portion of the camp to an organization, such as Kentucky Nature Preserves, under whom an arrangement could be made that would allow access to the land by the camp, but prevent future development or the harvesting of timber.

- How has the Commission researched this?

The Commission engaged the services of a certified forester, Dick Brantigan, to develop a preliminary logging plan. Mr. Brantigan comes not only with 35 years worth of experience in the forestry industry, but also with positive recommendations from and experience working with other local church camps to this project. The Commission is also working the Kentucky Division of Forestry office in Morehead and the Natural Resources Conservation Services office in Richmond on developing a Forest Management Plan for the property.

- How much of the camp will be selectively logged?

The proposal is to selectively log 90 of the camp's 480+ acres, in an area located on the north side of the lake, mostly out of sight of the main areas of camp. Although this is a more expensive method, specific trees will be marked for harvesting before logging the area based on best timber stand management practices. Because of the existing soil structure, the Commission is also investigating best soil management practices and requiring a particular method of harvesting, such as horse logging, which may have less of an impact on the natural habitat.

- How much capital might this raise?

The revenue from is dependent on many factors such as how much it will cost to construct an access road to the timber, how much logging companies will bid to log the site, and how much it will cost to make to timber stand improvements after logging that may allow for future logging. Also complicating the calculation is the possibility that grants might be utilized to offset the cost of the timber stand improvements. Although the number could be much higher, even by as much as 50% more, given what we've learned, the Commission is conservatively estimating that the camp will receive \$75,000. The Commission is also investigating whether or not some of the timber could be processed on site and used for the construction of new facilities.

- How will the funds be used?

Capital improvement projects to enhance the infrastructure, hospitality, and ministry of the Camp. The Commission believes that investing in making our facilities more accessible, paving the road to the BAM House, conditioning the spaces (such as the Dining Hall) for year-round use, and having new program resources is vitally important, not only because it will encourage multigenerational ministry within the presbytery, but also the local community and surrounding counties.

- What about using the funds to offset Burnamwood's operating expenses?

The Commission met with the Administrative Commission and proposed that 1/3rd of the proceeds from the timber sale be used to offset operating expenses and 2/3rds be used for capital improvements.

- When will the logging happen?

Logging will be scheduled after the main summer camping season, lessening the impact on camp users. The process will take 2-3 months depending on weather conditions.

What about planting new trees or future logging?

Part of the Forest Management Plan will address this. After logging, the soils will be stabilized, and new trees will be planted. It is likely that the Natural Resources Conservation Service in coordination with the University of Kentucky will develop this plan. It is possible that the presbytery and congregation members, if interested, could play a role in helping plant trees.