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## Park Board approves plan for Brecon property

by CHRIS NORWOOD

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TALLADEGA COUNTY — The members of the Coosa Valley Recreation Board voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt Lincoln’s plan for utilization for the property. It was based on this plan that Lincoln was actually awarded the property from the U.S. Department of the Interior, but the Talladega County Commission initially declined to turn over the deed. The board was established to represent the cities of Lincoln and Talladega and Talladega County.

“The Lincoln plan is pretty specific, but we can still move stuff around inside the park, as long it is in compliance,” chairman Chuck Roberts said. “It’s fluid.”

The plan includes various camp grounds, a shooting range, ATV and horse trails as well as various other activities that fall within the guidelines provided by the federal government. Apparently the park is already a fairly large draw for ATV enthusiasts.

Roberts said members of the Cheaha Trail Riders had been volunteering to collect information from those entering the parks, mostly on weekends. They have developed a voluntary questionnaire with basic contact information to hand out to people coming into the park. Roberts said most visitors came from local or surrounding counties. Rob Grant of the Alabama Department of Economic and Commercial Affairs, said he had seen people in the park from Georgia and Panama City, Fla. as well.

Currently, admittance to the park is free, but based on the surveys, the board will eventually decide how much to charge for admission. Selling off some timber from the property was also discussed, but no action was taken.

The board had previously applied for a \$50,000 grant with a dollar for dollar local match. The volunteer work currently being done could count as “in-kind” funding, but the board will also need revenue for future grants.

The board will also likely need income to hire a manager and security guards. In the meantime, volunteer groups are helping to keep the park clean.

The board had also previously applied for two pots of deobligated funds totaling \$82,000.

Also Tuesday, the board:

- Elected Roberts permanent chairman.
- Discussed touring the facility as well as Stoney Lonesome in Cullman County.
- Discussed having public hearings for input, education and possibly naming the park.
- Discussed paving Horne Drive.

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- Discussed taking advantage of ADECA trailers to utilize in the park until permanent buildings can be built or purchased.

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