

Canal Lands Memorandum

DATE: 8-25-2011
TO: David Payne, Chief Ohio State Parks
FROM: Mary Fitch, Canal Lands Coordinator
RE: Proposed Canal Land Sale in Ross County: Pettiford

Ms. Pettiford has requested to purchase a Canal Lands parcel in Ross County. Per Canal Lands Real Estate Policy and Procedures, information about the sale was posted online for thirty calendar days. Five individuals/organizations offered comments. One individual representing an organization was in opposition. (List attached.)

Per Canal Lands Real Estate Policy and Procedures, the Chief must review this sale and respond within 14 calendar days - in this case by September 9th, 2011. The Chief's recommendation and rationale must then be posted on the ODNR website, and additional comments accepted. At the end of this process, the ODNR Director may recommend for or against the sale.

The following objections to this proposed sale of Canal Land were raised:

"This parcel appears to be somewhat connected with other State owned parcels of canal lands and has a potential to be re-connected in the future. The parcel is also river front and access to the public waterway

The parcel should be considered for lease only. The parcel has public value for recreation and protection of the river corridor. I am no longer in favor of any transfer of property with retaining a recreational trail easement.

As you are aware, Canal land that was transferred in Shelby County with a trail easement is currently in a condition that will not support any type of trail or recreational access.

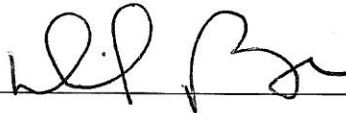
For this request, The Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association feels that parcel should not be transferred.

After internal discussion and an evaluation of the recreational potential of the subject parcel from a comprehensive standpoint, including review by applicable ODNR divisions and the Tar Hollow/Scioto Trail/Great Seal State Park Region (see attached comments from the Divisions of Wildlife, Watercraft, Forestry and Parks), we find that the current and potential future recreational use of the subject parcel is extremely limited, and that this parcel is excess property to the State of Ohio.

- From county line to county line, state ownership of the O&E corridor is extremely limited. (See map.)
- The Ross County Park District currently has no objection to the land transfer.
- The ODNR Trails Office has no comments regarding the proposed sale.

Recommendation: Proceed with sale.

I recommend this sale: _____



Date: 8.26.11

I recommend against this sale: _____

Date: _____

Written Comments Regarding the Proposed Pettiford Transfer

Comment period: 05/12/2011 - 06/11/2011

Thanks for keeping us in the loop. Although there have been some efforts to attain canal property, there just hasn't been enough interest generated from meetings and tours.

– Gary Merkamp, Ross County Park District

I find no objection if the transfer includes a trail easement reservation.

*Bob Fonte, Director
Stark County Park District*

As long as a trail easement is contained within the transfer, then I would not be opposed.

Andy Hite,
Historic Site Manager
Johnston Farm & Indian Agency, an American Association of Museums

I have no comments or questions.

Dameyon M. Shipley
Recreation Services Administrator

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Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this request.

L. Neal Brady
Executive Director
Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association

Comments from ODNR Divisions of Forestry, Watercraft, Parks and Wildlife regarding the proposed Canal Lands sale to Ms. Pettiford in Ross County.

- Our District Four staff reviewed the property and it is not realistic to think that this site could be developed for a boat/fishing access site. The subject property has a very steep bank, is landlocked and the actual canal bed has water in it. This property is very close to canal land we acquired 20 plus years ago for the purpose of developing a ramp site, but it was not feasible due to similar problems associated with this property.

John Navarro
Division of Wildlife

- After review of the information you provided, I do not believe the parcel has significant potential for public boating access. Thanks for the opportunity to review and comment.

Phil Miller
Resource Planning Administrator
Division of Watercraft

- It appears to be on the wrong side of the road for us to be interested. It doesn't appear to be a parcel that we would be interested in.

Nate Jester, Brian Kelly & Chad Sanders
Division of Forestry

- Looking over the maps it could potentially be a boating/fishing access but, realistically it will probably never make it there. North of that location there is a river boating access that is in Chillicothe which is about 15 to 20 minutes north. I don't think that this particular area would become part of the forest or park acreage in the future either.

Curt Partee, CPM
Regional Park Manager
Tar Hollow/Scioto Trail/Great Seal
