

Subject: Fwd: West Shore State Park, Part II
From: Brad Hamlett (senatorhamlett@gmail.com)
To: gallagherstudio77@yahoo.com;
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 10:22 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Douglas Johns" <dougejohns@gmail.com>
Date: May 4, 2016 9:22 AM
Subject: West Shore State Park, Part II
To: "Brad Hamlett" <senatorhamlett@gmail.com>
Cc:

Brad--A key fact about the land for which the state traded and that I failed to mention is that there is virtually no water access from that property at all as I recall. The shoreline consists of almost vertical clay banks 20-30 feet in height. I'm told by Bob Hatfield, the widower of Linderman's granddaughter Sally Waller Hatfield that Linderman and Russell would go there in the rowboat to get clay for sculpting.

Anyway, the fact that the tract is not prime waterfront is not a small factor.

I'm a little confused on one thing, is it US Fish and Wildlife that has the restrictions or the State of Montana because license funds were used? Is the attorney-general a reasonable guy? I realize that restrictions on land titles survive but there must somehow be a way that these encumbrances can be raised without enormous expenditure. Actually, this situation presents a frightening specter far beyond West Shore State Park, there are no doubt other situations where actions were executed before the era of the professional bureaucrat.

Doug

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
COUNCIL. 2015-16

May 5, 2016

Exhibit 7

Subject: Fwd: West Shore State Park
From: Brad Hamlett (senatorhamlett@gmail.com)
To: gallagherstudio77@yahoo.com;
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 10:22 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Douglas Johns" <dougcjohns@gmail.com>
Date: May 3, 2016 7:10 PM
Subject: West Shore State Park
To: "Brad Hamlett" <senatorhamlett@gmail.com>
Cc:

Brad--Hope this statement is helpful, still searching for the copy of the Grant Deed and will find it. I have attached a map drawn by my grandfather, S.E. Johns, sometime around 1942. The state park is indicated in red and blue--you should disregard the proportions as this representation is exaggerated in size. Key thing is that the southerly one-half cross-hatched in red is the land gifted to the state by my grandmother, Mary P. Johns, and my dad, Samuel Douglas Johns. Sections 5 and parts of 6 and 32 are the tracts sold to Thain White around 1951 or 52 for \$17,000 or \$10/acre. Hwy 93 runs between this tract and the fractional parts of Section 4 and 9. This all lies in Range 25W-Township 20 North except for Sec. 32 which doesn't bear on the current issue.

Background is basically that in about 1951 or 52, the Linderman heirs approached the state to buy Goose Bay and create a state park. My dad felt that the price they were asking was too high and I clearly remember his saying that Norma Linderman's husband, Roy Waller, was trying to hold the state up. Anyway, the Goose Bay property is beautiful to this day but there wasn't sufficient land area to create a park without acquiring adjacent property. Barney Rankin approached my dad about the Johns' property east of Hwy 93. There then ensued a kind of family fight with my dad agreeing to deed the property to the state without cost. At the same time, he encouraged Barney Rankin to resist the price demanded by the Linderman heirs. Upshot was that the state simply couldn't buy the Linderman property and Roy Waller was about twenty years ahead of time in the value that he placed on it.

So, no Goose Bay but the Johns property wasn't sizable enough for the new plan envisioned for the state park so the state approached the landowner immediately to the north who agreed to trade land with the state. My memory may be way off but I think it was one of the O'Neil's, possibly Carl Francis O'Neil. Anyway, the combination was assembled and West Shore State Park came into being. As I told you the other day, Brad, my dad had a very idealistic belief about the lake and the surrounding property. He firmly believed that the body of water belonged to everyone and that everyone should have access to it. His statement was that we may own the shoreline but everyone owns the lake.

This is pretty sketchy but with the map should give you a fair idea of the lay of the land, Brad. I appreciate your traveling over to try and inject some reason before the house is allowed to burn down completely.

Doug

Attachments

- West Shore State Park.jpg (970.89KB)

