

FORESTRY, LAND, & OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING # 6 - 2012

DATE: May 2, 2012

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: County Board Room 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Baier; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Shidell, Sorensen, Advisor Hintz; Forestry Staff: Bilogan; Fiene Bradley. Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel.

OTHERS: Bill Welsh and Lester Felbab, OCATVA. Guy Hansen, RASTA. Kriste and Lloyd Strasburg, Alan and Sharon VanRaalte. Manny Oradei, DNR. Natalene Cummings, Bob Berns, Bob Metropolous. Karl Jennrich, Planning & Zoning. Jed Buelow, Tomahawk Leader.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 9:00 a.m. Chair Baier called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2012 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS— It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2012 Mining Oversight Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

TAPE RECORDING MEETING MINUTES—It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Sorensen to record meeting minutes. Recordings may be discarded 90 days after written minutes are approved by committee. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—
Fiene reported that the April stumpage revenue was \$22,704.00; stumpage year to date totals \$418,966.00.
- b) Amend Oneida County Timber Sale Contract. Fiene offered an amendment to allow Oneida County to terminate a contract at the County's discretion. Shidell felt the language was too broad and gave no protection to the contract holder. Sorensen suggested the amendment be changed to allow termination only for good cause. The proposed change in language will be presented at the May 8 meeting.
- c) Spring Timber Sale bid results and contracts. It was moved by Sorensen and seconded by Martinson to accept the bid results as presented and to award the contracts to highest bidders. All aye. Motion carried.

- d) Tree planting update. Fiene reported that 24 acres of Jack Pine was planted near Woodboro and additional 2000 seedlings planted at Almon Park. The Arbor Day Foundation provided a grant to cover the cost of all 26,000 seedlings.

WISCONSIN COUNTY FOREST ASSOCIATION SUMMER TOUR—Martinson made a motion to allow committee members and Forestry staff to attend the Tour in Iron County, June 13-15, 2013. Baier seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

UPDATES ON CLOSING TOWNLINER PARK—Bilogan reported that DNR and federal regulations prevent closing park outright. There are options for conversion to another type of outdoor recreation area, such as a dog park or disc golf course. DNR County Liaison, Manny Oradei, suggested it might be possible to relocate the recreational amenities from Townline Park to one of the other county day use parks. Although it would be possible to have a municipality other than Oneida County take over and maintain Townline Park, the committee and staff felt that this option is unlikely. Shidell moved the discussion be tabled at this time as there is no urgency. Martinson seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

INQUIRY RE OFFER TO SELL PRIVATE PARCEL TO COUNTY—Bilogan reported the owner of a parcel (SWSW NWSW Sec. 12, Township 36N R9E) with a snowmobile easement is planning to sell and offered County first refusal. Sorensen moved the offer be rejected. Shidell seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

GATES AND BERMS FOR ENTERPRISE ATV TRAIL EXTENSION—Bilogan reported a grant was received to develop and maintain ATV trails. ATV clubs perform the maintenance and are reimbursed by the grant funds. A planned two (2) mile trail extension will require addition of 2 gates and 4 berms. Martinson requested the berms be installed off the trail a few feet for easier parking. Sorensen moved to approve the additional gates and berms as requested. Rudolph seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Guy Hansen – Townline Park is in a good location. Seems change in use would be most economical solution.

RECESS ... A brief recess was called before mining issues were addressed.

RECONVENE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS INTRODUCTIONS. Attorney Bill Scott joined meeting via phone

CHAIR BAIER ANNOUNCED the FLR Committee meeting is scheduled with the LDF Tribal Council on May 8, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., at the Minocqua Community Center.

FORMAT FOR THE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

- a) Bill Scott addressed questions about meeting format. Open microphone format becomes time-consuming and repetitive. Prefers information presentations and assess public opinions. Take questions in written format, so that issues can be categorized and not repeated.
- b) Bilogan provided dates that Dan Kuzlik could attend as facilitator.

- c) Lynne meeting will be 9:00 a.m. to noon. Rhinelander meeting will be 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at JWMS Auditorium. Shidell moved meeting date to be Saturday, June 23, 2012. Sorensen seconded. All aye. Motion carried.
- d) Shidell made a motion that meeting format should follow these suggestions: Panel should consist of 10-minute presentations from two experts from the regulatory bodies, two people from the “anti” mining side of the issue, and two geologists from mining companies to explain what exploration can provide and what technology is utilized. Information will only be pertinent to exploration, not extraction. Proposed a secret ballot to obtain honest opinions and feedback. Proposed two questions be asked:
- a. Is the information that comes from exploration of the Lynne reserve necessary for Oneida County citizens to make an informed decision regarding their futures?
 - b. Should Oneida County proceed with the bidding/proposal process for exploration of the Lynne reserve to better inform the citizens of Oneida County?

Sorensen seconded the motion. Scott stated that comment cards would better achieve the committee’s purpose: to find out the broad spectrum of opinions and positions of the people who are in attendance. Rudolph asked to modify the first question to address leasing of the county forest. Scott stated that question number 2 is relevant and should be the only question asked.

Comment from Ross Burns, Tamerlane. Millions of dollars are spent in exploration, and mining companies want to be sure there is a reasonable chance that they can proceed with mining. Crucial to know whether Oneida County is going to allow mining or not? Cannot use old information to create a current report. Old proposal was for an open pit mine.

Rudolph stated that we do not know whether Oneida County citizens want to proceed with exploration.

Hintz stated Oneida County current policy says “...ample guidelines have been formulated and sufficient laws have been passed to ensure safe and sensible extraction of metallic minerals.” Secondly, the committee is trying to better understand the exploration phase. Contract would be exploration with an option to mine. County could reject any or all of the bids at that point.

Scott stated committee is focusing on exploration because there is no certainty that mining would take place. Mining is not precluded by lease agreements, but would require permits, environmental impact statements, hearings. Exploration is the only certain result if the decision is to move forward.

After discussion completed, committee voted all aye. Motion carried.

- c. Tentative panel members are regulatory experts Coakley and Evans. Bilogan will approach mining companies and Lynne Town Chairman for names. Those names will be addressed at the regular June committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Kriste Strasburg – Town of Lynne Local Impact Chair. She will give names to Bilogan; he will contact them. Why now bringing mining companies to panel, when just last week the committee said mining company reps would not be invited.

Also stated that Town of Lynne's invited experts are not necessarily anti-mining.

Ann Coakley – DNR cannot debate with other panel members. Happy to answer questions from the public, but if panel members disagree, it certainly would become a debate and DNR will not participate in that. ***Committee chair agreed that will not be allowed.***

VOUCHERS, BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS, AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Blanket Purchase Orders = \$ 690.71
Line Item Transfer (Mining) = \$9325.00
Individual Voucher List = \$11,514.73

NEXT FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING—*Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 9:00 a.m.*

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Sorensen, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

GARY BAIER
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY