

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: January 9, 2013

TIME: 9:00 a.m. Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Martinson, Shidell, Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: Lester Felbab, OCATVA. Guy Hansen, RASTA.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 9:00 a.m. Vice-Chair Sorensen 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 Shidell, seconded by Martinson, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS— It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Martinson, to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2012 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—
Fiene reported that the December stumpage revenue was \$276,968.45; stumpage year to date totals \$1,056,563.51 with more pending.
- b) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Sorensen, to act on the following timber contract as follows:

Contract # 1542 held by **Fink Forest Products** was **closed** as satisfactorily completed, and return full cash deposit in the amount of \$15,534.12.

FOREST ACCESS

Bilogan presented maps of the three blocks of County Forest indicating the areas that are open to the public. Enterprise block has 75% vehicle access within ¼ mile from the trails. Cassian is also 74% and Lynn/Little Rice is 70%. Approximately 50% of trails are open. Trails that are blocked off are because they are not sustainable. Vehicle traffic can and does cause deep rutting which virtually destroys the trail. The blocked trails are open to foot traffic only. Plan for this summer is to have an LTE evaluate trails, particularly for ADA accessibility. There is currently one ADA-specific trail in each county block. The trails are gated, but keys are provided to eligible persons.

Martinson felt one ADA trail is not sufficient, that people as they age need better access, especially hunters. Berms should be placed so that people can park safely off the road. Bilogan answered that the berms were originally placed appropriately, but Willow Road reconstruction added deep ditches reducing the distance between the road and berms.

Shidell suggested all access during deer season only. Bilogan responded that is the worst time for roads to become rutted and destroyed. Forestry has previously opened gates after deer season because the roads usually were frozen. This has begun to change in recent years; the climate change may force the gates to remain closed for a longer period.

BURROWS ATV BRIDGE

Bilogan announced that the Burrows Lake Project to open approximately 3 miles of ATV & snowmobile trail in the Lynn/Little Rice block is completed. The project consists of 4 bridges. Since there is remaining funding, DNR has approved a grant amendment to add additional curbing for increased safety. Corp counsel will create a change order if committee approves. Shidell moved to allow the change order, Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ALMON PARK SHELTER PROJECT

a) Overview

Budget was previously approved to replace the 30 year old shelter in 2013. The plan is to increase the size to one more appropriate for large gatherings, bring in electricity, and build a loop road from the parking lot for loading/unloading and add some disabled parking. Committee directed bid specs to include a metal roof.

b) Shelter Reservations

Committee directed start date after August 15, 2013 to begin demolition, to allow public use during the busy season.

c) Utilization of Hwy Dept

Highway will demolish the shelter, grade the site, then pave loop road with asphalt.

d) Plans & Specifications

Budget not to exceed \$58,000

Martinson moved to accept the proposal with the provisions above, Shidell seconded. All aye, motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPT CONTRACT FOR PARK MOWING

Bilogan presented the budgeted contract for park mowing by the Highway Department. Although Highway Dept labor is a fraction of what Forestry was, the DOT equipment rate is much higher than Forestry equipment rates. Bilogan noted that the DOT rate is not mandatory, and a lower rate may be charged if the Highway Committee approves. Shidell moved to accept the contract, with the understanding that the equipment rate may be reduced. Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

3 PT HITCH 55-GALLON BOOM SPRAYER

Nose Lake Ski Trail has a problem with aspen suckers coming up after tree cutting. The brush hog cannot get the suckers cut down low enough and they poke up through the ski trails, especially with minimal snow. This is becoming more and more a common problem. The boom sprayer will allow chemical application to inhibit growth. Highway does not have any equipment like this, and would be able to use it near guardrails. It would be useful for invasive species and ATV trails, and road shoulders as well. Bilogan requested the committee approve purchase of the sprayer only, as we have a tractor. This purchase is eligible for funding by the Wildlife Habitat budget, which could offset some of the Forestry equipment cost, if some wildlife projects were postponed. Martinson moved that Bilogan obtain bids on a 150 gallon tank and hand sprayer, using the Equipment Purchase funds. Shidell seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Guy Hanson felt that there is a good balance between open and closed trails. Many people don't want vehicles on the trail when they are walking or hunting.

Les Felbab asked how many parks are included on the Highway contract. He also noted that the sprayer will be helpful on ATV trails.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers totaled \$202,598.88 were approved by the committee.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- WCFA Spring Meeting in Madison, March 21-22, 2013
- Two Potential Land Purchases
- Annual Report for FY 2012

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Shidell, seconded by Martinson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

GARY BAIER
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY