

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOM #1, 2ND FLOOR, COURT HOUSE, RHINELANDER, WI

PRESENT: Chair Baier; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Sorensen
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Bradley, Fiene.

OTHERS: Lester Felbab, Bill Welsh, Bob England OCATVA, Guy Hansen, RASTA.
Manny Oradei, DNR.

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 Rudolph, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2013 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Rudolph, to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2013 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

Fiene reported April stumpage revenue was \$7983.58; there were no sales for disposition.

He provided a summary of the results of the Spring 2013 Timber sale. All seven tracts sold. The winning bid for tract 4-13 was calculated on whole tree volume in error. If the bidder does not want to whole-tree chip the job, the contract will be awarded to the next highest bidder. Martinson moved to accept the high bids with the understanding that the 4-13 job may go to the next bidder. Sorensen seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ALMON PARK SHELTER UPDATE—Bilogan reported that specs are completed and that bids will be advertised and due on June 4. There was discussion about the time and money that have already been expended just to get specs completed, because design/build is not allowed any longer.

ORDINANCE ADDING UTV LANGUAGE TO COUNTY CODE—A resolution was presented to the committee for signature to update the County Code with regard to ATV's. Now that UTV's are permitted on trails, the Code will be updated to reflect that change. Sorensen moved that the resolution be submitted to the County Board. Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT—The committee had been provided with a draft of the proposed Forestry Annual Report. Sorensen moved that the report be submitted to the County Board with no changes. Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Rhineland Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA)

- a) DNR obligations for RTA grant-funded trail work were questioned at the previous meeting. Bilogan reported that his communication with DNR staff verified there is no "perpetuity" clause for the RASTA trail work being proposed for an RTA grant. DNR expects the trails to be open and maintained for at least a year, but there is no obligation beyond that.

- b) Nose Lake Ski Trail request. RASTA has requested some maintenance and grading work, as per the map presented. There are plans for a couple of small reroutes, a new parking lot and grading. The expenses associated with this work are not budgeted in the 2013 Forestry budget. The Trail Maintenance contract allows for ski trail and facility development to be paid for with money budgeted in their maintenance contract. Hansen (RASTA) stated that the changes will make the trail safer for skiers and is on county land. Forestry plans to spray to reduce aspen regeneration on the trails and continue to mow. Bilogan feels grading to improve the trail and/or reroute trail segments should be a RASTA expense. Although the DNR will charge at the cheapest rate for the grading, there are still expenses. Sorensen moved that the work be approved, as long as RASTA pays the costs. Martinson seconded.
- c) Contractors' Equipment Physical Damage Insurance request. There is a list of contractor equipment that the county recognizes, in this case, winter grooming equipment. Clubs that are contracted with Oneida County can technically have the county pay for the equipment damage insurance. Currently Oneida County pays for 8 of the 10 snowmobile clubs. RASTA is unsure whether they wish to pursue this; it will depend on the price they can get if they bundle it with their liability insurance. Formerly, the county charged the clubs for the insurance at approximately \$0.89/\$1000 of equipment value per Res. 153-2004. Value was determined by our insurance provider, based on the clubs' annual equipment reports. The fees went up to \$10,000 per club. The resolution clearly states snowmobile clubs, and would need to be amended to include all contracted recreation clubs. Corp Counsel suggested a recommendation from this committee to have Finance Committee look at this.

Bilogan reported that in 2010 the County stopped charging the clubs. It appears that the former clerk, Bob Bruso, had recommended not charging the clubs since we were receiving thousands for advertising and promotion. It was put off by Finance to look at during budget time, then Bob retired, and it fell through the cracks. So the other issue Finance should address is should the insurance charges be reinstated. Sorensen moved that the committee forward these issues to Finance, without a recommendation. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2014 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE GRANT APPLICATION

This is a 100% grant to pay for an LTE. Forestry requested 1200 hours, which will cover one of the two LTE's. Pending committee approval, DNR will approve 800 hours, but limited to reconnaissance work only and no timber sale establishment. Sorensen moved to apply for the grant, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

STATE AID FORESTRY ACCOUNT

This account is money that has been in a non-lapsing, dormant account. Margie asked Forestry to close out the account. Bilogan submitted a proposal for spending down the account. The funds are specifically tied to Forestry and cannot be transferred to other County expenses. Martinson moved to approve the proposal, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

FIREWOOD GATHERING PERMIT POLICY

Bilogan requested approval to delay the start date of firewood permits from May 1 to June 1 due to the ongoing wet weather, in order to prevent rutting of the forest roads and woodland trails. The June 1 start date for firewood gathering permits is a special request for 2013 only. Sorensen moved to approve delay to June 1. Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS & LINE ITEM TRANSFERS—Moved by Sorensen, seconded by Rudolph to approve payment for the listed vouchers. All aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS— There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

Gary Baier, Committee Chair

Jill Bradley, Recording Secretary