

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

DATE: February 11, 2014

TIME: 6:30 p.m. County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Martinson, Thompson. Rudolph was absent. Forestry Staff: Bilogan

OTHERS: Brian Hegge, Guy Hansen, RASTA. Manny Oradei, DNR.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 6:30 p.m. 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.

OVERVIEW OF RECREATION PLANNING PROCESS— Fred Heider, (Northern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission), explained the process of creating the 5-Year Recreation Plan and the need for input from municipal governments, outdoor recreation groups, and the general public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Bob Martini – Plan is incomplete. Needs additional sections: Economics to assist with marketing Oneida County tourism; Health; Additional non-motorized trails; Natural resource protection.

Tim Brown – Need to clarify connection between recreational infrastructure and the local economy.

Brian Hegge – It's a nice start but needs a little bit more. It doesn't do justice to the tourism and economic aspect.

Sorensen – This plan barely mentions hunting. I would like to see more hunting incorporated; there are skeet and trap shooting ranges.

Tom – I represent the Oneida County Walking & Biking Trails Council. I agree with the need for additional work on this plan. I would like to express appreciation for the inclusion of the Biking and Walking Trails plan that we worked on with NWRCP.

Thompson – Newbold is contemplating addition of one more boat landing along Hwy 47. Town of Crescent, there is potential to use the business park land as a recreational area.

Rudolph — I appreciate all the input this evening. The Crescent land has a diverse topography and I think there is great potential to develop a county wide recreational facility. It will take considerable additional work to incorporate that to this plan, but I think it needs to be done.

Joppa — I am a member of Northern Paddle & Trail. I would like to interject the idea of more emphasis on potential water trails in the plan. There is a variety of ecosystems and paddling opportunities on the Pelican...and Wisconsin rivers. That would bring in tourism dollars too.

Martini — Crescent is having a town meeting tonight so could not be here. What is the deadline for submitting comments on the plan?

Bilogan – We would like to use the plan as supporting document for grant applications due in May. We did provide the plan to the municipalities early in the process.

Joel Knutson –The town of Crescent is one of the few towns has no trails available in our part of the County Forest. We have begun conversations with what our residents want to see. We have plans to develop a town park, but that is still in its infancy.

Fred Heiter summarized comments received via email.

ADJOURN— With business completed, Rudolph moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Thompson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Jack Sorensen, Chair

Jill Bradley, Recording Secretary