

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: May 7, 2014

TIME: 4:00 p.m. Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Rudolph, VanRaalte, Zunker.
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: Manny Oradei, DNR

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 4:00 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.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION

It was moved by Van Raalte, seconded by Rudolph, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2014 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS—

Sorensen moved to approve minutes of the April 9, 2014 FLR Committee meetings. Rudolph seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

New committee members Alan Van Raalte and Lisa Zunker were introduced. Bob Mott was absent.

It was moved by Van Raalte and seconded by Zunker to nominate Rudolph as vice-chair of the committee. All aye, motioned carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

Year-to-Date Timber Stumpage Revenue \$737,673 which is a record amount. Things are quiet now with road limits and that with the wet conditions will slow down the harvest for the next month or so. Van Raalte asked whether the jobs were cut quickly due to the Willow Road issue. Fiene agreed, but added that those contracts were coming up for extension as well.

Timber Sale #1592. Bilogan reported that it will be reassigned because the contractor passed away. The partner is not yet sure whether they will retain the contract or try to transfer to another logger.

Timber Contract #1545 update. Bilogan explained that Graap Logging filed for bankruptcy and has an open contract with Oneida County. Wayne Wagler will complete the contract. The agreement with the landowner is to provide a couple of loads of firewood and after the job is completed Oneida County will gravel the road, if necessary, in exchange for access rights. Van Raalte moved to approve the access agreement. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT. Bilogan reviewed the report with the committee. Van Raalte asked whether severance payments to the towns is required by the state. Bilogan explained that it is and that all but 4 counties pay 10%. Van Raalte asked what the cost was to use the LTE forester. Bilogan responded that it was approximately \$12,000 but was completely paid through a DNR grant.

He also noted that working with RASTA to reduce recreation trail maintenance costs resulted in the first year that the trails did not cost the County levy money.

Rudolph commended the Forestry Department for producing one of the best annual reports. Van Raalte moved to present the annual report to the County Board. Rudolph seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

STEWARDSHIP LAND PURCHASE MOA & RESOLUTION. Bilogan explained that if the County approves the MOA and resolution, it places no obligation on the County. It simply streamlines the procedure to become eligible to obtain 50% matching funds to purchase land if the County was to add acreage within current County Forest blocks. Rudolph stated that it would to the advantage of the County to possibly purchase a landlocked 40 within a County Forest Block if one came available. This would facilitate timber sales and access. Rudolph moved to approve the MOA & resolution. Van Raalte seconded. All aye. Motion carried. It will be forwarded to the County Board.

TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF LUND CREEK BRIDGE. The ATV trail leading to the bridge was cut off when Heartwood purchased the land adjacent. The County has liability issues with keeping the bridge now; it has exceeded its mandated life span of ten years and is not on a state-funded trail. The bridge still serves a function, as it is still used by the snowmobile club. As is customary in these cases, the recommendation is that the County will transfer it to the owner of the 40 acres which contains the bridge. Corp Counsel will draw up an agreement. Rudolph moved to transfer the bridge to the landowner. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2014 SUMMER TOUR IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY. The Wisconsin County Forest Association's annual educational event will be held June 26-27. Bilogan recommended attendance to learn how other counties do things and meet peers. Rudolph moved to approve any interested committee members and staff to attend. Sorensen amended the motion that the department would pick up the fees. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried. Committee members will check calendars and let Forestry know whether they plan to attend so rooms can be reserved.

FORESTRY GENERAL ORIENTATION MEETING Scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on May 21, 2014.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- FISTA Training
- Discussion of Severance Payments
- Lund Creek Bridge follow up

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Karl Fate stated that it was a welcome change that comments could be made while the agenda items were being discussed, as opposed to formerly, when everyone had to wait until the end of the meeting.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Expenses totaling \$25,320.26 were presented to the Committee. Van Raalte moved to approve the expenditures and transfers, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT. With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Van Raalte, to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. All aye, motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
VICE-CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY