

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: May 13, 2015

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

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

OTHERS:

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 Rudolph, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. All aye. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Van Raalte, seconded by Rudolph, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2015 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Mott abstained. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—
Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$535,135.00
- b) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—None
- c) Review Spring timber sale bid results and award contracts. Average was \$950/acre. One bid was rejected due to error in calculations. Van Raalte moved to accept bids and to allow next highest bidder on Bergman jobs, if the references do not check out, since he is a new contractor to Oneida. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- d) Temporary Private Logging Access Agreement. Committee approved this agreement last year, however the logger did not get into the job. Van Raalte moved to approve the agreement with changed dates, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Bureau of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). Matt Adamczyk, Wisconsin State Treasurer (via teleconference).

Tia Nelson-Executive Secretary of BCPL presented a short history and goals of the BCPL. It manages the remaining 6150 acres of School Trust Lands, the School Trust Fund, and custodians of the original surveys records of the state.

BCPL has about 9,000 acres in Oneida County. The goals are to increase timber production, consolidate tracts, and improve public access. Through sales and trades, the BCPL is trying to consolidate their land and get outside of the County Forests. They are open to either approach, and the Stewardship loans are available to use.

Mott asked Bilogan's opinion. He responded that much of the BCPL acreage is low-lying and non-productive. He took the BCPL land in the entire county and rated it 1-4 by quality. Within the County Forest block there were 688 acres considered class one. There were 1635 acres of class four. They are considered non-productive, undesirable and incapable of

producing timber. Some are useful for hunting. Some of these forties are not even valuable for hunting, with no growth at all. This was all done from air photos, so a closer look would need to be taken on parcels that may be useful.

Rudolph noted that acquiring private lands entails surveys; would that be necessary with BCPL? Bilogan responded that between governments they can agree on a line without a survey. Sorensen asked Nelson what would be required in appraisals. She said they typically split the cost and move very quickly. Mott supports the idea of following up on this project and is pleased that the money goes to the libraries.

Matt Adamczyk asked why the BCPL is managing the land, when County Forests do the same thing. He is suggesting the idea of a partnership with three points.

- Turn over management of the land, keeping ownership, to Oneida County Forestry Department
- Deduct Oneida County expenses from revenues from the stumpage
- Split the remaining profit

After discussion, Rudolph asked what would be the next step if Oneida County did want to go forward. Adamczyk replied that the Board of Commissioners would discuss it and send out a letter determining interest and parameters.

Van Raalte asked if Oneida County would manage all of the BCPL land in the county or just in proximity to the County Forest. Adamczyk said he would envision Oneida County doing all the land, understanding that the isolated parcels here and there would not be feasible to manage. Mott asked for a proposal from the Board of Commissioners for the Committee.

ATV / UTV Program:

ATV/UTV Trail Ranking Tool. Bilogan explained the function of the ranking tool. He noted that the tool is purposely biased against road routes and discourages trails across private property. Van Raalte asked about multipurpose trails. Oneida County doesn't have any and Bilogan feels there is a safety issue with motorized and silent sports using the same trails. Rudolph moved to approve the ranking tool. Mott seconded. Felbab of OCATVA asked why no clubs were consulted. He also asked about trails that can't be closer than 2 miles to another. How does that affect trails that are going to be within 2 miles of trails in other counties. Bilogan commented that the user doesn't care if the trail is in another county, as long as it is connected. Mott suggested that before approving the motion, the clubs have an opportunity to give input. He withdrew his second of the motion. Bilogan thanked Rudolph for his support and stated that the clubs as far as he is concerned, there is no reason to rush. Sorenson put the motion to a vote, and it failed. The clubs will have until the July 3, 2015 meeting to respond with suggestions and questions.

Request from Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz ATV/UTV club to open Shingle Mill Rd. & Bass Lake Rd. for ATV/UTV use. Bilogan responded that it would require an ordinance change. He feels ATV routes are used as a last resort. He doesn't recommend allowing even temporary access on roads. He has concerns about ATVs damaging the newly repaired forest roads. The Forestry Department would work with the club to locate a trail in the forest to connect to the campground. He feels that opening roads will prevent clubs from wanting to work on an off-road trail.

The Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz agreed to work with Forestry Department staff to locate a trail corridor through County Forest land and assist the Forestry Department with obtaining estimates for the development of the trail, but still wants to be able to use the road until the

new trail is ready. The deadline for state ATV/UTV funding applications has passed for this year. Rudolph remarked that these machines are not made to run on roads.

Les Felbab asked about liability insurance. OCATVA carries liability insurance. Bilogan replied that the Forestry Department has received an insurance certificate for the Mudd-Nutz.

Bilogan asked the president of the Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz, Gene Dallman, if a trail can be located and developed through County Forest land that leads to the existing ATV/UTV trail, would the Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz enter into a contract with Oneida County to maintain the trail? Gene said yes, but he can only speak of behalf of the club during his 2-year term as club president.

Mott moved to open Shingle Mill Road from Co. Hwy G to the Enterprise campground and all of Bass Lake Road on a one-year trial basis, renewable each year until the trail is completed. The Forestry Department should submit an ATV/UTV trail development grant application to the WDNR by the April 15, 2016 deadline. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

RASTA 4-Year Plan. Guy Hanson noted this was for ski trails only. He went through the plan briefly. The club would like to extend the Cassian trail north to Beaver Lake Road and establish a trail head, which would give access from Hwy 47. It is a 2-1/4 mile extension and would require a kiosk and drop box at the trailhead. RASTA will construct the kiosk. Bilogan recommends installing a standard gate and fix the existing restrooms and shelter. Hanson said he was sure volunteers would help with the repairs. Bilogan added that this would incur costs for the County, and there is no budget for it, so things would have to be moved around.

There is a place on the Washburn trail that needs to be repaired to prevent water pooling. Bilogan will have to look at it to see what amount of bulldozing would be needed.

Rudolph moved to approve the plan except the yellow highlighted items, which will be looked at next meeting. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PARK MAINTENANCE BUDGET & LONG RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

There is an unplanned repair needed on the Almon Park parking lot. Highway estimate is approximately \$13,000. With all possible budget revisions, we are still \$1000 short. Bilogan will put in a new request for \$12,000 in the Capital Improvement request. If it is denied, there is an option to request to use the long range road repair funds. Sorensen moved to allow use of the Capital Improvement Fund. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

COUNTY FOREST ASSOCIATION 2015 SUMMER TOUR, MARINETTE COUNTY, JULY 8, 9, & 10.

Mott moved to allow Forestry staff and committee members to attend the Summer Tour. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

There was discussion about the Severance increase proposed by Van Raalte. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—Felbab requested an ordinance change allowing to use ATV/UTV to haul out deer or bear. He also requests allowing snowmobiles to ride anywhere on the county land.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers totaled \$10,323.23 were presented. Van Raalte moved to approve, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Trail Easements & Land Use Agreements.

2015 ATV/UTV Contract

2015 Oneida County ATV/UTV Program Manual.

Feedback on 2% Severance increase resolution (draft received at March meeting)

Possible ordinance amendments for ATV/UTV hunting and using snowmobiles anyplace on County land.

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Mott, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY