

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: August 5, 2015

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 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: Brian Hegge, Guy Hansen, RASTA; Bill Welsh, OCATVA; Brian Desmond, Corp Counsel; 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 procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Van Raalte, to remove the BCPL agenda item with the order of remaining agenda items at Chair's discretion. All aye. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Zunker, to approve the amended minutes of the July 1, 2015 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- Year-To-Date Timber Stumpage Revenue Report— \$595,936.47 Van Raalte moved to approve the revenue report. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried
- Award Timber Sale Contract – One job from spring sale readvertised; no bids for third time. Tracts 13-15 and 4-15 were awarded to high bidders, McRae and New Page respectively. Mott moved to approve sales, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- Bergman Bid Dispositions - Hanson 80 South had no bids and McNaughton bid was lower than Bergmans; forfeit both bonds. Van Raalte moved to forfeit bid bonds, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- Timber Sales For Disposition – Tassler Timber private sale #1646 and Tigerton #1596. Both cut to satisfaction. Paul recommended closing contracts and return bid bonds. Van Raalte moved to approve, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- 2016 County Forest Sustainable Grant Requests. Bilogan submitted proposal to apply for two grants; one for logging mats to have available, if the need arises, for loggers to get across wetlands. The second request is to fund 600 hours for an LTE to inventory invasive species, plan for control and monitor County Forest for invasives. Both grant requests are for 100%, if grants denied, no person will be hired. Mott moved to approve both the grant requests, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- Access agreement in Town of Woodboro – Cloverland Logging LLC requested to cross county forest to access a private sale. The logger has to leave forest as found. Mott moved to approve, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Closed session: A motion was made by Rudolph, seconded by Mott and approved unanimously by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1) (e)(g) conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. *Topic: Burrows ATV Bridges*

Upon returning to open session the committee announced the following action was taken in closed session: Oneida County's Corporation Counsel Office to write to McMillian & Pitz, who installed to the Burrows Lake ATV Bridges for the county, to notify them about the issue Oneida County has observed with the bridges and to ask the contractor what his proposed course of action is to fix the observed issues.

WOODBORO LAKES WILDLIFE AREA MASTER PLAN, PUBLIC COMMENTS.

The Committee directed Forest Director, John Bilogan, to submit the following comment on behalf of Oneida County. Oneida County is willing to sponsor the proposed ATV trail segment located on Oneida County Forestry land. However, Oneida County will not sponsor the ATV trail segment proposed for development on the state-owned Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area. Van Raalte moved to approve, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

SILENT SPORTS - RASTA

RTA Contract Update-- RASTA agreed to accept the contract as presented.

2016 Maintenance Contract.-- Although RASTA has some of the same concerns about insurance liability as they had with the RTA contract, Bilogan asked the committee for a motion to approve the contract so it could be forwarded to RASTA. That will give them and us time to see whether they will sign the contract. Brian Hegge submitted a proposal to Corp Counsel, in which the county would be willing to accept a reciprocal indemnification. We are still waiting for a response from the insurance company. If they agree, the contract would be amended before being sent to RASTA. Rudolph moved to approve the contract, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

SEVERANCE PROPOSAL RESOLUTION (SUPERVISOR VAN RAALTE).

Resolution language was changed to specify Class A roads. Logging trucks was changed to commercial trucks. Rudolph moved to forward the resolution to County Board. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried. Desmond recommended the resolution be forwarded to Finance for their once-over.

CLEAR LAKE LAND SALE UPDATE (IF ANY).

Bilogan provided the final sales amount after receiving the bill for the CSM. Sorensen moved to proceed with sending the resolution to County Board. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

The two previous Stewardship grant requests have been tentatively approved. In light of that, Bilogan brought a couple other parcels that have come available. One parcel abuts to the Forestry shop on the north. Bilogan feels that with the lake frontage, it would make an excellent campground. The existing home could be used to house a resident caretaker. The state confirmed that it would qualify for Knowles-Nelson. He recommended only pursuing the parcel if the plan is to put in a campground. Building on current infrastructure, adding a through road, adding showers and flush toilets, along with available electricity he felt that 50 sites could be filled throughout the summer. Mott moved to contact the landowners and take it to the County Board with the suggestion that it be purchased with Stewardship money. Rudolph seconded. Sorensen said he was opposed to taking more property off the tax rolls; and the County should not compete with private enterprise. Rudolph disagreed, saying the potential revenue would outweigh the amount received from taxes. Roll call vote, Mott, Rudolph, Van Raalte and Zunker voted aye. Sorensen voted no. Motion passed.

A second parcel came available. The four absentee owners asked whether the County would be interested in a trade; the parcel is completely surrounded by County Forest and they would like to get something more convenient for them. Sorensen moved to pursue a trade before offering to purchase. Rudolph seconded. Oradei noted that the DNR would be very pleased if the parcel can be consolidated into County Forest. All aye, motion carried.

2016 ANNUAL STAFFING REQUEST.

Bilogan presented the Department's request for four LTE's, two Forestry, one Ranger and one Parks. Hourly wages were increased on the Forester and Ranger positions in order to get more candidates. These are in addition to the 100% grant funded position requested earlier. Mott moved to approve, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Good Neighbor Policy discussion, invite Jane Severt and Henry Schienebeck
BCPL Update
ATV Trail near Lake Tomahawk
Sample resolution

VOUCHERS

Vouchers were presented to the Committee for a total of \$18,657.39; Van Raalte moved to approve payments, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:50 p.m. Sorensen moved to adjourn. Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Jack Sorensen, Chair

Jill Bradley, Recording Secretary