

## **FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** September 2, 2015

**TIME:** 4:00 p.m. Committee Room 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

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

**OTHERS:** Jane Severt, Gary Zimmer–Wis County Forest Assoc; Henry Schienebeck -  
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association; Jim Bollman, MSA

**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. All aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING—** It was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Van Raalte, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2015 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

**ATV/UTV TRAIL INTO LAKE TOMAHAWK AND OTHER AREAS IN ONEIDA COUNTY**  
Bilogan reported that the Town of Lake Tomahawk had already rejected the proposal. Since Oneida County and the Forestry Department have no jurisdiction, the discussion was for information only. Van Raalte noted that Nokomis is also having discussions about an ATV trail, so he wanted to know what landowners and silent sports people think about ATV's. Bilogan stated that the Forestry Dept can assist the clubs to submit an application for funding the trails, as requested, if all other criteria were met. It was noted, however, that the towns can directly apply for the funding instead of having the Forestry Department involved.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

**YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—**Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$829,639.97 which is only slightly less than last year.

**TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—**Contract 1580 completed by Fink Forest Products. Mott moved to return the deposit, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Timber Sale #1595 is in the heart of the Washburn ski trail area. The logger is putting in roads and is ready to begin cutting, as the contract must be completed by November 15.

**GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY PRESENTATION** (Jane Severt and Gary Zimmer– (WCFA) Henry Schienebeck - (GLTPA) The GNA allows states to work with Forest Service to perform timber management activities on Federal lands. The goal is to increase production, keeping loggers working, yet prices low enough that the mills will be able to remain open. All assistance provided by counties will be reimbursed. Bilogan asked whether the County Board would allow Forestry staff to go outside the County borders. He also noted that current staff would not be enough for the hours it would take. He recommended looking at planning and budgeting over the next year, and at this time next year, there would be a better feel for resources.

**PICKEREL CANAL BRIDGE BIDS** – Jim Bollman of MSA presented the bid results. Janke Construction was the low bidder and was recommended. Van Raalte moved to accept the bid of \$147,978.50, and allow staff to evaluate going with the alternate option. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Van Raalte moved 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.* Mott seconded. Roll call vote unanimous. At 5:05 p.m. committee entered closed session.

Committee returned to open session at 5:20 p.m. By roll call vote, it was decided unanimously in closed session to ask McMullen & Pitz to do 3<sup>rd</sup> party independent soil borings at boardwalks.

**FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2016 BUDGET** –Bilogan went over the Forestry Department accounts. The land account now has revenue from the Clear Lake outlot sales, which can be used to pay for appraisals of the Knowles-Nelson parcels. The Parks capital improvements line item has historically put \$20,000 in each year for major maintenance and repair. The budget plans for the new construction ski shelters, a few RASTA requests, and striping of the new parking lot. The campground account is always a money maker, although the constant theft of firewood is always a problem. Snowmobile and ATV clubs are covered by the state funding, no money from levy dollars.

Bilogan noted that he used a five year average to estimate 2016 revenue. Although last year was a record year, it was due to a “perfect storm” of rising prices, contracts coming due, etc. He does not expect a repeat of that in future years. There was discussion of the future of stumpage prices, and how the Good Neighbor Authority may impact Oneida County sales revenue. Rudolph moved to accept the budget as presented and forward it to the Admin Committee. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

#### **FUTURE EQUIPMENT PURCHASES**

Bilogan noted that the department has been saving to buy a new tractor and mower, and the plow truck is reaching the end its lifespan. The equipment fund balance is large, but he wanted to be sure Admin is aware that the plan is to spend those funds in the near future. Van Raalte moved to approve putting out a bid for a new tractor and mower. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

**ALMON PARK ASPHALT PAVING PROJECT.** -- Bilogan feels that the Highway Dept would be the only contractor able to get the job completed before winter. The committee preferred that the contract be put out for public bid and if the job is done in May, that will be sufficient. It will be advertised in the upcoming newspaper and specs emailed.

**UPDATE ON FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.** There is still ongoing discussion with owners of the 40 acre parcel in Lynne; a trade will be the first attempt. The parcel north of Townline Park is also a possibility, using another Knowles-Nelson grant. Bilogan noted that the County Board would have to approve the new Knowles-Nelson application and agree to pay the other 50% from the General Fund, as there are no more parcels to trade. Sorensen stated that he is opposed to this acquisition. He feels that it needlessly takes money off the tax rolls. Rudolph stated he felt this opportunity to bring recreational opportunities to the County Forest should not be missed. The committee voted 4-1 to submit a resolution to the County Board.

#### **LIST OF COUNTY FOREST PARCELS FOR TRADE CONSIDERATION.**

Bilogan brought two possible parcel suggestions to trade with the Lynne parcel. Mott moved to present the options to the owners. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

**NO UPDATE ON EXISTING KNOWLES-NELSON GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

**BURROWS LAKE GRAVEL PIT**

Town of Little Rice requested to be allowed to bury concrete, stumps and culverts. Bilogan is waiting for Planning & Zoning to delineate whether it is a wetland. If they get a favorable response, Little Rice will rehabilitate that portion of the pit.

**2015 WCFA ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24TH AND 25TH.** Sorensen moved to allow staff and interested committee members to attend. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS—**

- Felbab said that his family had used the new Almon Park Pavilion. It was a great place, and he complimented the Department for an excellent job done.
- He asked whether larger signs could be erected on Hwy 17 directing visitors to the Enterprise Campground. Bilogan said he would check with the DOT.

**VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.**

Vouchers totaled \$32,058.73 were submitted. Van Raalte moved to approve, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- Townline Parcel Resolution
- Pros/Cons of GNA

**ADJOURNMENT—**With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Van Raalte to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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JILL BRADLEY  
RECORDING SECRETARY