

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: December 2, 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.

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 Mott, 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 November 4, 2015 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT— Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$1,477,046.37
- b) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—Extensions requested for the following contracts: 1571, 1573, 1577, 1593, 1594, 1598, 1599, 1603. Mott moved to extend contracts, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- c) Student Archeology Project – The state historian would like any artifacts found to be curated in a proper venue. The Committee prefers to offer them to the tribes first. Corp Counsel will have to clarify whether the entire County Board has to approve the disposition of artifacts.

CLOSED SESSION NOT REQUIRED

LOG SPLITTER PURCHASE

The department rents a splitter for campground and parks. Purchasing one with available equipment money will pay for itself within 3 years, and it would be expected to last far longer. Van Raalte moved to approve the purchase, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

COUNTY FOREST ACCESS

- a) Trail Sustainability. There was discussion regarding trucks mudding and destroying trails. There are ongoing complaints that the public is prevented from accessing the County Forest. With that said, 75% of the county forest has access within ¼ mile of a trail. Sensitive trails have historically been bermed, gated or blocked in order to protect them. If it is not blocked any type of vehicle can use a trail. Bilogan stated that if additional trails are blocked off in order to save them from rutting, there will be a backlash from truck owners. Rudolph moved to direct Forestry director to use his own judgment with regard to closing motorized access to trails deemed not capable of sustaining motorized traffic. Van Raalte

seconded. All aye, motion carried. Bilogan volunteered to send a letter to town boards updating them on the new policy.

- b) Gate Open Policy. In order to sustain trails, winter gates are opened after gun deer season as there are generally frozen conditions. The process takes about 7 days to get them all open. Due to the unusually warm weather, the usual policy is not appropriate. Sorensen moved to allow Bilogan to use his discretion as to when to begin opening the gates. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried. Rudolph moved to amend the policy to "...following the 9 day deer season, depending on conditions." Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

LAND ACQUISITION UPDATES

- a) Langlois parcel. Owners have not wanted any parcels offered in trade. They stated that they have an offer and will give the County right of first refusal. Nothing can be done without an appraisal, and the committee directed that be done.
- b) Sugar Camp Input re: Meteor Land. Bilogan noted that Knowles-Nelson grant applications look at the town's wishes. Mott requested more information to provide regarding cost/benefits for the county and the town.
- c) Others – DNR still has not approved the Knowles-Nelson parcels' appraisals

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Bob Mott would like more information about the Good Neighbor Authority at a future meeting. He would like to have Henry Schienebeck come in to discuss.

Bill Welsh commented that he is glad ATV gates are closed, as trails are so wet that truck traffic would destroy them.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers totaled \$105,285.55 were approved by the committee.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Meteor Land – Sugar Camp
Good Neighbor Authority

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Van Raalte, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY