

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: April 6, 2016

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: Desmond, Corp Counsel; Oradei, DNR; Severt, WCFA

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 Van Raalte 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 Mott, seconded by Zunker, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) Dennis Schoeneck, an Oneida County logger was invited to offer a logger's perspective of Oneida County Forestry management. He feels that recreation often take precedence over logging in terms of access. He was complimentary about the working relationship with Oneida County. Other points he addressed:
 - The affect that weather has on cutting and length of contracts.
 - Recent MFL changes.
 - He suggested that Oneida County put up a billboard to advertise the fact that we are managing our forests for recreation and revenue. Rudolph and Van Raalte were supportive of the idea.
 - Logging on a "boom and bust" cycle; in most part due to weather conditions.
 - Logging trucks and roadways.
- b) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$449,059.
- c) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—Contracts 1647 and 1656 were completed. Sorensen moved to approve returning deposits. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried. Ten sales were presented for extension with increases as indicated on the attached list. Mott moved to approve contract extensions, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

JONATHAN BARRY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WISCONSIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS (BCPL) – Mr. Barry introduced himself and his associates, John Schwartzman and Tom German. He would like to re-establish and continue a good relationship with Oneida County. He explained the BCPL's mission and would like to continue the past discussions with Oneida County about land trades to help both entities on line control and cost-efficient management.

POSSIBLE BCPL LAND TRADE – Bilogan had maps to show BCPL land in County Forest blocks. He reviewed the categorization of the parcels by productivity. The determination of equitable trade would need to be discussed. This process will take some time and needs to be handled at the departmental level. Van Raalte stated he would prefer trade rather than purchase or using Knowles-

Nelson. Sorensen asked whether the trade could be done in increments, rather than one large swap which would take some time. Schwartzman agreed that is preferable. Mott moved to instruct the Forestry Department to begin discussions about trade and/or properties with BCPL. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

CONSIDER CREATION OF A TRAILS AD HOC COMMITTEE – DALE MAYO, VILAS COUNTY

Explained the positives and possible negatives and how their Vilas ad hoc committee came to be. About four years ago, some municipalities began to develop paved bicycle trails. The trails were great in the summer, but the snowmobile groomers knocked down signposts during the winter, as the snowmobile trails are wider. There were problems due to miscommunication. Vilas then started looking at ATV/UTV and equestrian trails. The user groups began to have some conflict over who could use the trails; this led to the creation of the ad hoc committee. With the emphasis on multi-use trails, the Committee has improved planning for future trails and positive communication between user groups.

In response to Bilogan, Mayo indicated that although they are getting more trail requests, but at this time it has been positive as far as businesses, representatives, and the County Board. Mayo said members of the Oneida County Forestry Department/Committee are welcome to attend their meetings and suggested the May meeting.

Mott asked how they selected representatives. Mayo said they approached the groups and asked for one representative of their choice to represent the entire user group. There are no loggers on the committee because it's not a trail group, just a user group. Schoeneck stated that a logger should be included because they do use the trails as well. Bilogan asked about using stumpage revenue to help fund the purchase of recreational land in order to link the trails. It was a consensus of the committee to continue to investigate the possibility of starting an ad hoc committee in Oneida County.

INQUIRY SUBMITTED BY J & M WOHLLEBER PERTAINING TO A POSSIBLE LAND TRADE LOCATED IN SEC. 2 OF T36N-R7E, TOWN OF WOODBORO

– Bilogan explained that the individuals have a small piece of land quartered by a county road. They asked if the county would entertain a trade so they could consolidate their acreage in one piece. He showed a map of the area and noted there would need to be an approval to withdraw the piece from County Forest Law. An additional element is an upcoming timber sale will be offered on the parcel. Bilogan noted that the Department has no need for the land, but certainly any formal sale would have to wait for the timber sale to be completed. It was decided to put the issue on a future agenda.

CHANGES TO THE MANAGED FOREST LAW (MFL) PROGRAM – MANNY ORADEI

Oradei distributed a handout with information, and once the law is signed, it will be put on a future agenda.

DISCUSSION ON OBJECTION OF WOODBORO KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP GRANT

Severt explained that the Woodboro 111 acre parcel application was reviewed by the Joint Committee on Finance, and an objection was made. A hearing should follow. Bilogan has not received any official notice of the reason for objection. He heard that one sticking point was the parcels submitted for the match, especially the parcels fronting Hwy 8, might have better use, possibly industrial. Bilogan noted that one of those parcels is the old CCC camp, which is an important historical site.

Sorensen asked Severt to arrange a public meeting with Sen. Tiffany and Rep. Czaja from the Joint Committee on Finance and the Forestry Committee to discuss this issue as well as future parameters and expectations.

MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANT PROPOSALS (ATV/UTV & SNOWMOBILE)

Bilogan submitted a list of grant proposals being prepared for 2016: Snowmobile maintenance; two projects for additional funded miles; ATV/UTV maintenance; and additional Troutes and trail miles. The ATV/UTV trail additional miles will be broken into three segments, due to the expense of two bridges and a culvert. Rudolph moved to approve the proposals' submission. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to sec. 19.85(1) (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Topic: Possible offers to purchase two parcels to enter into county forest:

LANGLOIS -SENW, SEC 29, T37N-R4E and
HANSON -SWSE OF SEC. 5, NWNE OF SEC. 8, T35N R9E

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

PRESENTATION RE ADA TRAILS – In response to a request from Sorensen, Bilogan explained the ADA trails and what facilities were accessible for wheelchairs, etc. Each Forest Block has a trail that can be accessed with a key to permit users to drive on the trails in a vehicle. Sorensen is interested in information about how to create some paved hiking trails that would be accessible. Bilogan explained that ADA has very specific parameters

TRUCK BID OPENING – The bids for the 2016 work truck were opened. There were two bids, Parsons of Eagle River at \$31,695.35 and Rhinelander GM at \$31,000. Van Raalte moved to accept the low bid. Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ALMON PARKING LOT SPEED BUMPS – CONTRACT AMENDMENT

It was determined that three permanent speed bumps should be installed in the new Almon Parking lot when the blacktopping is done in the spring. The additional cost is \$2850. Van Raalte moved to approve the contract amendment. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mott has received a couple letters from lakeside businesses, thanking the Department for allowing ATV's to use road routes. The increase in business is noticeable.

ACCOUNTING

Vouchers totaled \$1286.88 were approved by the committee.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Wohlleber Possible Land Trade
- MFL Program Changes
- Burrows Pit Reclamation

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Mott, seconded by Van Raalte, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY