

FORESTRY, LAND, & OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 24, 2012
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Committee Room 2, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Baier; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Shidell, Sorensen. Bilogan, Forestry; Jennrich, Planning & Zoning; Desmond, Corp Counsel.

OTHERS: Bob Berns, Kathleen Kelly, Leonore Neumann, Lisa Bilogan, Karl Fate, Natalene Cummings, Alan & Sharon Van Raalte, AJ Schrameyer, Dee Ann Allen, Alice Soulier, Sue Benzel, Mark Fleeter.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 9:00 a.m. Chair Baier 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 JUNE 26, 2012 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2012 Forestry Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY TRACY BENZEL—Mr. Benzel presented information and data regarding environmental impacts of mining, with emphasis on Northern Wisconsin.

LAC DU FLAMBEAU TRIBAL MEMBER VOTING STATUS. Hintz reported that the Administration Committee discussed forming a Tribal Concerns committee. The Committee voted not to create a new committee. Martinson made a motion to send a resolution to the County Board recommending allowing voting status for the tribe. Motion died for lack of a second. Sorensen made a motion to add an ex-officio member from the Lac du Flambeau tribe to sit on the mining portion of committee. Martinson seconded. Corp Counsel stated that County Code requires County Board approval to appoint an ex-officio member, eligible for per diem and mileage but non-voting. All aye, motion approved.

POLL/QUERY FOR COUNTY BOARD—Shidell moved to send the amended resolution to the County Board and rescind the original resolution that was approved last meeting. Sorensen seconded. Rudolph moved to amend the resolution, lines 12-14. Shidell seconded. All aye. Motion carried to amend. Motion to send amended resolution to County Board passed 4-1 with Martinson dissenting.

RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS WHERE SCHATZLEY VOTED—Sorensen moved to ratify prior actions of this committee when Schatzley voted improperly. Rudolph seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Martinson dissenting.

DEVELOP PROPOSED INFORMATIONAL GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION PLAN RELATED TO MINING IN ONEIDA COUNTY TO INCLUDE:

PREPARATION OF TIMELINE FOR MINING PROJECT. Hintz distributed a chart showing preliminary items as a draft to start developing a public participation plan. BOB MARTINI stated that a public participation plan is essential in order to obtain input from policy experts, technical people and citizens. The first step is to set goals for the project management. There are policy decisions that must be made before saying yes or no to the mining process.

RESOLUTIONS FOR COUNTY BOARD—Followup to last meeting. The resolutions were not signed correctly at the last meeting, and needed to be resigned.

REPEAL OF MINING POLICY RESOLUTION – LEGAL QUESTIONS. No action taken

VOUCHERS, BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS. It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Sorensen to approve payment of single voucher. All aye. Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS- No action taken

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Tracy Benzel – I wish you would ask the Lac du Flambeau people what their interests are.

Dee Ann Allen – The tribal council will determine who will sit on the committee for each meeting. Regarding the committee...that's disappointing because we have many other issues we could be collaborating on. Regarding the reference to 300 acres we hold in Oneida County that represents 3500 tribal members. We do have Oneida County in our ceded territories.

Karl Fate – It's disappointing that this committee is going back to the County Board with an ultimatum on this issue. You need to have public debate at this time and you're trying to circumvent that. I have asked, appealed, for a new committee to be formed in order for public interest to be served. Unbelievable that the Chairman of the County Board could have stacked a committee like this in favor of pushing a mine and that explains why there has been no progress.

Bruce BigJohn – I see some movement. We moved from broken promises to the token Indian at the table. We do have 3500 members and their voices need to be heard. I think Town of Lynne should have a vote. They're constituents of yours and I believe that vote needs to be heard. It's good to sit at the table and participate but that token Indian thing doesn't work for me.

Kathleen Kelly – Mr. Benzel pointed out in his presentation that all these things are within the law even though it sends pollution into the lakes and rivers. I want to remind you that this whole country got into an uproar because of things Wall Street did that were legal but not ethical. Just because something is legal doesn't mean that it's right or ethical.

Alan Van Raalte – Aquila, Josephine and Tamarlane have never posted a profit. Josephine and Tamarlane's websites show that auditors express doubt that they can continue as going concerns. The committee needs to listen to the independent auditors and investors. If a company who owns a leasing agreement files for bankruptcy, that agreement is an asset

and could be sold to the highest bidder. The county would have no control over who purchased it. That will be determined by a bankruptcy court and in the case of these three companies, that could be a Canadian court.

Jane Schrameyer – Why are you doing this again? Jack Sorensen, you were instrumental in getting a law that would allow a pipeline going from Crandon down through the Wisconsin River. It's still in effect. What a useless piece of legislation. The mining moratorium was passed and is still in effect. Why are you here at this meeting trying to put mining in the Northwoods. The whole state of Wisconsin voted for the moratorium. The state of Wisconsin doesn't want mining in Wisconsin.

Mark Fleeter – Followup on Alan's comment about mining companies' assets. §70.375 abolishes the per ton mineral severance tax and establishes net proceeds tax based on profits. There are no guarantees of tax revenue even on million of tons of ore removed. Amended in 1983, increasing deductions and decreasing tax rates. Senate bill 240, the so-called "Bad Actor" bill, was gutted in committee to exempt mining companies' environmental track records in consideration of permit process. Civil permit violations outside Wisconsin may not be examined, so that's another weakening of our laws. §144-8883 state laws controlling ground water standards states only DNR makes the rules. He listed numerous examples of mining companies' exceptions to these laws.

Tina VanZile – If you don't talk to your constituents you will make them more powerful. The more you don't have those meeting and talk with them the stronger they will get. My strength is gathering and forming alliances. I am going to help these people so they'll...you'll have to hear them.

David Schatzley – Town has veto power to zoning change, Town has ordinance that says any zoning change must be approved by town board and Town has an ordinance regulates mining in the Town of Lynne. Under the police powers of the state, has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. There are some stumbling blocks. The disrespect that the committee and the county board treated the town and the tribe, you are making the roadblocks bigger.

NEXT FORESTRY/MINING COMMITTEE MEETING—TBD

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Rudolph, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

GARY BAIER
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY