

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 4, 2013

TIME: 9:00 a.m. Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Baier; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Shidell, Sorensen, Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: Bill Welsh, Les Felbab, OCATVA. Joel Flory, Guy Hanson, RASTA. David Schatzley, Town of Lynne chairman. Jon Leith, DNR. Kathy Schuch, Mary Woheleler, Robert LeClair, Perch Lake area landowners. Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel.

1. 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.

2. APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Motion carried.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2013 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to approve the minutes of August 7, 2013 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

4. FOREST MANAGEMENT:

a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—

Fiene reported that the August stumpage revenue was \$188,152.97, an all time high for any August. Stumpage year to date is also at an all time high. Bilogan noted that this may significantly decrease the Forestry deficit that was reported to the County Board on Sept. 6.

b) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to act on the following timber contract as follows:

Contract # 1551 held by Biewer WI Sawmill was closed as satisfactorily completed, and return full cash deposit in the amount of \$4372.00

c) November Timber Sale bids will be opened on November 5, 2013 and contracts awarded at the November 6, 2013 Committee meeting.

5. ILLEGAL GARBAGE DUMPING ON COUNTY FOREST

Chief Deputy John Sweeney attended the meeting to discuss the law enforcement for littering. He explained statutes consider volume for fine amounts or citations. Sorensen asked whether the fines could be increased. Bilogan provided some pictures of dumping violations. More often than not, there is no way to identify the perpetrator. Forestry staff then has to clean it up and pay for the disposal. Martinson stated that he would encourage any citizen who witnesses it to report it to the Sheriff's Department. Baier suggested all the towns work together to encourage cleanup. Nokomis provides bags and will collect bags and appliances gathered by hunters or others who come across these dumps, and take it to the landfill.

Rudolph moved that the Committee direct Bilogan to work with the Sheriff's Department to prepare a press release outlining the consequences of littering and the dumping of garbage.

Martinson seconded. Shidell recommended that fine amounts be reviewed to increase the range of possible fines. All aye, motion carried.

6. TOWN OF LYNNE SEVERANCE

David Schatzley, Chairman for Town of Lynne appeared to discuss the premature destruction of Willow Road. The estimate for replacement is \$1.5 million. The evidence suggests that this is a result of logging truck traffic. He requested an increase in stumpage severance pay to the Town of Lynne to help pay for the repairs. The road is only 8 years old and will not last much longer. Baier asked whether they are considering an overlay or complete replacement. Schatzley said an overlay would not be sufficient.

Bilogan explained that 10% of the stumpage revenue goes to towns with County Forest, proportional to the amount of Forest in the town. Lynne received 42% of the severance payment. Additionally, the state pays the Town of Lynne approximately \$10,000 annually. He also stated that towns with County Forest are allowed to crush gravel from County pits at no charge. Since 2005, the Town of Lynne has saved about \$140,000 in gravel costs. Lastly, both lanes on Willow Road are showing wear. Pulp trucks on Willow Road are also coming from private and state land, not just the County logging projects. They also receive \$160,00 per year from gas tax.

Shidell asked whether the construction of the road was at fault. Schatzley responded that the Town has a poor, wet mucky base for the road, which is unique in the County. He added that the gravel savings are irrelevant and they haven't crushed gravel in years.

Shidell concluded that the unique problem in Lynne should not be the responsibility of other County residents. Lynne has two options; rebuild it up to higher standards or put on road limits.

Baier suggested that Town of Lynne talk with the company who built the road based on the DOT engineering plan.

Bilogan provided documentation from Timber Producers, which shows studies done on road traffic by axels and loads. A number of vehicles could have a greater impact on roads than logging trucks, including school buses and other vehicles. Decreased Willow Road weight limits would require loggers working in the Town of Lynne to make more trips to the mill, which will influence how much they can pay for the timber. That will affect Oneida County timber sale revenue which will ultimately reduce the average dollar amount of severance payments made to the Town of Lynne

Martinson stated that Willow Road is the only thoroughfare north to Hwy 70. He suggests putting this topic on the next meeting and have some experts discuss points.

Baier said the road should last 25 years and this is an engineering problem. Raising severance would not solve the problem, and would require additional payments to other towns. The County is facing a shortfall now, and I can't see putting money in every 8 years.

Schatzley agreed that it was an engineering problem but that's not the point now.

Martinson stated that the County should help. Is there other money from logging that could go to this issue?

Shidell stated that this is not a County problem and he will not vote for additional money.

7. Motion by Shidell, second by Rudolph to adjourn into closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, and 19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. The issue to be discussed is the Almon Park Pavilion Project. Discussion held in closed session.
8. **The Committee returned to open session.** Only action taken was to schedule another Committee meeting for 9/11/13 at 8:00 a.m., at which time the Committee will travel to view the construction at Almon Park.
9. **PERCH LAKE LANDOWNERS CONCERNS.** Bilogan summarized the past construction at Perch Lake Park. Recently, nearby landowners have contacted him regarding speeding on the road, after hours use and other concerns.

Mary: With increased park usage, people are speeding to the point we are fearful of crossing the road. The town has put up some signs which has made an impact, but there is still an issue.

Kathy: we went down after a bicycling event, and there were overnight campers. It is posted no camping, but if people see that, they will think they can camp too. There was a fire set by a tree a couple weeks ago. We put it out and luckily the ground was wet enough that it was just smoldering. There is a group that comes every Thursday, three busloads of kids. They are jumping off the pier, garbage in the lake. We talked to them and they denied responsibility. You have put a sign up but this has been going on for weeks,. Woodboro told us that Forestry has requested that the road be widened. For what purpose?

Bilogan responded that he would like it to be widened to County Park road standards. It would increase safety and the town is receiving tax money based on the required road width. We have a ranger that makes the rounds, but he cannot be there all the time. If you ever have a problem, please contact the Sheriff's Department. As far as the town road goes, that has to be between the town and the local residents.

Mary: We are concerned about future development. We would like to know what other policing can be done as the usage continues to increase.

Kathy: I wanted the county to hear that things are fine as they are, let's not add to it.

Bilogan: RASTA may be doing more work, but if there are other issues, especially with regard to Perch Lake Park, please come to the meetings to express your concerns.

10. **PROPOSED RELOCATION OF ATV ROUTE.** Bilogan provided a map of the new ATV route to replace the miles that were lost. The club would like to get the trail open. He asked for permission to install the gates and berms. Sorensen moved to accept the proposal as presented, Martinson seconded. All aye. Motion carried.
11. **CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST ASQ RESOLUTION.** The resolution came from Forest County and their coalition to encourage harvesting more timber. This resolution is similar to the one passed last year. It encourages Nicolet to increase harvesting. All the County Forests are being asked to pass the resolution. They want to present it as a package. Sorensen moved to pass the resolution with two minor typing corrections, Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

12. **WISCONSIN COUNTY FOREST ASSOCIATION (WCFA) ANNUAL MEETING.** Sorensen moved to allow Forestry staff and any interested committee members to attend the meeting on Sept. 27, 2013. Rudolph seconded. Four members voted aye, Shidell voted no. Motion passed.

13. **VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.**

Vouchers which totaled \$5074.16 were approved by the committee.

14. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Les Felbab, OCATVA – Why can't townships help with this? It's the big items that get dumped, washing machines and such. The dump has hours that lots of people can't use. Can't the towns have dumpsters for that stuff. The Forest is certified so we can't dump oil filters and grease cartridges. It's a pristine area up here, we should be able to enjoy it.

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

- Town of Lynne Severance
- Almon Park Pavilion
- 2014 Forestry Budget

16. **ADJOURNMENT—**With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Martinson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

GARY BAIER
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY