

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 5, 2014

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

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

OTHERS: Brian Hegge, Guy Hansen, RASTA. Manny Oradei, DNR.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 9:00 a.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 AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2013 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING—

It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Thompson, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion and to approve minutes of the January 8, 2013 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Martinson, to extend the deadline for signing contract #1592 to March 5, 2014 pending the Town of Lynne board decision on weight limits. All aye, motion carried.

RHINELANDER AREA SILENT TRAILS ASSOCIATION (RASTA):

Goals, Accomplishments, and Budget Review - RASTA President Brian Hegge. Money left in budget at the end of the year was about \$1200. RASTA purchased a one-year old Tidd-Techgroomer which increased efficiency. About 1/3 mile of beginner mountain bike trail was reconstructed. Ongoing trail maintenance work continues. The plan is to upgrade Lee's Loop starting in the spring.

Bilogan felt they did a good job and the budget was acceptable. The accounts were not as flush as expected early in the year, but they transferred money to cover their line items. \$5000 approved for putting up the groomer building has been almost exhausted, and the building is still not on site. Shidell asked whether the project will be completed in 2014 with the existing budget. Hegge stated that would be the case.

Bilogan suggested that in future the RASTA payment would be a lump-sum and that way the County would not have to examine the budget in detail. Shidell suggested that if the money were earmarked in a couple large categories, the Committee would have a sense of what was spent, without having to oversee each purchase. The Chair directed Bilogan to work on that issue.

2014 RASTA special event requests. RASTA wants to allow campers as in the past for the Rock n Root event. There are not many, and it is mostly the clean up crew. The second event is RASTA's long-standing fundraiser-bicycle race, but RASTA wants to use Washburn trails this year to showcase the upgraded trails. They have a sponsor for the

first time. Shidell moved to permit the events subject to the recommendations of the Forestry Department. Thompson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Bob Schuch- As one of the three landowners closest to the Park, he has concerns. There are not enough rangers to monitor the park all the time. He is concerned that camping for the race may lead to unauthorized camping and/or fire damage in the Park. He has found a small fire burning under a pine tree, which he extinguished. He feels allowing camping during the race is going to create problems down the road.

TOWN OF WOODBORO ROAD WATER DAMAGE. Sherry Tischendorf, chair of the Town of Woodboro. There was a great deal of damage to Trout Creek/Memorial Park roads from timber harvesting. The Town spent \$12,000 to repair them, because they are town roads which must be plowed. Bilogan agreed that after a significant rain event the road washed out; however it was a few years after the harvesting was completed. The Forestry Dept. is willing to help mitigate damage by providing gravel, possibly a culvert or other assistance.

Tischendorf also stated that the Nose Lake Road & Trout Creek Road intersection was totally destroyed. That road was never built to handle the traffic. She asked that the Town be notified when a timber sale is imminent. Bilogan suggested that the Town may want to open a gravel pit on the Forest, for a ready supply. Only the Town would be permitted to remove gravel. Forestry and the Town will work together on the roads issue. Chair Sorensen directed Bilogan to get the Trout Creek road problem corrected.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) 2013 Timber Stumpage was finalized at \$1,329,642.81; Bilogan noted that severance payments are scheduled to be mailed within the week.
- b) Year-to-Date Timber Stumpage Revenue is at \$80,807.91 which is significantly lower than average. The cold and snow have affected loggers' work schedules.
- c) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Thompson, to act on the following timber contract as follows:**
Contract #1569 held by Marshall Logging closed as satisfactorily completed, return cash deposit.
Contract #1587 held by Central Wis Lumber closed as satisfactorily completed, return cash deposit. All aye, motion carried.

PERMITS VS. EASEMENTS. Discussion arose from the current encroachment violation issue from prior meetings. Three landowners have driveways that cross County Land to get to their own land. Bilogan explained that an access permit is not transferable, therefore a new owner would need to obtain a new permit. Individual easements are not issued because County Forest Law does not allow easements except for a very few limited reasons. Jane Severt of the WCFA stated that the issue is a balance between public interest and public good. A private easement would infringe on public access to public lands. She suggested the Committee may want to consider withdrawing the strip of property from the County Forest. Committee members felt issuing easements would be preferable. Sorensen asked whether adverse possession could be an issue. Severt replied that the law says adverse possession cannot be used against County land. Bilogan said that in this unique situation, the County could withdraw it and offer to sell it to the landowners. Sorensen

asked that Corp Counsel check into the legalities. Oradei from DNR added that the State would be more likely to approve if the proceeds were used to purchased replacement land. Shidell moved that Corporation Counsel explore the options of withdrawing the land and selling it to the owners. Thompson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

WILLOW ROAD WT. LIMIT ORDINANCE, STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSSION.

Sorensen felt it was a positive meeting, and there are grant possibilities. A memo was received from Town of Lynne stating they will not put weight limits on Willow Road during frozen conditions. Sorensen said he hoped the Town could also get the South Turcott Road up to standards so that could be used too.

5 YEAR RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING. Sorensen noted that a quorum should attend, so if a Forestry Committee member who has committed cannot attend, let Forestry know as soon as possible so a County Board supervisor can be found to substitute.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Follow up on Access Permits
- Annual Report

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Expenses totaling \$174,024.65 were presented to the Committee. The list of line items transfers for end of year 2013 was circulated; it was agreed that the Chair would sign the LIT when the form was complete. Thompson moved to approve the expenditures and transfers. Shidell seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT. With business completed, it was moved by Shidell, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. All aye, motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
VICE-CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY