

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 12, 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: 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 FEBRUARY 5 AND FEBRUARY 11, 2014 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS—

It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Martinson, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion.

Martinson moved to approve minutes of the February 5 and February 11, 2014 FLR Committee meetings. Sorensen seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Oak Wilt presentation - Brian Schwingle (WDNR) presented a short informational program about Oak Wilt, in Oneida County in particular. The disease causes quick leaf drop and kills oaks within two months. General recommendations to minimize danger is not to damage or prune oaks during the growing season, April to October.

Legal opinion - Easements for county forest land. Corporation Counsel feels that Oneida County cannot provide permanent easements, as it cannot be foreseen whether they may or may not disrupt use of County land on the County Forest. No action taken.

Willow Road Weight Limit Ordinance update. Bilogan reports Lynne Town Board voted to rescind the ordinance during future frozen road periods. The town also agreed to complete the rehabilitation of S Turcott Road by the end of 2014 construction season. Sorensen complimented the Forestry and Highway Departments and David Schatzley, Lynne Town Chair for working together to resolve this issue.

Forest Management:

Year-to-Date Timber Stumpage Revenue \$300,443.64. February was the best ever, and March looks to be another record month.

Timber Sale(s) for Disposition. Contracts closed: Wiitala & Vozka #1534; Futurewood #1582; Smith Logging #1547; and Thums #1568. Shidell voted to close all contracts as recommended and return deposits. Martinson seconded. All aye.

Timber Contract #1592 update. The contract had been held because the logger was unsure of his ability move lumber in the Town of Lynne due to the Willow Road issue. That issue has been resolved, and the contract is now signed. No action taken.

Oneida County 5-Yr. Outdoor Rec. Plan

Public Comments – Comments from the public meeting were distributed to committee members. Bob Martini stated the plan as presented is a good start, but there should be a mechanism to add to the plan during the five-year period.

Karl Fate suggested using the property originally purchased for industrial use in the Town of Crescent to enhance recreational opportunities. Shidell and Sorensen stated their preference would be to sell the property and get it back on the tax rolls. Shidell moved to recommend to the County Board that the property be sold and the proceeds be used to purchase property more suitable for industrial development. Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Economic Impact – Sorensen questioned the accuracy of the data regarding seasonal homes in the County. Another issue raised was the accuracy of tourism numbers, as there was a great deal of construction and related influx. Martini felt the surveys are adjusted for variations. Shidell had doubts that the amount of money spent via tourism was accurate. He felt that does not align with actual sale tax receipts.

Jay Joppa had suggested more paddle and canoe trails. There was discussion about the recommendations for additional boat landings, particularly the proposed landing in Newbold.

Discussion turned to the rec plan. Martini commented that the plan is for identifying needs and opportunities. Bilogan stated that the County only deals with recreation on the county forest, save for snowmobile trails. The plan may have needs and opportunities, but someone has to take the lead developing additional recreation unless the Forestry Dept is directed to undertake the projects by the Committee or County Board. Each town has a section in the rec plan and local projects can be included in municipal plans. This makes them eligible to apply for Stewardship grants. Shidell recommended that the county work with the towns cooperatively, but continue to focus only on the county forest. Martini disagreed, citing Vilas County bike trails as an example. Bilogan replied that the bike trail system was not in any way a project of Vilas County Forestry.

Bilogan recommended that the next time a 5 Year Recreation Plan is done, that the County Forestry Department and the towns create separate plans. He added that having statements in the plan without plans of implementation will not produce results.

Sorensen requested Bilogan to arrange a presentation by Vilas County to understand how the entities worked together to create the bike trail system.

Karl Fate asked whether someone would put together a list of items that could be put into the plan now, versus long-term suggestions.

Another public comment was a request to develop Town Line Park into a campground. Sorensen moved that no campground be developed there. Shidell seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Bike Plan Amendments – Bilogan noted that this rec plan does not include the Oneida County Bike Plan. There had been disagreement in 2010 about whether multiple use of some of the trails would be considered and the bike organization did not want to be included at that time. Bilogan presented two versions of trail maps; one with bike trails only and the other showing the segments of trails he feels would work with multiple uses. Martinson stated that restricting these trails to bikes loses the concept of something for everyone. XX disagreed, saying that is not the theory of Oneida County Biking, Walking and Trails Council. Thompson moved to incorporate the revised trail maps into the plan as well as the language to allow for multiple use opportunities. Shidell seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Revised Recommendations & resolution

Bilogan will return to NCWPC with the revised recommendations, and bring the revised plan and resolution to the April Committee meeting.

ATV/UTV Trails

Little Rice ATV Club submitted a new trail segment proposal. This will allow users to have a woodland trail instead of using Bird Lane. They will develop the trail themselves if the County approves. Bilogan noted that if any portions of the current hiker/hunting trails are sacrificed, they would create new loops so no miles are lost. Bilogan plans to get on the agenda for town of Little Rice, if the Committee approves, just so the Town knows what the plans are and can express any comments. Thompson moved to let the club move forward, Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carries.

Nokomis ATV Club - sponsorship and new trail proposal. The club is in the process of submitting required paperwork to the forestry department. The proposed trail is on both county and state land. The club was not aware that they had to do more than ask permission. There are wetland crossings, however, so there will be steps needed to build a sustainable trail.

Bilogan recommended sponsoring the trail, once the club obtains all the necessary permits and paperwork from the state and county. Shidell moved to sponsor the group on the condition that they first receive notice that state allows the trail. Thompson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Dam Safety Inspection Report proposals. Bilogan provided the bid results for the Spruce Lake Dam safety inspection. Thompson moved to award the project to Morgan & Parmley Lid, the low bidder. Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Motorized (snowmobile, ATV/UTV) grant applications. Bilogan provided a list of planned 2014 grant applications. Informational only, no action taken.

Spring 2014 WCFA meeting, March 20-21 in Marshfield, WI. Martinson moved to approve Forestry staff and interested committee members to attend the meeting. Thompson seconded. All aye, motion carried. No committee members present planned to attend.

Sustainable Forestry Grant for Discover Wisconsin episode. No motion was made to approve using the grant for the expenditure.

Sustainable Forestry Grant for Surveillance Equipment. Sorensen moved to use the grant to purchase needed surveillance equipment. Thompson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Annual Report
- Vilas County Bike trails

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Expenses totaling \$10,549.09 were presented to the Committee. Shidell moved to approve the expenditures and transfers, Martinson seconded. All aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT. With business completed, it was moved by Shidell, seconded by Martinson, to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. All aye, motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
VICE-CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY