

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: October 1, 2014

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: Lester Felbab, OCATVA. Guy Hansen, RASTA.

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 TH FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Van Raalte, seconded by Mott, to approve the minutes of the September 3 and September 9 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—
Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$1,003,420.26 and several more sales are starting up.
- b) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—None

A motion for closed session was not required. The Town of Lynne has a meeting next Wednesday, so discussion will be next month.

PERCH LAKE PARKING LOT

The expansion is being worked on at this time. The expansion is in the 5 year Rec Plan. It accommodates the overflow during special events and the town requested this be done. The residents of the area were unhappy with the expansion originally. We sent agendas for this meeting to them but received no further feedback. The town was adamant that park visitors do not park on the road and was eager to have this completed. It will be graveled, but not until next year.

SEVERANCE PROPOSAL FROM SUPERVISOR VAN RAALTE

Further discussion of the figures provided by Van Raalte. He said the state is trying to increase PILT payments, which would help the town. Mott and Rudolph felt that more road data needs to be gathered, during fall, winter and spring for a picture of year-round usage by County Forest logging vehicles before making any decisions about increased severance. Both Little Rice and Lynne take pit fill from the Wilson Road gravel pit for municipal road repairs, which is a significant offsetting item. Sorensen noted that budget constraints will make it difficult to either put money aside for land purchase or additional severance. It will not happen in the upcoming budget.

The Town of Lynne may continue to use material from the pit to improve south Turcott road. Bilogan reported that the DNR requires the Town of Lynne to obtain a storm water permit

before beginning Turcott Road repair work. Freeman Bennett and Bilogan and the DNR specialist will look at the water crossing for a water crossing permit, which is also required.

LAND ACQUISITION ACCOUNT PROCESS

Information only. Bilogan explained the history of the Land Acquisition account in prior years. Over time the balance of the account built up. Multiple times, when the FLC requested to use funds to make purchases, the County Board rejected the request. Eventually, the County Board took approximately \$500,000 from the account to meet budget shortfalls and dismantled the process of adding funds from stumpage. The account is still active, but has no money. There is no way to budget for when land comes available, and it would take a 2/3 majority of the County Board to approve using it, which historically has not approved of land purchase.

The new Stewardship program offers County Forests a 50% cost share on the appraised value of land purchased by the County. Sorensen suggested submitting a resolution that would pre-approve purchases, up to a stated limit, in order to streamline the process. Bilogan stated that a resolution would need to be passed to even submit the Stewardship application for each purchase. Rudolph noted that the request for 2.5% of stumpage to go to the land account is on the current budget request. Mott said there has to be some method of preventing the account to be “raided.”

Bilogan noted that County land adjacent to County Forest could also be funded at the 50% appraisal value, as long as the land is added to the County Forest. He knows of several parcels that would qualify.

RASTA LONG RANGE GOALS

Brian Hegge said that a cold mailing had been sent that outlined “long range goals” for new trails, but they are items that have been previously approved by the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Bilogan reported that the Wilson Pit berm was completed at a lower cost than expected. A gate needs to be installed yet. He showed pictures of the new 4 foot berms and asked whether the committee felt they were adequate.

VOUCHERS – NO LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers totaled \$120,118.45. Van Raalte moved to approve, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- County-owned parcels that could be used for the Stewardship match
- Town of Lynne contract re gravel pit.
- RASTA contract renewal
- DNR Annual Plan
- Ginseng
- Fall Timber Sale

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Mott, seconded by Van Raalte, to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY