

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 4, 2016

TIME: 4:00 p.m. Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Mott, Rudolph, Van Raalte
Zunker excused
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: Hanson, Reidinger RASTA; Oradei DNR; Welsh, Felbab OCATVA; Wayne Wagler;
Dallman Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz; Robb Jensen Oneida County Supervisor.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 4:00 p.m. Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order, noting that it was 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 THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Mott, seconded by Van Raalte, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) **YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—**
Fiene reported that the 2015 stumpage revenue was \$1,723,228.97. The YTD for 2016 is \$155,763.47. He said the market is very bad at this time, as bad as he has ever seen it, as nothing freezing means no winter jobs can be cut. Mills are not taking wood because they have too much inventory.
- b) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—**Contracts #1571, #1577, #1624, #1628, and #1635 were closed satisfactorily. Van Raalte moved to return the deposits, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- c) **Timber Contract #1545, Wagler Forest Products.** Wagler agreed to take over the 2 year contract with no extensions, after previous logger went bankrupt. Wagler stated he cannot get in to cut without freezing conditions. Access agreements need to be extended for both the logger and the County. He requested the contract be extended 1 year and no penalty be charged. Fiene and Bilogan are not in favor of extending without the increase. Committee agreed to table the issue until the March meeting.
- d) **Verso Corporation update.** The company filed for bankruptcy protection and many loggers have only received 25% of money due to them. Verso's stated plan is to eventually pay in full. Verso has contracts to harvest in Oneida County; corporation counsel stated to Paul that nothing in our contracts can prevent them from moving into the jobs whenever they decide.

Creation of Oneida County Recreational Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Robb Jenson, Oneida County Board Supervisor appeared on the recommendation of the Administration Committee. The purpose of the new committee would be to cooperatively work together as a unit with consideration from different user groups and local community groups to develop proactive solutions that

would eliminate or marginalize potential conflicts. The committee's goal would be to provide recommendations for single and multi-use trails or routes for all approved uses and enhance economic opportunities for local communities and Oneida County municipalities and tourism interests.

Bilogan responded by saying that he sat in on one of the Vilas County meetings. There are differences between the two counties; Vilas has an actual Tourism Department. This Forestry Dept deals with coordination, working among the different user groups frequently. If other departments have issues about recreation, "quite frankly I think problems resulted because to this day, no one has asked me or the department a question about some of the recreational issues that came in front of them. I think that could be resolved with some guidance to the other departments." One thing this will do is lead to possibly additional trails, but certainly additional costs to Oneida County with assistance developing the trails, contributing force account equipment and labor, especially if we deal with user groups that we have not yet been involved with on a county level.

Mott noted that the ATV clubs are young and do not yet have a central body like the Snowmobile Council. He likes the idea of getting some of these groups together and looking at the idea of a recreation committee as recreational opportunities evolve.

Jensen feels there is an opportunity and asked the committee to look over the handouts. He suggested they invite Vilas committee members to a future Forestry meeting. Rudolph felt some of it might be good for Oneida County. Van Raalte asked what time commitment this would put on the department. Mott asked that a member of the Vilas committee to attend next meeting to answer more questions. The committee decided to address the issue further at the April Meeting.

Perch Lake Shelter boiler had a mechanical failure; it was a condensation problem. It is repaired now.

RASTA 2015 Budget line item transfer requests Approximately ¼ of the RASTA budget is in non-lapsing accounts. At the end of 2015 they proposed to transfer approximately \$1891 in lapsing account surplus to non-lapsing accounts. Bilogan asked whether Oneida County should continue to oversee how RASTA spends their contract money. There was discussion pro and con. Mott felt they should be free to spend the money and bring projects to the committee as they arise. Sorensen felt there should be some oversight. It was decided to put the question at a future meeting. Mott moved to allow the funds to be transferred. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2016 Long Range Plan & 2015 Accomplishment Report

Mott requested adding Consolidation of County Forest Lands to the Long Range plan, in order to show land acquisitions. Van Raalte moved to approve the plan with the addition. Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Good Neighbor Authority Mott will investigate whether the state can offer an incentive to make the program more attractive to the county.

Pickereel Snowmobile Bridge Update. The project has been successfully completed. The bridge is finished, on time and slightly under budget. Bilogan provided a cost breakdown and picture of the bridge.

Spring WCFA Meeting Attendance Bilogan noted the meeting dates are March 17 and 18. He requested any committee members who plan to attend let the Department know as soon as possible so registration and reservations can be made. Sorensen moved to allow staff and any committee members to attend. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS— Bill Welsh asked who is responsible for redecking bridges. Bilogan explained that would fall under rehabilitation and the bridge has to be at least 10 years old to qualify.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers totaled \$221,025.26 and line item transfers totaling \$5,795.00 were presented to the committee. Van Raalte moved to approve, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Closed session: Van Raalte made a motion, seconded by Rudolph to enter into closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Roll call vote was unanimous, all aye, motion carried.

*(Topics: #1 - Land appraisal & possible offer to purchase SENW, Sec 29, T37N-R4E (Langlois)
#2 - Status of Existing Knowles-Nelson Steward. Grant proposals and possible offers to purchase the parcels listed below:)*

a – SWSE of Sec. 5 , NWNE of Sec. 8, T35N R9E (Hanson)

b – NESE, SESW, Pt of SWSE & Pt of NESW of Sec 15 in T36N R7E (Williams)

Committee returned to open session. Van Raalte moved to have Corporation Counsel draft proposals for all three parcels. Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Closed session: A motion was made by Mott, seconded by Van Raalte and unanimously approved by roll call vote, to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. Roll call vote was unanimous, all aye, motion carried. (Topic: Annual Performance Evaluation of Forestry Director).

Committee returned to open session. All agreed that Bilogan exceeds expectations and the annual review packet should be sent to LRES. Mott requested to attend the second evaluation with LRES.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Good Neighbor Authority
- Rec Trails Ad Hoc Committee (April)
- RASTA Budget
- Timber Sale Extension Request (Closed session)

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Mott, seconded by Van Raalte to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY