

RESOLUTION #3-2016

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, as stated in ss. 28.11(5)(b), administration of county forests requires counties with land enrolled in the county forest program to develop a county board approved annual work plan and budget; and

WHEREAS, said plan should outline the projects and work duties scheduled for the upcoming year, as well as the accounts and funds required to execute the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2016 Forestry Department budget at their annual budget meeting held on November 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Committee unanimously approved the 2016 Oneida County Forest Work Plan at their monthly committee meeting held on January 6, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors accept the recommendation of the Forestry, Land, & Recreation Committee and approve the 2016 Oneida County Forest Work Plan as set forth in Exhibit # 1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2016 Oneida County Forest Work Plan shall be appended to the existing Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Forestry Department send a copy of the 2016 Oneida County Forest Work Plan and the associated county board approved resolution to the WDNR.

Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: _____

Approved by the Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee this 6th day of January, 2016.

Consent Agenda Item: _____ YES _____ NO

Offered and passage moved by: _____ Supervisor
_____ Supervisor
_____ Supervisor
_____ Supervisor
_____ Supervisor

53 _____ Ayes

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55 _____ Nays

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57 _____ Absent

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59 _____ Abstain

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61 _____ Adopted

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63 by the County Board of Supervisors this _____ day _____, 2016.

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65 _____ Defeated

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67 _____
68 **Mary Bartelt, County Clerk**

_____ **David Hintz, County Board Chair**

2016 WORK PLAN FOR THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

In 2016 Oneida County Forestry Department management activities
will be accomplished under the following accounts:

Account	Revenue			Expenses			Requested
	New	Appl. Cont. Appropriations	Total	Personnel	Other	Total	
56110 Co. Forest	1,349,769.00-	8,000.00-	1,357,769.00-	276,178.00	88,716.00	364,894.00	992,875.00-
56111 St. Aid For Rds.	11,750.00-	8,500.00-	20,250.00-	0	20,250.00	20,250.00	0
56116 St. Aid Wildlife	3,900.00-	0.00	3,900.00-	0	3,900.00	3,900.00	0
55210 Co. Parks	59,350.00-	8,000.00-	67,350.00-	184,498.00	63,420.00	247,918.00	180,568.00-
55212 Campground	3,500.00-	0	3,500.00-	0	2,090.00	2,090.00	1,410.00-
55410 St. Aid Snowmo.	300,825.00-	0	300,825.00-	0	300,825.00	300,825.00	0
55412 St. Aid ATV	58,715.00-	0	58,715.00-	0	58,715.00	58,715.00	0
Total	1,787,809.00-	24,500.00-	1,796,309.00-	460,676.00	537,916.00	998,592.00	797,717.00-

FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Annual County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting

The Annual County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting between the Oneida County Forestry Department (OCFD) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was held on October 02, 2015. The purpose of the planning meeting is to provide a forum where both departments can jointly establish and agree upon County Forest Management Goals for the upcoming year.

Individuals present at the 2015-16 County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting were DNR County Forest Liaison, Manny Oradei; DNR Northern Area Supervisor, Phil Theiler; DNR Forester, Jon Leith; DNR Fisheries Biologist, John Kubisiak; DNR Wildlife Manager, Michele Woodford; Oneida County Forest Director, John Bilogan; Oneida County Assistant Forest Director, Paul Fiene; and Oneida County Forester, Eric Rady. Items discussed were County Forest Time Standards, Wildlife Habitat funds, proposed timber sales and harvest acreage goals, reforestation, County

Forest Roads, forest health and protection issues, forest reconnaissance, forest blocking, and SFI Forest Certification issues.

Timber Sale Establishment

Approximately 2000 acres of mature timber will be harvested in 25 areas as specified in Section 202 of the WisFirs forest reconnaissance computer printout. This will entail approximately 800 acres of Northern Hardwood thinning and 800 acres of Aspen harvest for regeneration. In addition, approximately 400 acres of miscellaneous timber types will also be harvested. The sale areas are distributed throughout the three County Forest Blocks (Enterprise, Cassian-Woodboro, and Lynne-Little Rice). The allowable cut for 2016 is 2,002 acres. The estimated value of this 2002 acres of timber sales is approximately \$1,480,000.

The labor required to establish the aforementioned timber sale acreage will be provided by the OCFD with assistance from DNR Forestry personnel. In addition, in 2016 the Oneida County Forestry Department will also have assistance from two LTE Foresters. Both of the LTE positions combined will be 2,000 hours in length, and are funded exclusively with levy money. Said positions will be limited to work related to timber sale establishment and updating of old reconnaissance.

Acres by Forest Cover Type Scheduled for Harvest in 2016

Forest Cover Type	Total Acres on County Forest	Acres Scheduled for Harvest in 2016
Aspen	32,233	802
Cedar	2,591	31
Balsam Fir	61	0
Red Maple	1,435	79
Northern Hardwood	13,658	802
Red Oak	2,322	49
Red Pine	2,135	92
White Pine	357	34
Black Spruce/Tamarack	7,908	47
Swamp Hardwood	1,518	32
	Total Acres Scheduled	2,002

The 2,002 acres scheduled for harvest in 2016 lie in all three blocks of the County Forest. Approximately 25 separate timber sales will be established to address the scheduled acres to be harvested.

Due to unforeseen factors such as wind storms, insect or disease outbreaks and other acts of nature, the above scheduled acres may change. A goal of establishing 2,000 acres is planned.

For more detailed information regarding the acres scheduled for harvest, such as which compartments/stands are scheduled, contact the Oneida County Forestry Office at (715) 369-6140.

Timber Sale Administration

It is anticipated that between 35 and 45 timber sale contracts will be active 2016. This contract activity will be spread throughout the year with fall and winter being the most active times. Department involvement will include contract administration, sale inspection, and fiscal record keeping. A harvest of 35,000 cord equivalents with an equivalent value of approximately \$1,480,000 is anticipated. The haul permit system will continue to be used for pulpwood, and wood scaling will be utilized for saw logs. Weekly timber sale inspections will be conducted by both County and DNR personnel when sales are active.

Forest Reconnaissance

Forest Reconnaissance work scheduled for 2016 includes the updating of reconnaissance (recon) information that is older than 15 years as time permits. A total of approximately 3000 acres of recon update is anticipated.

Forest Protection

Cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be sought to protect the forest from insects, disease, and forest fires. Cooperation from the DNR will also be sought to assist in the eradication of Glossy Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard. These two non-native invasive plant species were found in the Enterprise Block of the County Forest in 2013. A combination of chemical and mechanical treatment was performed on these non-native invasive species in 2014. Monitoring of these sites showed no additional growth in 2015. In 2016, the OCFD will hire an LTE who will be performing additional surveys for invasive species in high use areas of the County Forest. In addition to surveying, the LTE will also perform mechanical and chemical control on existing and newly discovered populations of invasive

species. An invasive species plan will be developed by this employee. This LTE position will be for 600 hours, funded 100% through a Sustainable Forestry Initiative grant, and will work closely with the Land and Water Conservation Department.

With the recent discovery of Oak Wilt in the Woodruff area, Lake Nokomis area, and in the Town of Lake Tomahawk, the OCFD will continue to monitor oak stands for any signs of Oak Wilt. If it is found, all attempts will be made to isolate the infection and prevent additional spread. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will be contracted to help control nuisance beaver damage. Isolated beaver colonies that have been identified as posing a threat to timber productivity, or causing damage to County Forest Roads and Trout Streams will be targeted for capture and removal.

Forest insects and diseases already in our area, and/or projected to emerge or migrate into our area were discussed. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in Oneida County in October of 2014. The result of this discovery is that Oneida County is now quarantined against the movement of ash log/pulp products and all firewood out of the county without the proper documentation. The OCFD will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the DNR to devise a strategy to minimize the environmental and economic impact this discovery may have on the County. The OCFD will focus more on harvesting White and Black Ash during normal timber sale establishment, especially within a 15 mile radius of the initial EAB discovery.

Reforestation and Plantation Release

Establishment of small irregularly shaped clear cuts ranging in size from 3-10 acres will be established in scattered areas adjacent to the Washburn Recreational Trail System. Upon completion of the aforementioned harvest, the harvested areas will be planted with fast growing coniferous species to provide evergreen cover along the trail.

The reforestation efforts described above will greatly reduce the visual impact of subsequent timber harvests planned for the area surrounding the Washburn Recreational Trail by providing a natural visual screen. Time permitting, several recently thinned hardwood stands will be chain scarified in order to expose mineral soil and prepare a seed bed for Oak, Maple, Pine, and Birch trees.

No additional conifer planting is anticipated for 2016.

Forest Certification

The Oneida County Forest is certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI certification requires periodic random audits of forests that are certified under this program. In 2015 no significant issues were identified by Wisconsin County Forest programs certified under SFI. The following is a list of minor items identified by SFI as needing attention, and the action plan developed by the DNR and adopted by the Oneida County Forestry Department to address the areas of concerns.

SFI Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

No new CARs were issued following the 2015 SFI Audit. However, one opportunity for improvement (OFI) was issued. This is:

1. Wisconsin County Forests shall confer with affected indigenous peoples with respect to forest management practices, as indicated by a program for communication which addresses use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples.

The OCFD will continue to regularly contact the local tribes any time management activities are planned to take place within the McCord Indian Village. The OCFD will continue to issue Tribal Gathering Permits, mostly for the harvesting of Balsam Fir boughs. The Comprehensive Land Use 15-Year Plan, which is available on the County's website and in the office, details the permit process for Tribal people to harvest non-timber forest products on Oneida County Forest lands.

Wildlife Management

In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, wildlife management activity on the County Forest will center around forest openings maintenance, habitat trail mowing, seeding hunter hiking trails, and timber sales designed to promote both game and non-game wildlife habitat.

In addition to those projects listed above, State Aid Wildlife funds have also been budgeted in 2016 for the following wildlife habitat projects:

- 1) Control encroachment of undesirable vegetation into wildlife openings and hunter hiking trails with a combination of prescribed burns and mowing.

- 2) Control damage to forest roads caused by beaver by contracting with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for removal of undesirable beaver colonies.

County Forest Roads

In 2012 the Oneida County Forestry Department identified 29.7 miles of existing County Forest Road that required widening and/or resurfacing to remain compliant with Wisconsin Department Of Transportation (WDOT) specification standards for County Forest Roads. To address these road deficiencies, the Oneida County Forestry Department developed a 4-Year Road Widening and Resurfacing Plan. The 2015 construction season marked the third year of road rehabilitation under the widening and resurfacing plan. In 2015, Bass Lake Road, which measures 3.59-miles in length, was resurfaced with gravel and widened to 16 feet, which is the required width specified by the WDOT Co. Forest Roads. In 2016, Zimmer Road, which measures 7.09 miles in length, is scheduled for widening and resurfacing.

The Forestry Department's culvert replacement plan calls for 5 aging and/or otherwise failing culverts to be replaced annually. Because the culverts scheduled for replacement were relatively small in size, (18-24 inch diameter), they will be installed with Forestry Department equipment and personnel.

In addition to the specialized projects mentioned above, normal road maintenance, including but not limited to: grading, signing, wash-out repair, spot graveling, brushing, mowing, and beaver flood control, took place throughout the county's 30-mile forest road network.

Equipment and Facilities

Each year an amortized allotment of funds is budgeted in a non-lapsing account for the replacement of existing department equipment. In 2016, the Forestry Department scheduled and budgeted for the replacement of an existing 1/2 ton, 2-wheel drive pickup truck, equipped with dual high side storage boxes.

Parks & Recreation

Parks

In addition to the timber and wildlife management programs mentioned above, the Oneida County Forestry Department will also administer and maintain a campground and two day-use parks in 2016.

At 160 acres in size, Almon Park is the largest and most popular day use park maintained by the Forestry Department. Some of the more popular features offered at Almon Park include a large swimming beach, 18-hole disc golf course, picnic shelters and several miles of picturesque hiking trails. Perch Lake Park offers a heated shelter building, lakeshore picnic facilities, an ADA compliant fishing pier, and serves as the main trail head for the Washburn Silent Sports trail system.

The Enterprise Forest campground features 11 oversized campsites, 2 toilet buildings, onsite firewood, potable water, and is directly connected to the Oneida County ATV/UTV Trail System.

2016 Park Capital Improvement Projects:

- Resurface a 30,000 square foot asphalt parking lot.
- Install parking lot speed bumps.
- Replace 1 small swimming beach shelter building.
- Repair swimming beach retaining wall.
- Tree pruning.

Recreational Trails

Miscellaneous recreational opportunities provided by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2016 will include: 35 miles of cross country ski trail, 25 miles of hiking trail, 12 miles of mountain bike trail, 10 miles of snowshoe trail, 6 miles of Fat tire bike trail, 395 miles of snowmobile trail, and 30 miles of ATV/UTV trail. In addition to those trail systems mentioned above, the Oneida County Forest offers hundreds of miles of unimproved woodland trails open and available to the public for recreational use.

2016 Recreational Trail Capital Improvement Projects:

- Resurface 8 miles of ATV/UTV trails.
- Build & install infrastructure at a newly developed ski trail parking lot / trail head.
 - Trail Pass Drop Box.
 - Kiosk.
 - Gate.
 - Signs.

ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jack Sorensen, Chairman

Bob Mott, Member

Thomas Rudolph, Vice-Chair

Alan Van Raalte, Member

Lisa Zunker, Member

January 6, 2016