

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: April 5, 2017

TIME: 3:30 p.m. Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Pence, Zunker
Mott was excused. Van Raalte arrived at 3:50 p.m.
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: M. Oradei, WDNR; G.Hanson, RASTA; Cindi Stiles, Lac du Flambeau; Tim Calhoun, Northwoods Passage Snowmobile Club; Les Felbab, Bill Welsh, Ray Mathy, Jim Cleary, Larry Ryberg, Jim Wendt

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 3:30 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 Zunker seconded by Pence 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 Pence, seconded by Zunker to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2017 and March 8, 2017 Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$530,846.66.

TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—Zunker moved to close contract 1603 and return deposit to Tigerton when invoices are paid and roadwork complete. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.

CONTRACT EXTENSIONS—Pence moved to extend Contracts # 1636, 1638, and 1639 at 10% increase for one year. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried. Contracts 1585, 1589, 1590 are held by Bob Smith Logging. All have reached the four-year mark through extensions. Recommend extending to a fifth year, since the weather has been warm during the past winters. If not renewed, sales would have to be resold and will likely only bring ½ the price of the current ones.

Corporation counsel, Thomas Wiensch, advised the Forestry Committee not to extend the timber sale contracts as it could be viewed as being unfair by other contractors. Forestry Dept. still recommended extending the contracts, with the caveat that only these three contracts could be worked in winter. The other two contracts he holds are not to be worked in frozen conditions. Secondly, no additional bids will be accepted from Bob Smith Logging until the three contracts are completed. Zunker moved to extend at 0% increase, Pence seconded. Zunker amended her motion to include the conditions noted. Pence seconded. Roll Call Vote. All aye, motion carried.

BUFFER ZONES ASSOCIATED WITH MCCORD VILLAGE—Fiene explained that as McCord Village is a culturally significant site, the Department would like to establish 50-foot buffer zones with no timber management around areas of importance. The location of the sites is not published to prevent looting. The Forestry Dept. would like to add more buffers, which will then total 70-80 acres with no management. If new sites are located during cruising, the foresters will paint a line and notify the State Historical Society and tribal representatives. Cindi Stiles, agreed that was appropriate and it has worked well in the past. She gave a brief overview of the village history. Sorensen moved to create the buffers as designated by the Forestry Dept. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Snowmobile Trail Admin & Funding (Trail 51 South of Hwy K to Lincoln Co. line). Bilogan explained that this trail is a part of what is known as the Bearskin Trail. In the winter Oneida County administers the snowmobile trail located on Trail 51, south of Hwy K. This winter, the DNR posted signs indicating that the trail south of K was open for fat tire biking. Neither the county nor the Northwoods Passage Snowmobile Club was informed by the DNR that the signs would be posted and/or why they felt the signs needed to be posted. There has been a confrontation at least twice between a biker and the club. We contacted the state and their answer was biking was allowed on state trails, and that now includes fat tires in the winter. The state also said snowmobiles must slow down to 10 mph in the presence of bikers. The county and club are concerned about safety and liability.

Jim Wendt, president of the Oneida County Snowmobile Council stated that this exact issue was brought up at a recent state snowmobile conference. When a DNR representative was questioned about the bike signs, we were told that biking was approved as an allowable recreational use on the Bearskin Trail in the original 1971 master plan. Guy Hanson, RASTA, agreed that bikes should not share trails with snowmobiles. RASTA grooms fat tire trails and they should be separate trails. Tim Calhoun, president of the NWP snowmobile club brought up the point that if the state takes over managing the trail, private easements will be lost both to snowmobile and bikes.

Bilogan noted that the state said they would provide some options before this meeting, but he did not receive anything. Sorensen directed Bilogan to contact Sen. Tiffany and Rep. Felkowszki about the issue.

Status report on Cruisers Road ATV Maintenance & Development application. Bilogan asked whether he should submit a request for funding when the state is balking at completing their portion of the trail. Sorensen directed Bilogan to compose a letter to Sen. Tiffany and Rep. Felzkowski asking for their support.

Pence made a motion, seconded by Zunker to convene in closed session. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried. Committee entered closed session at 4:40 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(g), conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Topic: Burrows Lake Bridges, located in the Town of Little Rice, E1/2 of the NE1/4, Section 10, T36N-R5E.
2. 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. Topic: Possible acquisition of a 108.43-acre parcel of land surrounding Gillette Lake, located in the Town of Enterprise (Pt. of Govt. Lots 1,2,3,4 & SWNE, Sec 19, T35N-R9E).
3. Approve minutes of the closed session on March 8, 2017.

Return to open session at 5:20 p.m.

Bilogan reported the application for a Sustainable Forestry Grant for the development of a timber hauling road through the Washburn Silent Trails Area, located in the Town of Woodboro, Sec's 1 & 12, T37N-R7E has been approved for \$35,265.

Oneida County snowmobile trail season length statistics. Bilogan provided a line chart showing the number of days the snowmobile season ran for 18 years. No pattern was detected, beyond the fact that the past three years have been shorter seasons.

Two Out-of-County Training Opportunities for Forestry maintenance technician. One is general safety offered at no cost by the insurance company, the other is for mining (gravel pit) workers, at a cost of \$80. Zunker moved to approve both trainings for Chris Nehls. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.

13th Annual Sustainable Forestry Conference. (Florence WI, April 20, 2017). Pence moved to allow travel for staff and committee members who want to attend. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Committee discussed and selected a standard meeting time of 3:30 p.m. for future Forestry Committee meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—None

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers which totaled \$1717.30 were presented to the committee. Zunker moved to authorize payment, Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 2017 Spring Timber Sale, May 3, 2017

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Pence, seconded by Van Raalte to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY