

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** June 7, 2017

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m. Committee Room 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

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

**OTHERS:** Oradei, DNR; Reidinger and Hansen, RASTA; Severt, WCFA

**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 Van Raalte seconded by Zunker 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 May 3, 2017 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

#### YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—

- a. Fiene reported that the May stumpage revenue was \$ 32,549.42
- b. Hwy Q blowdown red pine salvage had one offer; Mott moved to award direct sale contract to Wiitala & Vozka, Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- c. Contract 1648 (Whale Tail). Zunker moved to modify the contract to address 16 acres of storm damaged hardwood. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- d. Forest Management Challenges within Washburn Lake Silent Trails Area
  - i. Bilogan explained the background of the 800-acre area, and how current market conditions, aesthetic concerns, and allowable harvest numbers affect harvesting, now that the area is used heavily for recreation. He noted that Silent Trails Area sales usually have additional regulations to mitigate the impact of harvesting on recreation. This comes at a cost, as a job with many regulations receives lower bids. Reidinger requested a bigger buffer zone along the trails so the sun doesn't melt those parts of the trails. Bilogan felt the buffer zones on the last cut were extremely even, but if that isn't sufficient, he may start looking at not harvesting the timber. Felbab asked how the state trails are managed. Oradei explained that many state trails run through pine or hardwood, which is managed differently, but the small stands of aspen are cut up against the trail. Fiene added that the 192 acres of mature aspen will start deteriorating if it isn't cut, and there will be increasing fallen trees across the trails. Oradei suggested talking with Marathon county who seems to be managing this issue to everyone's satisfaction. Mott moved to approve the Department harvest plan with RASTA's approval of buffer zones. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.
  - ii. Bilogan explained the planned development of a permanent haul road to offset some of the restrictions previously required. The land has been acquired and just need to schedule the construction. He asked if RASTA had anything to add. Reidinger stated some concerns about rutting, then freezing. Bilogan explained that the trail will be smoother than it would naturally, as the department would construct a 12-foot wide road and would be open only to timber

management and recreation uses. The exact placement will depend on topography and associated costs. Sorensen motioned to move forward with construction, Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried

Possible acquisition of 231-acres of privately owned land surrounding Gillette and Wickham Lake, located in Sec. 19, T35N-R9E.

- a. Bilogan attended the Enterprise Town Board meeting of May 11, 2017 to request the town's approve of the County's possible acquisition of the 231 acres described above. Written approval is required by Knowles-Nelson grant application. The town had concerns about loss of revenue from property taxes. What could the County do to offset this loss? Would the county consider taking over that .83 mile segment of town road? Bilogan recommended doing so, if the committee approves.
- b. Bilogan gave an informational presentation pertaining to the 231 acres described above.
- c. Discuss/act to formally request the Oneida County Board's approval, by motion or by resolution, to continue the pursuit of the 231 acres described above. Pence moved to forward a resolution to County Board, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried

Discussed Assembly Bill 338 pertaining to the possible sale of BCPL land to the WDNR and possible county management of said land after sale. Sorenen noted that the end user ends up being the County Forestry Departments. Bilogan summarized as follows: The DNR would become owner of BCPL lands using state portion of the Knowles-Nelson funds. The proposal is for the County Forests to manage the properties and keep the stumpsage revenue. However, the BCPL lands in Oneida County are approximately 70-75% unproductive, and scattered around the county. Fiene noted that if these parcels aren't surveyed, there would be a large cost in time and money to set blue lines. Informational only, no action taken.

Compensation for the new Forester 1 position is greater than the entry level amount budgeted. The 2017 budget for wages/salaries will have a small shortfall. Sorensen moved that the excess for 2017 be covered by the Forestry Department budget, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Engineering expenses related to reconstructing the Burrows Lake ATV Bridges. The contractor says he is going to submit a plan of his proposed specs and once we approve the plan, he will move forward with reconstruction. The plans will be reviewed by our engineer prior to allowing contractor to begin. Oneida County is applying for permits needed and contractor will pay the fees.

Bayfield County Forestry Summer Tour agendas were distributed to the committee members.

Agenda item to discuss approval levels for various contract types and forward recommendations for changes to Ordinance 3.09 to the Administration Committee for consideration. No action taken, put on a future agenda.

Scheduled a special meeting for Rudolph Shelter dedication at Almon Park for June 20, 2017 immediately following the Oneida County Board meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS—**

RASTA requested consideration of allowing overnight dispersed camping on bike trails. There was also a request to mow the ski trails more frequently.

#### **VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.**

Vouchers which totaled \$4291.72 were presented to the committee. Zunker moved to authorize payment, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- Additional recreational development requested by RASTA.
- Agenda item to discuss approval levels for various contract types and forward recommendations for changes to Ordinance 3.09 to the Administration Committee for consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With business completed, it was moved by Mott seconded by Sorensen to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.. All aye. Motion carried.

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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JILL BRADLEY  
RECORDING SECRETARY