

## **FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** August 2, 2017

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

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

**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 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 Pence seconded by Van Raalte to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2017 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—Fiene reported highest July revenue ever at \$14,6510.93 Second highest year to date at \$838,169.98
- b) TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—Van Raalte moved to close completed contracts #1681 and #1669. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried
- c) Fiene presented updates to the 15-year Comprehensive Land Use plan. Most are due to becoming FSC certified. Van Raalte moved to approve changes. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.

### **ENTERPRISE BLOCK ATV TRAIL EXPANSION PROJECT**

It is proposed to combine the new PelCho Mudd Nutz ATV trail and a Hodags snowmobile club trail, by moving the snowmobile trail. This will reduce road running by half and increase safety. The result is that the three bridges to be built on the new portion of trail will need to be upgraded to increase the load-bearing capacity to handle snowmobile-grooming equipment. Bilogan reported the cost would be approximately \$12,000 and he would like to pay for it from parks capital improvement, since all bridges will be on county land. The \$3,000 wear decking would be paid by the Hodags. Van Raalte moved to upgrade the PelCho bridges using \$12,000 from Parks capital improvement funds. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Bilogan then added that although bridges are paid for with the ATV grant funds, if the County purchases the bridges and provides them to the contractors, there would be no sales tax, saving several thousand dollars, which can be used for other expenses in the project. Pence moved to proceed with the purchase, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Bilogan reminded the committee that the project will require a conditional use permit.

Bilogan asked for approval to select a contractor for the bulldozing and fill for the trail. It will not require bids, as the cost will be less than \$25,000. Van Raalte moved to approve a contract that meets all requirements of Corporation Counsel, with signatures to be obtained after the fact. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT** – Bilogan reported that Corp Counsel was not willing to rewrite the 3.09 Purchasing ordinance to amend Forestry procedures to reduce requirement for signatures. He was told to take it to the Admin Committee. Van Raalte will follow up on this subject.

**BURROWS BRIDGES** – The amended plan has been received. The committee had planned to have an engineering firm review the plans and make recommendations. The review is estimated at \$10,000 and does not need to be bid out. Zunker moved to use Parks Capital Improvement funds to have MSA review the plans. Pence seconded. Roll call vote: Pence aye, Van Raalte aye, Zunker aye. Sorensen abstained. Motion carried

There was discussion about selling a portion of the former Townline Lake Park property and using the proceeds towards purchase the Enterprise parcels. The recreational encumbrance could be transferred to the Gillette-Wickham piece. The National Park Service (NPS) and DNR would have to approve this transaction, but there is no question it is in the best interests of the visitors and citizens of Wisconsin. Sorensen moved to begin initial work to sell a part of the Townline Park property to offset the purchase of Gillette-Wickham. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried

Bilogan is concerned about the Gillette-Wickham owners; specifically, who is authorized to negotiate for each group. Corp Counsel suggested beginning preliminary title work on the 10 parcels, which will probably total around \$1000. Bilogan was directed to do so.

Request by RASTA to add some primitive or rustic campsites on the bike trails. Bilogan explained the difference. He also informed the Committee that any campsite will require permits and oversight by the Dept of Agriculture as a campground. He feels that the Department has many projects at this time, and that this request be tabled at this time. The Committee agreed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**—There was a request to widen the road into the campground or at least put a turnabout. Bilogan explained that the road is 20 feet wide, which is 4 feet wider than required. He will take that request under advisement.

Bilogan requested authorization for Eric Rady and the new forester, Joe Renik, to attend the Snowmobile/ATV funding meetings in Wausau. Sorensen moved to approve, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Bilogan announced the harvest started at Washburn this morning and already has had two people stop by to complain about it.

**VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.**

Vouchers which totaled \$21,508.28 were presented to the committee. Van Raalte moved to authorize payment, Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried

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

A tentative meeting scheduled for August 23, 2017 at 3:00 to discuss the Gillette-Wickham appraisals.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With business completed, it was moved by Van Raalte seconded by Sorensen to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.. All aye. Motion carried.

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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JILL BRADLEY  
RECORDING SECRETARY