

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

**DATE:** September 7, 2016

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. Committee Room 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

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

**OTHERS:** Felbab, OCATVA; Dennis Schoeneck, Oradei, DNR; Hansen, RASTA.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**— At 9:00 a.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 Mott 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 Van Raalte seconded by Pence to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2016 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

- a) **YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT**—  
Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$714,523.96. Prices are low and still falling at the mills.
- b) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION**—Van Raalte moved to closed Contract 1620, NewPage and return the deposit. Mott seconded. In response to a question from Mott, Fiene explained the cruising procedure and why the estimates are often lower than actual cuts. Oradei added that loggers often take logs smaller than the 4" size minimum required in the contract, which they pay for, but which are not included in the original estimates. All aye, motion carried.
- c) **State Aid Resolution** – The resolution which is sent with various grant applications needs to be updated every five years. Van Raalte moved to approve the updated resolution, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

FSC Certification was discussed as a result of the request of manufacturers, who wish to sell their timber globally. There has been local concern that this will lead to outside entities directing the county forests. Van Raalte and Mott had met with the Timber Producers and Wis County Forest Association. They learned that many of the end users are demanding FSC products, and therefore the mills want that certification so they have more buyers for their products. Van Raalte said the county has a duty to protect the investment of the county forests, as well as to keep the jobs and tax base generated by the paper mills in Oneida County. Mott felt the FSC requests are a result of marketing pushes. Mott said the mills need to meet the demands of the market, and their end users. If the mills cannot find their product here, they'll have to look and possibly move elsewhere. Because the FSC and the current SFI certifications are very similar, the new certification will likely add an amount of office paperwork but not have a large impact in the field. It will not change the way the county forest is administered, as Oneida County already follow the FSC rules in common with SFI certification.

Annual Budget. Bilogan gave an overview of the Forestry accounts and requests for 2017. He estimates \$1,319,519 in stumpage revenues for 2016, based on the year-to-date figure and adding the five-year averages for the remaining four months. Pence moved to approve the budget and forward it to the administration committee. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Staffing Update. The department has requested that a new FTE position be created to replace the two LTE foresters. If approved by the LRES Committee, the request will go before the Administration Committee during budget hearings in October. Sorensen said he felt the addition of the new forester position would cut costs in advertising to find new LTEs every year, as well as the cost of the county foresters training the LTEs. Bilogan wanted assurance that the committee understands that the new position is needed to maintain the current stumpage requirements, not to increase it.

ATV/UTV Trail Development. The Forestry Department had received a request from the Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz ATV Club, located in the Pelican Lake/Elcho area, to develop some new trails on the county forests. A grant request was submitted and \$415,000 was approved for that project. Bilogan noted that trail development is tied to the forester staffing request, as the plan is that 25% of that position is to be dedicated to trail development. Bilogan handed out an updated ATV/UTV Trail Development Schedule, which included the work on the Mudd Nutz trail beginning in the summer of next year and continuing until fall of 2018. Bilogan said they planned next year to apply for grants for the Nokomis ATV Club Trail. He also said the plan now is to apply for a grant in 2019 for the North/South leg of the Mudd Nutz trail.

He then explained that Forest County is building a trail to the Oneida County line and hopes to connect with an Oneida County trail going to Monico. The Three Lakes club had previously requested to come down (Highway) 45 and then over to Monico, then from Monico to the Forest County Line, but that was behind the next Pel-Cho North-South request. Because it's in the same area of the county, Bilogan could possibly substitute the Monico to Forest County Trail Development Request. If the Mudd Nutz agree to defer the North/South trail and put the East/West one from Monico to Forest County in there, it would benefit the whole area. I hope to have a conversation with the Mudd Nutz and propose they step back and let the other trail be developed because I know they're trying to put yet another application together for a trail to go from Pelican Lake up to Monico.

2016 WCFA Annual Fall Meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2016. Mott moved to approve staff and any committee members attend the out of county meeting. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

Enterprise Campground DOT Sign update. The signs have been installed on Hwy 17.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS—**

Guy Hanson suggested that the new Forestry tech position overlap with the current Tech, so that he can train his replacement.

Oradei had concerns about the expenditure of the Wildlife Habitat money. Oneida County has been using the funds for APHIS contracts for 15 years. DNR now says that money cannot be used for reoccurring expenses. Bilogan disagreed. Oradei listed some of the projects that could be done, but said beaver control should come from Roads Accounts.

Sorensen announced that the Humane Society will hold a fundraiser at Almon Park on September 18, 2016.

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

Turcott Road condition  
Gravel Project Extension  
Washburn Lake Road Sale  
FSC Resolution  
Wildlife Habitat funds

**VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.**

Vouchers which totaled \$19,217.84 were presented to the committee. Van Raalte moved to authorize payment, Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Mott seconded by Pence to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.**

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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JILL BRADLEY  
RECORDING SECRETARY