

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: December 6, 2017

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

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

OTHERS: Brian Desmond-Corp Counsel
Guy Hansen & Rich Reidinger-RASTA, Dan Mortenson-Cooper Engineering

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 Mott, seconded by Van Raalte 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 Zunker seconded by Van Raalte to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017 FLR Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—
Fiene reported that the November stumpage revenue was \$304,377.22
- b) TIMBER CONTRACTS FOR DISPOSITION—Zunker moved to close Roberts Logging contract 1689 and return deposit. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- c) Change to contract close-out policy. Van Raalte moved to allow the department to administer routine contract closures, bringing only problem closures to the committee. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- d) Janko Logging contracts 1594 and 1639. 1594 is completed and Fiene recommends submitting a draft from Letter of Credit (LOC) for unpaid stumpage, then close the contract. Van Raalte moved to do so, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried. Contract 1639 has 26 acres remaining to cut and is 6 months past due on stumpage. Fiene recommends drawing the past due amount of \$12,492.69 from the LOC, putting a hold on the balance of the LOC and resell the job in spring. No further activity will be permitted on the job. When it is sold, retain any difference between original bid and the resale price, and then close. Van Raalte moved to approve the recommendation, Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.

LAND PURCHASE UPDATE: The committee agreed there was no need to enter closed session. Sorensen announced that the Houle et al. property owners have accepted the offer to purchase for \$490,000. The Haug offer of \$420,000 is pending a counter-offer relating to closing dates. Both offers were for appraised values. Sorensen will bring a resolution to the County Board to enable the purchase to go forward without calling a special Forestry Committee meeting. Desmond will prepare a resolution and Jack will sign if the committee agrees. There was no dissent. There was some discussion about Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant application dates and procedures.

REVIEW BIDS/AWARD ATV TRAIL DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT. Dan Mortenson of Cooper Engineering presented the bid results. He explained that there was an optional bid item for adding upgrades to be snowmobile compatible. Bilogan stated that the option would increase safety and the department recommends the upgrade. He added that the snowmobile club has indicated they would contribute the wear decking and its installation, which would reduce the upgrade cost by \$20,000. Zunker moved to award the contract to low bidder, Janke Construction. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried. Mortensen left a notice of award to be signed and returned before he can proceed.

RASTA

Guy Hansen had additional information about the request for two steel rollup door/wind blocks. The quote for two installed doors was \$1075. RASTA proposes Forestry pay for it, as it is a County building. Bilogan responded that the money given annually to RASTA is for facility and trail improvements. Pence added that the leftover money at the end of the year could be used. Sorensen moved to pay from Forestry funds, Mott seconded. Roll call vote: Sorensen aye, Mott aye, Pence aye, Zunker aye. Van Raalte nay. Motion passed 4-1.

RASTA confirmed with the DNR that wet trail issue can be fixed with fill, but work will not begin on that project until next year.

Bilogan then went over the 2018 contract. There are several major changes: Removed the prior equipment requirements, added new language for single track snowshoe and bicycle trails maintenance and development. He provided maps of each trail system and a map of the mowed trails.

Bilogan noted that the \$19,900 figure was based on costs incurred by Forestry. RASTA does things differently, and always have money left over. He felt it may want to be addressed. Rich Reidinger of RASTA responded that they save that money purposely so they can do trail improvements the following year. Mott and Sorensen prefer the excess remain with RASTA for projects. Bilogan then stated that he would prefer RASTA just get their money and not have to come back to the committee and explain what they do with the funds. Sorensen said things should remain as they are. Bilogan's final comment was about the pieces of equipment being left around the facility. He would like RASTA to store the equipment as it states in the contract. Reidinger then commented that the contract verbiage about brushing of trails doesn't address extreme weather events. He would also like some clarification on the section about signing and will contact John after the RASTA meeting on Tuesday. Bilogan noted that RASTA will be working without a contract until the new contract is signed at the January 2018 meeting. He also requested the end of year balances before the next meeting.

2018 FORESTRY DEPT WDNR WORK PLAN & RESOLUTION was submitted for the committee's approval. Van Raalte moved to approve the resolution and forward to County Board as a consent agenda item. Mott seconded. He had questions about the amounts listed for allowable cuts. Bilogan explained the allowable cut is not equivalent of stumpage for the year. All aye, motion carried

2018 FORESTRY DEPT LONG RANGE PLAN was submitted for the committee's approval. Van Raalte moved to accept the plan as presented, Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried

2019-2023 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN. This document is required to apply for grant money. Bilogan asked for approval to use North Central Regional Planning Commission as a resource. Mott moved to approve. Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—None

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers which totaled \$29,169.89 were presented to the committee. Van Raalte moved to authorize payment, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Create a General Policy for logging contract problems.

RASTA Contract for 2018

Burrows Lake Bridges contract

Clarification of Work Plan Numbers

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Pence, seconded by Van Raalte to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY