

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: October 3, 2018

TIME: 4:00 p.m. Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Mott, Pence, VanRaalte, Almekinder
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Tischendorf.

OTHERS: Jeremy Holtz- WDNR, Ed Choinski – Oneida County Deer Advisory
Committee, Michael Fugle – Corp Counsel, Fred Heider - AICP

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting has 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

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2018 FLR Committee meeting. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

DNR DEER HARVEST SURVEILLANCE PERMITS FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

Jeremy Holtz, DNR Wildlife Biologist for Oneida County discussed the information provided to the committee regarding a couple of confirmed positive CWD cases within Lincoln County. Due to the close location to the Oneida County Forest, the DNR would like to offer surveillance permits for County Forest Land (inside the surveillance area) to harvest deer for required CWD testing to get an adequate sample size to determine the potential level of CWD infection within Oneida County. The DNR is looking to receive a total of 450 deer samples from a combination of voluntary samples and surveillance permits.

Have had increasing results from private land surveillance permits within the last year most likely due to the understanding that the disease has been confirmed within the county (outside of the Three Lakes Game Preserve).

Mott questioned the use of car killed deer for sampling. Holtz stated that they have been sampling car killed deer for three years and all deer have come back negative for CWD. Most CWD infected deer are found near water sources as the disease causes the deer to drink lots of water.

Sorensen questioned why not go back to requiring hunters to do in person registration to require sampling of all deer harvested. Current legislation does not allow the DNR to implement this; however, the plan that is out for public review would give the DNR the legal authority to establish a disease management zone and allow mandatory in person registration and/or mandatory sampling of harvested deer within that zone.

Ed Choinski of the Oneida County Deer Advisory Council is planning to work with the DNR and the media to get public buy-in to provide harvested deer heads for CWD testing.

Motion by Mott to approve WDNR to provide a memorandum of understanding to Bilogan to route through Corp Counsel, Forestry Committee, etc. pending review of the possibility of providing surveillance permits for OC Forest land reviewed annually. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

EAGLE MINE TOUR UPDATES & DISCUSSION RELATED TO OPEN MEETINGS

Michael Fugle, Corporate Counsel provided a memo to the FLR Committee regarding Eagle Mine Tour Open Meetings.

If there is a quorum of the committee, it is considered a meeting. Based on separate travel and lodging arrangements, there will not be a quorum until the committee members are together. It is recommended that a meeting be called/recessed based on when a quorum is present.

Best recommendation - do not discuss any type of forestry business when not in meetings to prevent concerns of a walking quorum.

A meeting notice with times will be posted for the Eagle Mine Information Center Visit, recessed for the evening, re-convened in the am when leaving for the tour, adjourned after returning to the hotel.

Concern on limited seating on the mine company bus – As there are currently about half of the bus seats reserved for the county employees, there are still half of the seats available for media and public participation allowing the meeting to be reasonably accessible.

Bilogan and those members riding in the county vehicle will be leaving the Courthouse on Monday, October 8th at 1:00 pm.

VanRaalte brought forth some information relating to the Eagle Mine and various other information on mining and the Lynne site. Also provided information and directions to an old iron mine that closed in 1968 near Iron River. Recommended that the Eagle Mine participants visit this area on the way to or from the Eagle mine. This information will be provided to all Eagle Mine tour participants.

RASTA REQUEST FOR PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES WITHIN THE WASHBURN LAKE SILENT TRAIL AREA UPDATE

No update at this time. Will put on future agenda.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—

Bilogan reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$1,410,987 - almost \$300,000 more than last year YTD.

DRAFT OF ONEIDA COUNTY 2019-2023 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

As the committee was only provided digital copies prior to the meeting, consensus by the committee to postpone until the November FLR Committee meeting.

Heider suggested the committee specifically read Chapter 6 Recommendations & Capital Improvements.

VOUCHERS AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers totaling \$ 48,977.35 were presented to the committee including two cash refunds for timber sale contract deposits that were successfully completed. VanRaalte moved to approve payments. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

RASTA had a state RTA grant to extend the Cassian bridge across 180 feet of wetland and this has been completed.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Draft of Oneida County 2019-2023 Outdoor Recreation Plan
- RASTA primitive campsite update
- Comments from Eagle Mine Tour

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, motion made by Pence to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.



JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR



TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY