

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: January 5, 2022

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, Pence, Almekinder, VanRaalte (via Zoom)
Absent: Mott
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR – Manny Oradei, Hilary Keller

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 3:30 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 Almekinder to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021 meeting. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported county forest stumpage for December is currently \$142,747.09 and year-to-date stumpage total of \$1,657,622.09. There is approximately \$22,000 yet to invoice for timber hauled in 2021. Budget estimate was \$1,150,000 so we will be more than \$500,000 over budget for the year.

Connor Forest Management Overdue Account Update – Fiene updated the committee with the status of payments and outstanding balance for Connor Forest Management. Received an email from Connor stating they would utilize the performance bond towards payment of the outstanding balance. Fiene discussed with Fugle, Corporation Counsel and the recommendation is to hold the bond, along with two other sale performance bonds, to offset anticipated timber price reductions at re-sale.

Motion by Almekinder to approve holding the timber bonds and not allow the bond to be used for stumpage payment. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

WCFA SPRING CONFERENCE – MADISON, WI – FEBRUARY 22-24, 2022

Fiene informed the committee that the conference in Madison has been canceled at this time; however, would like a motion to approve out of county attendance and travel for staff and committee in case the conference is rescheduled/relocated.

Motion by Pence approve out of county attendance and travel in the event the spring conference is relocated. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS/APPROVE REQUEST FROM LITTLE BELLAS MOUNTAIN BIKE PROGRAM TO UTILIZE THE WASHBURN TRAILS

Fiene received a request from the Little Bellas group to utilize the Washburn bike trails for an eight-week course. Discussed with Corporation Counsel and recommendation is to sign an agreement with Little Bellas if approved.

Val Foley, local representative for Little Bellas gave brief background regarding Little Bellas and their mission to create opportunities for girls age 7-13 years old and encourage outdoor activities. Scott Watson provided approval on behalf of RASTA that public use of the trails will not be affected during the Little Bellas trail use.

Motion by Pence to approve the agreement with Little Bellas to use the Washburn bike trails. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE AMENDED HWY Q WITHDRAWAL RESOLUTION – PARCEL EN 563

Fiene informed the committee that the amendment for the prior withdrawal resolution caused the state to question the validity of the verbiage. Fiene provided a revised resolution clearly stating the proceeds from the sale would be used for future purchases. Additionally the sale price verbiage was revised on the recommendation of the state.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the resolution as modified and forward to the County Board for consideration. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL OPENING UPDATE

Oneida County snowmobile trails opened on December 28, 2021.

DISCUSS CLUBS OPENING SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GATES ON COUNTY FOREST PROPERTY

Minocqua Forest Riders had requested the ability to determine when to open/close snowmobile gates within the Town of Lynne. After further discussion with the club, consensus was that the Forestry department would maintain the decision-making and communication between the Forestry department and the snowmobile club is essential.

DISCUSS/APPROVE ATV REHAB TRAIL PROJECT – BURROWS LAKE ROAD NORTH

ATV trails within this area are in need of rehabilitation after years of use. Committee was provided draft bid specifications for approval. Project is 100% grant funded.

Motion by Almekinder to approve the ATV trail rehab project. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

FORESTRY STAFFING UPDATE

Fiene stated that with the difficulty in filling the Forester II/Snowmobile Coordinator position, the department has drafted a proposal to take to LRES and the Administration Committee that reduces the recreational portion for the Forester II and allocates more recreation responsibilities to Tischendorf as the Account Technician position. Rady would remain the coordinator with the clubs for trail inspections, etc. Additionally, both the Account Technician and Forestry Maintenance Technician job descriptions have been updated to accurately reflect the duties and responsibilities performed in these positions. Process includes LRES approval, Carlson-Dettman recommendations for upgrade, fiscal impact statements, etc.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the department proposal and forward to LRES. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers - Vouchers presented totaling \$61,033.40 which includes \$52,896.09 for grant funded snowmobile supplemental maintenance for the 2020-21 snowmobile season. Additionally there was a \$1,555.00 fence repair on a snowmobile trail that will be reimbursed by the state.

Motion by Pence to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Line Item Transfers – There are \$1,585.00 for Forestry accounts and \$815 for Parks accounts that need to be re-allocated to cover negative balances in several accounts.

Motion by Almekinder to approve the line item transfers as presented. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

2022 Blanket Purchase Order List – Motion by Almekinder to approve the 2022 Blanket Purchase Order List as presented. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Oradei confirmed that Connor Forest Management is current with payments to the State of Wisconsin for timber sale stumpage of an approximate \$100,000 sale.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – February 2, 2022
- Connor Forest Management Account Update
- APHIS Contract

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY