

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** January 8, 2020, 2019

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

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Chair Sorensen, VanRaalte, Pence, Almekinder, Mott  
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf

Dave Hintz, Steve Schreier – County Board; Mike Fugle – Assistant  
Corporation Counsel; Scott Watson – RASTA; John Gillen, Manny Oradei -  
WNDR

### **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 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 December 4, 2019 FLR Committee meeting. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

### **INFORMATION REGARDING BILOGAN NOTICE OF CLAIM**

Fugle stated the notice of claim includes a situation involving a potential trespass and wanted to ensure the Forestry, Land and Recreation committee was aware of this.

LRES will be the committee of jurisdiction for the notice of claim and will involve the Forestry committee/department as needed.

Informational only, no action taken.

### **APPROVE ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH TOWN OF ENTERPRISE FOR HILDEBRAND LAKE ROAD EXTENSION**

Hintz stated this issue was discussed at the LRES meeting earlier today.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to instruct Dave Hintz to attend the Forestry Committee meeting to hold off on the approval of the road contract until legal issues are clarified by the DA of Lincoln County in regards to the possible felony charge.

Discussion regarding the length of time it has taken for the Lincoln County DA to make any decisions regarding any criminal charges. Additional discussion on how to proceed to try to get a time line or update from Lincoln County DA.

Motion by Sorensen to postpone for future meeting. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Sommer, Enterprise Town Clerk questioned the need for approving the construction contract as the county has already approved the easement and the construction of the road.

Need to refer to Corporation Counsel to determine the intent of the construction contract and whether it is necessary.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT**

*YTD Stumpage Report* – Fiene reported stumpage revenue for December was \$114,732.52 bringing the yearly total to \$862,734.75. Still need to include the revenue from the landfill demo sale, performance bonds that were retained for non-completion of timber sales and a handful of mill slips which should put the year end total at estimated \$940,000.

**RECREATIONAL TRAIL UPDATES**

*Snowmobile Trails* – Rady explained swamps and lakes are not frozen and considered unsafe. Currently two sections of funded trails closed due to wet areas. Warmer temperatures and heavy snowfall have been a hindrance to freezing swamp and lake areas.

*Silent Sports Trails* – Fiene stated Washburn and Nose Lake trails are in excellent condition. Enterprise trail has been challenging as it runs through a large wetland. Cassian also had some difficulty due to a flooding issue, but has since been resolved at this time.

*ATV/UTV Trail Issues* – Rady provided handouts outlining ATV project lists. Priority has been training the new forester/snowmobile coordinator. With creation of the ATV/UTV Council, club project lists have been combined for a list of 25 project requests.

**DISCUSSION ON FORESTRY DEPARTMENT STAFFING NEEDS**

With the increased requests for recreation requests (ATV, snowmobile and silent sports), it would be beneficial to have a dedicated recreation person on staff. Estimated to possibly request an additional position in 2022 due to current staff training needs.

**REVIEW 15 YEAR PLAN DRAFT – CHAPTERS 1 & 2**

Fiene explained the process for the 15 year plan draft. Much of the plan was a template provided by the state. Revised draft versions for Chapter 1 & 2 were provided.

Any public and committee comments will be reviewed/implemented and final drafts of these chapters will be provided at the next meeting. VanRaalte will provide his comments to Fiene via email. Mott commented climate change may need to be addressed.

**2020 BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS**

A list of routine departmental payables was provided for 2020.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the blanket purchase order list for 2020. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

**VOUCHERS AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Vouchers totaling \$259,368.58 were presented. Large expenses include: Snowmobile supplemental maintenance of \$121,050.00 covered by grant money, Musson Brothers for ATV rehab of \$99,730.00 covered by grant money and performance timber bond refunds of \$16,985.94 and \$10,738.12.

Line item transfers totaling \$6,594.00 to balance end of year budget items.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None at this time

**FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Road Construction Contract with Town of Enterprise for Hildebrand Lake Road Extension
- 15 Year Plan Chapter Reviews
- Department Staffing Update – County Forester position
- Little Rice Landowner – Possible Land Purchase by County

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF  
RECORDING SECRETARY