

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: January 13, 2026

TIME: 8:00 a.m. County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Sorgel, Ives (via zoom)
Forestry Staff: Nemeec, Rady, Tischendorf, Truitt
WDNR: Kristina Wells

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Almekinder called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.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 Schultz to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Stumpage Report - Rady reported December stumpage of \$179,817.99, bringing the YTD stumpage to \$975,774.36 significantly below the 5-year YTD average and below the 2025 budget. Rady noted there is still some outstanding December invoicing to be completed. Currently four active jobs.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Nemeec informed the committee that the Town of Little Rice is actively seeking to abandon parts of Gobbler Lake Road & Kelly Fire Lane. If the town abandons them, the County, as the property owner of the land serviced by these roads, will need to determine how to proceed (abandon the roads, adopt them as County Forest roads, etc.). The Town of Little Rice is holding a public hearing on January 29, 2026.

WDNR REPORTS

DNR Liaison – Wells reported staff is primarily assisting the County with timber sale establishment. Beginning to transition into fire season with fire training scheduled at the end of the month.

DNR Wildlife Biologist – Rollman was not in attendance – no update provided.

DISCUSS / APPROVE NOTICE FOR BIDS – INDIAN VILLAGE GMA DEVELOPMENT

Truitt explained this is a new project in the Town of Little Rice. While looking to improve road access for timber sale management, the department and WDNR wildlife group decided to develop the area as a grouse management area to include three parking lots and improved road access. Grant funding has been awarded through the Sustainable Forestry grant program.

Motion by Sorgel to send the project out for bids. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD TRACTOR BID

Truitt stated the committee approved the notice for bids in December to replace the small forestry tractor that is used for mowing hunter/hiking trails, ski trails, snowmobile trails, etc. Fuller Sales in Antigo was the low bid at \$43,687.58. Truitt would like him and the maintenance technician to see the tractor in person to ensure it will fit the department's needs.

Motion by Briggs to award the bid to Fuller Sales pending in person departmental approval. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD FORESTRY WORK TRUCK W/PLOW BID

Truitt stated there were two bids received. Brickner's Park City was the low bid. The department would like to accept the bid of \$47,429.00 which includes a \$300 truck color charge and the trade of the 2016 Chevy w/plow.

Motion by Schultz to award the bid to Brickner's Park City as presented. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD SHINGLE MILL ROAD REHAB BID

Truitt explained this is for the remaining six miles of Shingle Mill Road rehab. Several bids were received with J&M Excavating coming in the lowest at \$173,429.82. They did a good job with the Rozell culvert replacement last year.

Motion by Briggs to award the bid to J&M Excavating. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD LAMER SPRINGS ATV REHAB BID

Truitt explained this is a grant funded ATV project. Several bids received with Musson Brothers as the lowest bid at \$54,112.50.

Motion by Schultz to award the bid to Musson Brothers. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE FORESTRY DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL FOR 2026 FOR FORESTRY STAFF

Nemec explained this is a request that has been brought forth annually to allow staff to travel out of Oneida County for daily work needs.

Motion by Briggs to approve the forestry director to authorize out of county travel for forestry staff for 2026. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT – LITTLE BELLAS

Nemec stated Little Bellas is a mountain bike group for younger girls and have utilized the Washburn trail system in the past for their events.

Motion by Almekinder to approve the special events agreement with Little Bellas. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

The committee received the list of invoices paid in December 2025.

Vouchers for the month totaled \$484,793.40 including \$470,688.11 for grant funded and/or reimbursed expenses. Large grant funded expenses include an ATV trail rehabilitation project that was completed by the Rynders, Inc. for \$218,430.00, an ATV development project completed by Oneida County Highway Department for \$74,126.92, and snowmobile trail maintenance of \$160,844.50.

Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT)

The committee was provided a copy of the department's year to date budget for review. Several accounts currently show over budget and Tischendorf entered line item transfers to cover negative balances. No concerns at this time with exception of stumpage revenue.

Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – February 10, 2026
- Award Indian Village GMA Bid
- WCFA Spring Conference – Rothschild
- Approve APHIS 2026 Cooperative Agreement
- Private Utility Access Permit & Fees
- Proposed Ordinance Amendments

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY