

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 1, 2023

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Winkler (via Zoom), Sorgel (via Zoom)
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR: Hillary Keller
RASTA: Scott Watson

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Almekinder 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 Winkler to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of January 4, 2023 meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

2022 Final Stumpage Report – Fiene reported stumpage for 2022 was \$1,091,332.76 with an additional \$53,157.09 in forfeited performance bonds for a total of \$1,144,489.85 compared to budget of \$1,150,000.

YTD Timber Stumpage Report – Fiene reported January stumpage of \$110,796.39 which is about 90% of the 5-year average.

REVIEW/APPROVE APHIS 2023 COOPERATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT

Fiene explained the agreement between Oneida County and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services for beaver control for county forest roads and recreational trails. Annual cost for 2023 is \$4,258.87.

Sorgel joined via Zoom at 3:35 p.m.

Motion by Schultz to approve the 2023 APHIS Cooperative Services Agreement. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE WHISKEY RIVER SNOWMOBILE LAND USE AGREEMENT

Fiene stated this agreement was no longer necessary as the new land owner will contract with the snowmobile clubs.

FORESTRY TRUCK PURCHASE UPDATE

Fiene update the committee that Brickner's is again no longer able to provide a work truck according to the bid received. Fiene is requesting approval from the committee to search on the open market for a suitable vehicle.

Motion by Winkler to grant the request to search for a vehicle on the open market. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN DESCRIPTION & PLANNING PROCESS

Fiene informed the committee of the upcoming process with North Central Regional Planning for updating the next 5-year Outdoor Recreation Plan. Provided copies and an overview of the plan to the committee.

Informational only, no action taken.

RASTA YEAR IN REVIEW PRESENTATION

Scott Watson, RASTA President, presented RASTA's 2022 Year in Review to the committee which included trail maintenance of the current trails as the priority for 2022.

CLOSED SESSION

It is anticipated that the committee may meet in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Sec. 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session. A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session. (Topics – Luber Lane Cell Tower Lease and Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2022) AND it is anticipated that the Committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.

The committee will return to open session and may ratify any matter(s) discussed in closed session.

Motion by Briggs to go into closed session at 4:18 p.m. Second by Schultz. Roll call vote: All aye.

Motion to return to open session at 4:35 p.m. Roll call vote: Almekinder, Schultz, Briggs, Winkler – aye; Sorgel absent.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Almekinder stated the committee declined the offer from Vertical Bridge and approved the closed session minutes from November 2, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Watson, RASTA commended Chris Nehls, Forestry employee on the phenomenal job he does out in the field.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – March 1, 2023
- 2023 FTLLP Maintenance Agreement
- Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2024-2028

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY