

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** February 13, 2024

**TIME:** 8:00 a.m. County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Winkler, Sorgel (via zoom)  
Forestry Staff: Fiene (via zoom), Rady, Tischendorf, Truitt  
WDNR: Kristina Wells; Curt Rollmann

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Almekinder called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Winkler to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024 meeting. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Schramke, Friends of Townline Lake Park stated they would like to discuss a new trail at the park. Chair Almekinder directed him to talk to the Forestry Department to add the topic to a future agenda.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

*2023 Final Timber Stumpage Report* – Rady reported 2023 came in at \$1,161,820 of timber stumpage exceeding the budget of \$1,080,000 by approximately \$80,000.

*YTD Timber Stumpage Report* – Rady stated 2024 was off to a strong start with January coming in at \$131,435.15 which is above the 5 year average. Unfortunately, with the warmer temperatures, town road limits were implemented at the beginning of February. No county road limits on at this time.

### **REVIEW / APPROVE APHIS 2024 COOPERATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Rady informed the committee, this is an annual contract with the USDA to manage nuisance beaver and dams on county forestlands. Pricing is determined on prior three-year average site visits. Curt Rollman, DNR Wildlife Biologist provided update on beaver population in our area.

Fiene joined meeting via zoom at 8:10 a.m.

Motion by Winkler to approve the 2024 APHIS Cooperative Agreement as presented for \$4,153.00. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

### **DISCUSS / APPROVE NOTICE FOR BIDS – SPRUCE LAKE DAM INSPECTION**

Rady provided background on the Spruce Lake Dam and Wildlife Area. WDNR requires inspection of the dam every ten years. Although not budgeted, expenses will be covered within the 2024 budget.

Motion by Briggs to approve the notice for bids for the Spruce Lake Dam inspected. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

### **DISCUSS / APPROVE BID SPECIFICATIONS – FORESTRY DUMP TRUCK**

Rady explained that the department has been approved to purchase a 2024 dump truck with funding approved through CIP within the 2024 budget. Specifications were created from the highway departments patrol trucks with modifications made to meet our requirements.

Discussion regarding green vs. amber warning lights. Additional discussion regarding funding source and potential availability of returned ARPA funds from other projects. Forestry will look into available ARPA funds with finance.

Motion by Schultz to approve the specifications and notice for bids for a dump truck. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

**DISCUSS / APPROVE BURROWS BOARDWALK REHAB SPECIFICATION & CONTRACT**

Truitt informed the committee this is a grant-funded project for joint ATV and snowmobile trail to rehabilitate four elevated boardwalks in the town of Little Rice. The project consists of replacing all decking and wear course and adding more piling.

Motion by Winkler to approve the Burrows Boardwalk rehabilitation notice for bid. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

**DISCUSS / APPROVE GILMORE CREEK BRIDGE ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS**

Rady explained this is another grant-funded project to replace a snowmobile bridge that has been in need of major repairs for a couple years. Current notice for bid is for engineering services only.

Motion by Briggs to approve the notice for bid for engineering services for the Gilmore Creek bridge. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

**DISCUSS / APPROVE LITTLE BELLAS 2024 CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

Rady stated the committee approved the original contract in January 2024. Little Bellas have since requested to change the event dates to later in the year. No concerns with the request.

Motion by Winkler to amend the contract as requested. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

**DISCUSS / ACT ON US FOREST SERVICE PROPOSED CHANGES TO USFS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

County Board Chair Holewinski requested Almekinder bring this to the committee so the committee can draft a resolution to present to the County Board for discussion at the March meetings.

Motion by Winkler to proceed with drafting a resolution to bring to the March meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

**PAID INVOICES REPORT**

The committee was provided a list of the invoices paid in January 2024.

Vouchers for the month totaled \$92,393.11 including \$68,182.00 for grant-funded expenses including the final maintenance payment to the snowmobile clubs of \$64,740.00 and a portion of the WCFA dues will be reimbursed through grant funding and fall brushing was completed which is funded through the county forest roads account.

Informational only.

**DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT)**

The committee was provided a copy of the department's year to date budget for review. Mainly personnel expenses at this time. Tischendorf will finalize line item transfers for 2023 to cover any accounts with negative balances.

Informational only.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steven Schreier thanked the Forestry Department for the work they do.

Rady discussed the unusual winter we are experiencing and the unfortunate effect on snowmobile trails and businesses. ATV Clubs have been doing what they can to help provide support to businesses by organizing rides and utilizing road routes.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS**

- Next meeting – March 12, 2024
- Spring Timber Sale Bid Opening Date
- Award Bids – Snowmobile, Dump Truck, Burrows Boardwalk Rehab, Gilmore Creek Bridge Engineering, Spruce Lake Dam Inspection
- 15-year Plan Updates
- 2024 FTLLP Maintenance Agreement
- USFS Resolution

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY