

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 4, 2020

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: VanRaalte, Pence, Almekinder, Mott
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
Excused Absence - Sorensen

Tom Wiensch – Assistant Corporation Counsel; Manny Oradei - WNDR;
Darwin & Sherry Clements – Land Owners; Jonathan Sommer – Town of
Enterprise Clerk; Steve Schreier – OC Supervisor; Guy Hansen & Scott Watson
- RASTA

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair VanRaalte 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 Mott to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of February 5, 2020 FLR Committee meeting. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported stumpage for February was \$277,953.75. Expecting approximately \$150,000 for March based on tickets received.

UPDATE/APPROVE ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH TOWN OF ENTERPRISE FOR HILDEBRAND LAKE ROAD EXTENSION

Sommer provided a copy of a letter sent to Chair Sorensen from the Town of Enterprise.

VanRaalte stated that the County Board unanimously voted to deny Bilogan's notice of claim and to sign the contract without clarification from the Lincoln County District Attorney could be problematic for the County and this committee.

Discussion regarding the questions presented by the Town of Enterprise and how to proceed. The main question still to be answered is if the contract is necessary as the easement right-of-way has already been approved by Oneida County.

Motion by Mott to forward the four questions listed in the letter from the Town of Enterprise to Corporation Counsel Desmond and to have two questions answered. 1.) Is the contract necessary? 2.) Does the County Board Chair have the right to veto by not signing the contract if the contract is necessary? Second by Almekinder. Discussion regarding Corporation Counsel conferring with Town of Enterprise Counsel to resolve this matter. All aye, motion carried.

LITTLE RICE LANDOWNER – POTENTIAL SALE TO COUNTY OF PARCEL LR 38, SEC. 3, T36R5E

Landowners Darwin and Sherry Clements are interested in selling a 30.66-acre parcel of land within the town of Little Rice and is surrounded by county/state land.

Additional research was completed by the Forestry Department with no results showing any easements were provided. Fiene contacted the DNR Land Specialist regarding a possible purchase for the county and the response was that this purchase would probably score high for Knowles-Nelson land purchase grant.

Discussion regarding the potential value of the land and the need for an appraisal and a timber cruise of the property if the committee would like to pursue the purchase.

Motion by Mott to pursue the timber cruise of the property and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting for the committee to decide if an appraisal should be completed. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

BTG LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATE

Wiensch has not heard from BTG. The current contract expires in November 2020. Wiensch provided an overview of the concerns with the current contract.

Rady stated the snowmobile clubs are working on alternate routes as a backup plan if a contract cannot be agreed upon. The snowmobile council also discussed the possibility of talking with BTG personally. Mott suggested having alternate routes planned out by August.

Informational only. Bring back to committee when there are updates to report.

COUNTY WIDE ATV TRAIL DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS UPDATE

Rady provided an update regarding ATV trail development and council requests regarding forestry staff. The council will be prioritizing the list at the meeting next week.

CONSIDER DONATION FOR SNOWMOBILE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Fiene explained the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association created public service announcements promoting snowmobile safety in logging areas. The GLTPA is looking for donations from the counties to help offset the costs.

Discussion to present to the snowmobile clubs for possible donations - \$25 each club.

Consensus by the committee to table until the next meeting with Fiene reporting what other counties may be donating.

DISCUSS/APPROVE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY REGARDING RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND BEAVER RELATED ISSUES

Rady provided handouts showing the significantly increased costs to APHIS for beaver control over the last 10 years. Each incidents costs the county approximately \$600.

Proposal to pass along some of the expense to the recreational clubs if the issue involves recreational trails/bridges as part of the trail maintenance agreement. Clubs would be eligible to get reimbursement from the state for non-grooming expenses.

Motion by Mott to approve the proposed department policy with 100% reimbursement by the appropriate club if the issue is associated to a recreational trail/bridge. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE UPDATED WOLF RELOCATION RESOLUTION

Laurie Groskopf attended last month to request the committee amend the prior resolution to include verbiage relating to relocation of problem wolves.

Fiene provided a couple of handouts regarding management/relocation of problem wolves.

Motion by Pence to forward the amended resolution to County Board. No second, motion fails.

Consensus by the committee to consider this issue completed.

REVIEW/APPROVE RASTA 5 YEAR PLAN INFORMATION

Proposed recreation plan provided by RASTA. Prior policy has been that if a project is not listed in the 5-year plan, it will likely not be approved.

Fiene pointed out that project W5 includes a large area that is outside the designated silent sports area. This is not necessarily a concern; however, the department would not be as accommodating of timber sale activity as we have been within the designated silent sports area.

Renaming of Cassian Trail to Guy Hansen Trail – 100% support of the Forestry Department.

RASTA 5-Year Plan – Fiene expressed concern using verbiage “designating the Cassian trail as a silent sports trail.” There aren’t concerns opening these trails to biking, however, we do not want to preclude these trails from future motorized trail connectors. Discussion to amend the word “designate” to “open”.

Fiene stated that with the opening of trails to more uses, the Forestry Department does not have any additional personnel or time to do any more mowing than was agreed to in the maintenance contract.

When working through the plan, RASTA should communicate with the Forestry Department as projects get started.

Motion by Almekinder to approve RASTA’s 5-year plan with proposed amendments, renaming the Cassian ski trail, and Washburn North Trail Single Track Construction. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW 15 YEAR PLAN DRAFT – CHAPTERS 400, 500, 600

Approve Revised Chapter 400 - Motion by Mott to approve revised draft chapter 400. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Review/Approve Draft Chapter 500 – A lot of the verbiage for this chapter is either template language or verbiage pulled from the current timber sale contract.

Discussion about the cost of access permits for existing roads (\$1,000/acre) vs new roads (\$5,000/acre), with \$500 admin fee. Possibility of creating a transfer fee (\$500) for an access permit. Fiene will update section and bring back next month.

Motion by Mott to approve draft Chapter 500 (including Christmas tree permits) with amendments. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Review/Approve Draft Chapter 600 – Motion by Almekinder to approve draft Chapter 600 as presented. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers totaling \$33,490.08 were presented. Large expenses include: Performance bond refunds of \$21,374.55 and \$5,150.88 and payment to APHIS for beaver control of \$4,588.00. Line item transfers totaling \$19,059.00 were presented to balance the budget for 2019.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fiene read a public comment requesting camping year round on county forest land. Will address further when we discuss Chapter 900 of the 15-year plan.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Road Construction Contract with Town of Enterprise for Hildebrand Lake Road Extension
- Potential Sale to County of Parcel LR 38, Sec. 3, T36R5E
- 15 Year Plan Chapter Reviews
- BTG Update (if any)
- Resolution to Increase Camping Fees for 2020
- Consider Donation for Snowmobile Public Service Announcement

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Vice Chair VanRaalte adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY