

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 12, 2024

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Winkler, Sorgel
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Truitt
WDNR: Kristina Wells

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 Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of February 13, 2024 meeting. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Rempala stated he has concerns regarding the USFS Property Management Plan Proposed Changes / Old Growth & Resolution.

Kathleen Cooper has concerns regarding the USFS Property Management Plan Proposed Changes / Old Growth & Resolution.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

2024 YTD Timber Stumpage Report – Fiene reported February stumpage of \$60,526.25, significantly less than the 5-year average. Lack of winter/cold weather and early posting of road limits contributed to the lower than anticipated stumpage. Currently two active jobs – just cutting and piling the wood as hauling will not start up again until after spring break up.

Set Date for Spring Timber Sale Bid Opening – Fiene stated advertising would take place in April with bid opening on May 9th and award the bids at the May 14th meeting.

Discuss / Approve USFS Property Management Plan Proposed Changes / Old Growth & Resolution – Fiene explained he was forwarded a letter by Chair Almekinder who had received the letter from County Board Chair Holewinski. It was requested of Fiene to draft a resolution and bring it to the committee for discussion.

Fiene stated he found inconsistencies between the letter provided and the actual plan so he drafted an updated version of the letter as well as the original letter with strikeouts.

Discussion regarding the contents of the original and revised letters including local entity input. Almekinder stated his understanding was to have the committee draft a resolution to forward on to the County Board for discussion.

Motion by Briggs to forward both letters and the resolution to the County Board. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE BURROWS CELL TOWER WITHDRAWAL RESOLUTION

Prior committee discussions were held regarding the request to have a cell tower installed in the western part of the county (Town of Lynne/Little Rice) as part of the Broadband and Cellular Infrastructure Expansion Project. Per county forest law, the County needs to apply and receive approval from WDNR for a withdrawal

from the County Forest to move forward with this project. Fiene drafted a resolution directing him to apply to the WDNR for withdrawal of the parcel from County Forest.

Discussion regarding lease terms and payments.

Motion by Winkler to accept the resolution and forward to County Board. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD SPRUCE LAKE DAM INSPECTION BID

Fiene provided background on the Spruce Lake Dam and the need for an inspection. Bid results were provided to the committee showing six bids received. Morgan & Parmley completed the prior inspection in 2014 and came in as the low bidder at \$1,600.00. Fiene recommends accepting the bid from Morgan & Parmley. Funding to come from the Wildlife Habitat \$0.05/an acre grant.

Motion by Winkler to accept the bid of \$1,600.00 from Morgan & Parmley to do the inspection. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD 2024 SNOWMOBILE BID

Replacing the 2018 Ski-Doo MXZ Inspection snowmobile. Received one bid for a Ski-doo Renegade Sport 4-stroke from Lakeland Powersports for \$12,835.78. The department will sell the old snowmobile on the Wisconsin Surplus auction in the fall.

Motion by Briggs to accept the bid from Lakeland Powersports. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD BURROWS BOARDWALK REHAB CONTRACT

Truitt explained the project and bidding process that resulted in one bid. This is a grant funded joint project (ATV/snowmobile) and the bid is within the approved grant funding and meets all bid specifications. Truitt recommends accepting the bid as presented.

Motion by Winkler to accept the Larson Construction bid of \$179,339.00 for the Burrows Boardwalk project. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD GILMORE CREEK BRIDGE ENGINEERING CONTRACT

This is a grant funded snowmobile project and we received two bids for engineering services. Cooper Engineering at \$49,409.00 and Cedar Corporation at \$49,264.00. We currently have open contracts with both companies are satisfied with their services. Recommendation to take the lower bid and award to Cedar Corporation.

Motion by Briggs to award the bid to Cedar Corporation. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD FORESTRY DUMP TRUCK BID

Fiene stated the department was approved to replace a 2002 Sterling Dump truck that is used for our county forest road maintenance. Notice for bids resulted in 11 various bids from four different dealers. After verifying all bids met truck specifications, the recommendation is to award the bid to the low bid of Mid-State Truck Service for an International truck body and Truck Equipment box for a total cost of \$196,464.50 and the additional engine/transmission warranty and chassis/box warranty for approximately \$6,000.00.

Discussion regarding optional extended warranty pricing for both the engine and the box included in the bid for an additional \$6,000.

Motion by Winkler to approve the bid with Mid-State Truck and extended warranties as recommended. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE 15-YEAR PLAN UPDATES RESOLUTION

Background of the 15-year comprehensive land use plan and necessary updates provided by Fiene. Following the 2022 certification audit, necessary updates were identified and a summary of these updates provided.

Motion by Briggs to approve the updates to the Oneida County 15-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and forward to the County Board. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

TOWNLINELAKE PARK

Discuss / Approve 2024 Friends of Townline Lake Park (FTLLP) Maintenance Agreement – The only changes from the prior agreement are the dates of the agreement and the county providing up to \$500 towards the cost of the portable toilets.

Motion by Sorgel to approve the 2024 Friends of Townline Lake Park Maintenance Agreement. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

Discuss / Approve Placement of Donated Piers – Dave Schmitz has been working with Fiene on placement of three donated piers. The goal is to utilize piers within the waters of the park boundary to provide users with the ability to “experience” the water despite the limitations with the steep terrain leading to the water. Proposed locations include a permanent pier located below the concrete steps, a roll-in pier by the point and a permanent floating pier at the boat landing. FTLLP are responsible for any necessary permits for pier placement.

Motion by Winkler to approve placement of the piers as presented. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

Discuss / Approve Walking Trail from Parking Lot to Beach Area – Proposal to add to the existing walking trail within the park to extend through the park and parking lot down to the beach area. Will need approval from Oneida County Highway Department as part of the trail is on County right-of-way.

Motion by Winkler to approve the walking trail as presented with the stipulation of receiving approval from the Oneida County Highway Department. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

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

Vouchers for the month totaled \$28,037.11 including \$16,776.49 for grant- funded expenses.

Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT)

The committee was provided a copy of the department’s year to date budget for review.

Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Winkler stated there may be some future discussion regarding combining Land Conservation meetings with Forestry meetings.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – April 9, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY