

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: April 6, 2022

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, Pence, Almekinder, Mott
Excused: Alan VanRaalte
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf; Asst. Corporation Counsel: Chad Lynch
WDNR – Manny Oradei, John Gillen, Hilary Keller

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen 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 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 March 2, 2022 meeting. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

REVIEW/APPROVE WPS EASEMENT REQUESTS, TOWN OF CASSIAN; CA-865, CA-889, & CA-894

Fiene stated this was discussed at last month's meeting; however, the final maps were not available so it was postponed. Updated maps have been received and the committee needs to decide whether or not to charge a fee for the easement.

Fiene's recommendation is to follow precedence set by Land Information and approve the easement at no cost.

Motion by Pence to approve the easement as recommended. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried. Motion by Mott to forward the resolution to grant easements to Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) across Oneida County Forest Property on to County Board. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported stumpage for March was \$81,721.07 bringing the total to \$264,200.92 for the year. Currently in the middle of spring break-up so there is little to no activity.

Timber Sale Expirations/Extensions – Fiene went over the four timber sales that will expire in May. Contract 1715, Wes Bushor, contract 1724 Cloverland Logging, and contract 1731 Futurewood - recommending a 15% increase as these sales have all received a prior 0% increase extension. Contract 1728 Futurewood – recommending a 0% increase as this is the first extension and the markets remain unstable.

Scott Heffernon from Futurewood requested contract 1731 receive an additional 0% extension. Fiene maintains his recommendation of a 15% increase.

Motion by Mott to approve the contract extensions with the percent increases as recommended. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Connor Forest Management Overdue Account Update – Fiene reported the county requested to draw on the letter of credit and the bank provided full payment, bringing the account to a zero balance. The remaining

two contracts will be offered for sale this spring and summer. Bonds may be retained depending on whether they sell and the bid prices.

WCFA SUMMER TOUR – RUSK COUNTY, JUNE 22-24, 2022

Approve Staff & Committee Attendance/Approve Out of County Travel – Summer tour will be held in Ladysmith this year.

Motion by Pence to approve staff and committee attendance and out of county travel. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE ALMON PARK SHELTERS ENGINEERING CONTRACT

Fiene informed the committee that the MSA engineering contract contained additional verbiage regarding the insurance clause that concerned Assistant Corporation Counsel, Chad Lynch and our risk manager. MSA has declined to change the verbiage as their insurance coverage exceeds the required amounts by the County.

Discussion by the committee and Lynch regarding the verbiage and the liability risk to the county. Committee feels the county's insurance requirement is satisfied so the committee is not clear why there is a concern. Lynch is more concerned with MSA limiting their liability up to the amount of their coverage.

Motion by Mott to approve the contract with the caveat that we will not accept future contracts with the verbiage in question. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PURCHASE OF HANSON PARCEL EN-269 UPDATE

Fiene informed the committee that the landowner decided to sell the property to someone else rather than wait for the County. Fiene requested the DNR withdraw the Knowles-Nelson application.

COUNTY FOREST PARCEL WITHDRAWALS

Hwy Q Parcel Update – Received confirmation from the WDNR that the withdrawal application has been approved and should receive official notification within a few weeks.

Review/Approve Willow Lake Parcel and Shop Parcel Withdrawal Resolutions – These are resolutions utilizing the same verbiage regarding how the funds will be used that was approved for the Hwy Q parcel withdrawal resolution.

Motion by Mott to approve the resolutions and pass them on to County Board for approval. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers - Vouchers presented totaling \$77,100.82. Approximately \$70,000 is performance bond refunds for satisfied timber sales. Another \$2,000 was for a storm water permit for an ATV grant funded project.

Motion by Almekinder to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manny Oradei, WDNR announced his retirement after 26 years. Has been the County's liaison since November 1996. John Gillen will fill in until a replacement is hired.

Fiene spoke on behalf of the department and thanked Oradei for his many years of partnership with the department.

Sorensen complimented and thanked the department and the committee.

Fiene thanked each of the committee members for their service and support.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – May 4, 2022
- 2021 Annual Report

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY