

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: April 9, 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, Rady, Truitt, Tischendorf
WDNR: John Gillen, Curt Rollman
RASTA: Guy Hansen

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 March 12, 2024 meeting. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Almekinder announced Jill Nemecek has accepted the Forestry Director position and will start on April 22, 2024. She has 20 years with the WDNR.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Timber Stumpage Report – Rady reported March stumpage of \$4,033.80, significantly less than the 5-year average. Implementation of road limits in early February brought timber sale activity to a halt. One contractor was able to get some hauling to show April revenue of \$26,563.78. Currently two active jobs – just cutting and piling the wood as hauling will not start up again until after spring break up.

Timber Sale Extensions – 1743 Trout Springs Aspen – Wayne Wagler – Sale was sold in 2020, originally a three-year contract and previous 0% one-year extension granted due to Verso mill closure. Sale is approximately 50% completed. Due to poor winter conditions and early road limits, Forestry Department recommends a 5% stumpage increase.

Wagler requested a 0% increase as he would have likely finished the sale before expiration if road limits had not been implemented early. Additionally, the sale was purchased when markets were high and costs were much lower, any increase will be detrimental.

Motion by Winkler to approve a final one-year extension with 0% increase. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

Timber Sale Extensions – 1790 Campground Hardwoods Resale – Chad McKee Logging – Sale was sold in 2022, originally a two-year contract. Sale purchased at lower market prices after Verso mill closure. Forestry Department recommends standard contract extension with 10% stumpage increase.

Motion by Almekinder to approve a standard one-year extension with 10% increase as recommended. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

WCFA SUMMER TOUR – LINCOLN COUNTY, JUNE 19-20, 2024

Summer tour will be held in Merrill this year. Funding for registration and lodging for staff are within 2024 budget.

Motion by Winkler to approve staff and committee to attend the WCFA Summer Tour and approve lodging for June 19, 2024 if requested. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

No update or representation from FTLLP. Fiene stated some additional discussion is needed between the department and FTLLP group regarding the pier placement at the boat landing and the proposed walking path.

REVIEW / APPROVE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiene summarized the 2023 Forestry Department annual report. A few minor corrections have already been made to the draft copy provided to the committee.

Winkler suggested discussion with Land & Water Conservation regarding funding opportunities and suggestions for the Buck Lake retaining wall removal/repair.

Motion by Winkler to approve the 2023 Forestry Department Annual Report with minor corrections and present to County Board. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

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

Vouchers for the month totaled \$6,872.49 including \$2,177.76 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

As this is Fiene's last committee meeting, he thanked the committee for their support of him and the department. Committee members reciprocated their thanks and well wishes to Fiene.

Guy Hansen, RASTA provided appreciation for Paul and his teamwork with them during his tenure as the Forestry Director.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – May 14, 2024
- Award Spring Timber Sale Bids
- Introduction of new Forestry Director and Committee Members

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY