

**FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** May 3, 2023

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m. Committee Room #2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Winkler, Sorgel  
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Truitt, Tischendorf  
RASTA: Guy Hansen  
NCWRPC: Fred Heider

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Almekinder 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 Winkler to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair’s discretion. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023 meeting. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE MEETING TIME FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Chair Almekinder requested input regarding changing the day/time for the Forestry Committee meeting.

Discussion held.

Motion by Schultz to change Forestry Committee meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. beginning with the June meeting. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT**

*YTD Timber Stumpage Report* – Fiene reported April stumpage of \$2,170.63 bringing the year-to-date total to \$315,084.48. Once road limits are removed, hopeful to get some jobs going.

*Award May Timber Sale Contracts* – Fiene stated six of ten tracts were sold with a total of 34 bids of which three were disqualified for various errors. Fiene’s recommendation to award to high bidders as shown.

High bids received:	Tract 1-23	No Bids Received	
	Tract 2-23	No Bids Received	
	Tract 3-23	Wiitala & Vozka Logging	\$181,760.00
	Tract 4-23	Wiitala & Vozka Logging	\$147,695.00
	Tract 5-23	Invalid Bid Received – Did Not Meet Minimum Species Requirement	
	Tract 6-23	Marshall Logging, Inc.	\$144,040.00
	Tract 11-23	Al Mann Logging, LLC	\$ 15,296.25
	Tract 12-23	Marshall Logging, Inc.	\$168,679.10
	Tract 13-23	Wiitala & Vozka Logging	\$ 51,300.00
	Tract 19-21	No Bids Received	

Motion by Winkler to approve the timber sale contracts as presented. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE RFP – ENGINEERING OF HODAGS HWY 8 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL RE-ROUTE**

Fiene explained the necessity of a trail re-route east of Rhinelander due to the loss of a landowner agreement. Prior bridge abutments remain and would hopefully be utilized for the new snowmobile bridge. The entire re-route will cost approximately \$366,000; however, the proposal today is only for the engineering plans and specifications for the bridge.

Motion by Winkler to approve and send out the North Branch Pelican River Bridge request for proposal. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

**ONEIDA COUNTY ATV TRAIL OPENING UPDATE**

Truitt stated all the clubs have been out on the trails and the preliminary report includes a lot of smaller trees down and a couple of washouts in the Enterprise block. Little Rice area still has some snow and ice in areas and some culvert washouts. Hopeful to get the trails opened within the next couple weeks.

Fiene provided an update on county forest roads and the condition of the culverts and washouts.

**ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN SURVEY UPDATE**

Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, informed the committee that the survey closed and we received 1,070 responses. Heider discussed the survey summary and Tischendorf will email the summary to the committee. The townships have until May 26<sup>th</sup> to provide comments for their section of the Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE REQUEST TO DONATE BENCH – LEADERSHIP ONEIDA COUNTY**

Fiene received a request from Emma Stroede regarding donation of benches to Oneida County parks as part of a Leadership Oneida County community project.

Motion by Sorgel to accept donation of benches from Leadership Oneida County for use in county parks. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

**FRIENDS OF TOWNLINER LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE**

Nothing at this time.

**VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Vouchers for the month totaled \$5,013.03 including \$2,437.50 for a timber sale performance bond refund and a snowmobile maintenance payment for new miles for the 2022-23 season of \$1,110.00.

Motion by Winkler to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

*It is anticipated that the committee may meet in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Sec. 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session. A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session. (Topics – Forestry Office Coordinator & Maintenance Technician/Equipment Operator performance and Compensation; Forester I and County Forester Performance and Compensation; and Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2023) AND it is anticipated that the Committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.*

*The committee will return to open session and may ratify any matter(s) discussed in closed session.*

Motion by Winkler to go into closed session at 4:25 p.m. Second by Sorgel. Roll call vote: All aye.

Motion by Winkler to return to open session at 4:55 p.m. Second by Briggs. Roll call vote: All aye.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Almekinder stated the committee approved the closed session minutes from February 1, 2023.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS**

- Next meeting – June 13, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.
- Bat Habitat Agreement & Resolution
- LTE Staffing Request for 2024
- Friends of Townline Lake Park Update

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

---

JIM WINKLER  
VICE-CHAIR

---

TANYA TISCHENDORF  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY