

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: May 5, 2021

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, VanRaalte, Almekinder, Mott, Pence
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
RASTA: Guy Hanson; Via Zoom: DNR Liaison – Manny Oradei

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. due to County Boardroom availability conflict with a public hearing. 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 VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021 meeting. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported county forest stumpage for April was \$12,767.60 due to residual invoicing from March stumpage. Year-to-date stumpage total is \$594,128.54.

Award Spring Timber Sale Bids – Fiene stated there were 14 tracts offered. Six tracts sold (19 bids) and one tract was pulled due to a property line dispute with an adjacent land owner. Fiene outlined the timber sale bid results for the committee totaling an estimated revenue of \$310,931.20. Recommendation to award Tract 1-21 and 5-21 to Wilson Forestry, LLC; Tract 6-21 to TNT Timber Improvement, LLC; Tract 8-21 to Roberts Logging, Inc.; Tract 11-21 to Fink Forest Products; and Tract 11-20 to Kleinschmidt Logging, LLC.

Motion by Mott to approve timber sale bids as explained and offer unsold tracts in the fall. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Timber Producers Cooperative Solicitation of Investment – No update at this time. Fiene to follow up with Corporation Counsel on the legalities of the county's ability to invest in the cooperative.

WCFA SUMMER TOUR – EAGLE RIVER, JUNE 22-24, 2021

Staff Attendance and Out of County Travel – Overnight lodging will be at the employee's personal expense.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve staff attendance. Second by Pence. Motion revised by VanRaalte to include committee attendance. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve out of county travel. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

ONEIDA COUNTY ATV TRAIL OPENING

Rady stated that the Oneida County ATV/UTV trail system and Enterprise Campground will open for the season on Friday, May 7, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

Supervisor Timmons expressed concerns with Lakeland ATV Club overlapping three counties that all have various open/close dates for ATV/UTV use. Requested the Oneida County ATV Council and Forestry Department try to better coordinate dates with other counties, town roads and state trails.

ATV TRAIL CONTRACT WITH WDNR – LITTLE RICE TRAIL AND CRUISER’S ROAD TRAIL

Fiene explained that the County has several miles of ATV Trail on DNR property. In the past, we have had contracts with the state; however, the current one is expired.

Rady stated the County has received the contract and has been in contact with Corporation Counsel for review/approval of the contract. The expectation was to have the contract available for the committee to review; however, it has not been finalized by Corporation Counsel to date. No action needed at this time. Sorensen requested the contract be added as a future agenda item.

FRIENDS OF TOWN LINE LAKE PARK UPDATE

Friends of Town Line Lake Park Presentation - Dave Walters provided handouts to the Committee and outlined the current strategic plan for the Friends of Town Line Lake Park. The plan includes: an executive summary; business and team summary; an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and goals (including short and long-term).

Friends of Town Line Lake Park Fundraising – David Schmitz explained the group cannot become a non-profit organization while they are politically engaged in “saving the park.” If the decision is to keep the park, they will pursue non-profit status. There are two current projects that current fundraising is sponsoring which includes a connecting bike trail and a handicapped accessible fishing pier. Both of these projects can happen with or without the sale of the park and with county approval for the pier. Schmitz further explained the diversity of financial/fundraising talent available within the Friends of Town Line Lake Park committee.

Discussion regarding potential surveillance/law enforcement presence at the park in the evening/after hours.

Discuss/Approve Withdrawal Resolution – Sorensen explained that the Forestry Committee made an obligation to the County Board at the time of the proposed purchase of Gillette/Wickham, to sell a portion of Townline Lake Park and return \$143,000 to the general fund. This resolution would need a 2/3 majority vote by the County Board to approve the withdrawal. Two resolutions were drafted – one that returns the proceeds to the General Fund and the second one returns the proceeds to the Land Purchase Account.

Discussion regarding revising the resolution from \$143,000 to \$168,000 as a newer appraisal values the property at \$168,000. Decision to leave the resolution as is.

Motion by Mott that the resolution that returns the proceeds to the non-lapsing Land Purchase Account be forwarded to the County Board. No second, motion failed.

Motion by Mott to send the resolution that returns the proceeds to the General Fund on to the County Board. Second by VanRaalte. Discussion regarding the obligation of the committee to present the resolution to the County Board despite the opposition from the community. Roll call vote – 4 Ayes, VanRaalte, Almekinder, Mott, Sorensen; 1 No, Pence. Motion carried.

Public Comment – Dave DeMent – If you made an obligation to purchase Gillette/Wickham with the proceeds from the sale of Townline Lake Park, why did you buy it when you didn’t have the money? What is being affected with the “lost \$143,000”? The original obligation was for \$143,000 so why not stick to the original obligation?

Kelby Scheel – You keep discussing the obligation made to the County Board; however, you need to remember the obligation you have to your constituents to do the right thing.

Discuss/Approve Opening of the 2nd Gate – Discussion regarding whether to open the gate or hold off until the County Board makes a decision on the sale of the park.

Motion by VanRaalte to table agenda items 9 (d-h) until the June Forestry committee meeting. Second by Mott. Motion withdrawn.

Motion by VanRaalte to postpone agenda items 9 (d-h) until the June Forestry committee meeting. Second by Mott. Discussion regarding picnic tables and portable toilets supplied by the Friends of Town Line Lake Park and liability issues for the County. All aye, motion carried.

Discuss Alternative Funding Options for Reimbursement for Gillette/Wickham Property – Handout provided by Fiene showing three parcels (one in the Enterprise block and two in the Lynne/Little Rice block) that do not fit into our management scheme. The 40-acre parcel in Enterprise is surrounded by private parcels and currently does not have access to the parcel. The Lynne/Little Rice parcels are surrounded by private property and/or state property.

Suggestion by Sorensen to add to June agenda to discuss/approve obtaining appraisals and/or selling these parcels.

GILLETTE-WICKHAM LAKE PROPERTY UPDATES

Review/Approve Recreational Boundary – Handout provided showing two options for a recreation area boundary for the Gillette-Wickham property. This boundary would limit hunting, camping, etc. from the specified section. Option A is approximately 37 acres and Option B is approximately 18 acres. Fiene recommends going with the Option B with the understanding the boundary can be expanded if needed at a later time.

Sorensen directed Fiene to follow up with the Town of Enterprise on declaring Gillette and Wickham Lakes as non-motorized lakes.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the recreational boundary shown as Option B. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Review/Approve Graveling/ADA Path Specifications -

Fiene explained the difficulty in creating an ADA path from the parking lot to the lake area given the required grades to maintain ADA compliance. After discussion with Highway Department, it appears this project will require more extensive earthwork than originally planned. Fiene recommends moving forward with graveling the parking lot, providing rock barriers, improvement of the access road and installation of additional gates to allow public access to the property this summer.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve graveling of the parking lot, access road, rock barriers and gates. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE CHAPTER 14 CODE AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

Revisions requested by Mott – pg 8, line 366 remove “boat landing” and pg 24, lines 1192-1193 remove “for cooking or heating and then”.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the resolution and forward to County Board with minor revisions. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

ALMON PARK SHELTER ENGINEERING QUOTE

Fiene reached out to MSA Professionals to provide a quote for the replacement shelters at Almon Park as they provided the engineering for the Rudolph Shelter. Due to setback issues, one shelter may need to be 12'x 16' rather than the planned 12' x 24' which would increase the engineering cost by \$1,000.00. Optional site visits (one during construction and one at completion) would be an additional \$2,500.00 bringing the total potential engineering costs to \$10,000.00.

Motion by Mott to move forward with the engineering quote. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers presented totaling \$25,867.22 which includes \$22,815.00 to MSA Professionals for engineering services on the Monico Connector ATV Grant.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – June 2, 2021
- Carbon Credit Recommendations
- Timber Producers Cooperative Solicitation of Investment Presentation
- Review/Approve ATV Trail Contract with WDNR
- Discuss/Approve Potential Parcels to Consider Withdrawal/Selling
- Discuss/Approve Townline Lake Park Amenities

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY