

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: May 12, 2026

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Sorgel, Lopez
Forestry Staff: Nemece, Rady, Tischendorf, Truitt
WDNR: John Gillen, Sydney Kottke, Curt Rollman

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 Briggs 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 Sorgel to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Stumpage Report - Rady reported April stumpage of \$20,946.96 bringing the year-to-date total to \$223,590.39. Currently have four active jobs.

Award Spring Timber Sale Bids - Rady reported 9 of 12 tracts sold with a total of 36 bids. Estimated revenue for the sold sales is \$927,486 compared to minimum bids of \$536,605.

High Bids Received:

Tract 1-26	Training Day Hwd	Smola Enterprises	\$156,380.00
Tract 2-26	Phantom Buck Hwd	Central Wisconsin Lumber	\$118,155.00
Tract 3-26	BRGM 3	Smola Brothers, Inc.	\$104,161.00
Tract 4-26	Sidecar Aspen	Al Mann Logging	\$ 45,286.00
Tract 5-26	SOS Aspen	Smola Brothers, Inc.	\$140,127.50
Tract 6-26	Trapped Aspen	TNT Timber Improvement	\$135,934.00
Tract 6-25	Silly Spruce	No Bids Received	
Tract 7-25	Gray Dog Oak	Al Mann Logging	\$158,015.00
Tract 9-25	Stone Cold Hwd	No Bids Received	
Tract 11-25	Thunder Chicken Hwd	Kleinschmidt Logging	\$ 45,000.00
Tract 14-25	No Bids Received		
Tract 17-25	Way Back Aspen	CTO Logging, LLC	\$ 24,427.50

Recommendation to award sales to high bidders.

Motion by Sorgel to accept the high bids on the tracts as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Nemece informed the committee the beach project at Almon Park is pretty much done. The highway department removed the retaining wall last fall and sloping, raking, etc. is complete. It might require a bit of grass seed, but otherwise it looks really good. The park is open to the public.

The Almon Park beach toilet/changing room building roof replacement project should be started soon.

Our summer ranger LTE position has an accepted offer and will begin May 18th.

Oneida County ATV/UTV trails opened May 1st and the Enterprise Campground opened May 8th.

WDNR REPORTS

DNR Liaison – Gillen provided background regarding the role of the WDNR with the County for new committee member Lopez. Provided an update on the state timber sale results. With DNR Liaison Kristina Wells getting ready for maternity leave, Gillen introduced DNR Forester Ranger Sydney Kottke as a temporary stand in.

Kottke stated they continue to staff for fire season throughout the Woodruff area. As of May 2nd, WDNR has reached about 95% of the allotted time standards for Oneida County.

DNR Wildlife Biologist – Rollman introduced himself and his role for new committee member Lopez. Provided an update on the Spruce Lake Dam Waterfowl draw down and the Citizen Deer Advisory Council provided recommendations for the antlerless deer harvest.

AWARD ATV BID

Truitt stated we received five bids and the recommendation is to award the sale to low bidder of Fuller Sales and Service for \$6,650.

Motion by Schultz to approve the purchase of the ATV from Fuller Sales and Service. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

Discuss / Approve Special Events Agreement – Nemec explained this is the annual agreement for FTLLP's two events - the Father's Day fishing event in June and Music in the Bowl in September.

Motion by Briggs to approve the special events agreement as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

RASTA PRESENTATION

Laura MacFarland, RASTA President introduced herself and provided background of RASTA's role and responsibilities with County silent sports trails. MacFarland presented a slideshow highlighting RASTA's annual accomplishments, various trail use/users and the trail systems maintained by the club.

Discuss / Approve RASTA 5 Year Plan Amendments – Nemec discussed the updates/amendments to the 5-year plan. The Department and RASTA have met to go over the amendments and both groups are comfortable with the revised plan.

Motion by Briggs to amend RASTA's 5-year plan as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW / APPROVE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Nemec outlined the highlights of the department including 2025 timber sale revenue, completion of the Rozell Road culvert replacement project, short snowmobile season (2024-2025, completion of Almon Park/Buck Lake retaining wall removal and the Spruce Lake flowage draw down.

Motion by Sorgel to approve and forward the 2025 Forestry Department Annual Report to the County Board. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

The committee received the list of invoices paid in April 2026.

Vouchers for the month totaled \$22,159.04 including \$13,818.80 for grant funded snowmobile bridge products.

Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT)

The committee was provided a copy of the department's April report. No concerns at this time.

Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Hanson, RASTA, commented that a lot of bike trails are maintained as snowshoe trails in the winter.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – June 2, 2026
- Election of Committee Vice-Chair
- Kelly Fire Lane Road Designation

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 8:43 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY