

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: June 2, 2021

TIME: 3:30 p.m. County Board Room (Relocated to Committee Room #2), 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. due to Zoom technical difficulties. The meeting has been relocated to Committee Room #2 due to the Planning & Development Meeting. 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 VanRaalte to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of May 5, 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 May was \$33,672.10 and year-to-date stumpage total of \$627,800.64. Currently have four active timber sales.

Discuss/Approve Survey – Sec. 8, T37N, R4E, Town of Lynne – Fiene reminded the Committee that one timber sale was pulled from the May offering due to a property line dispute. Fiene stated he conferred with Romportl regarding the survey needs to determine property lines. Based on the extensive amount of corners that need to be established, the unofficial estimate is \$20,000 - \$30,000 to survey the area. Most of this area has not been surveyed since 1864. In order to manage the timber in this area, the survey needs to be completed, it is just a matter of when. There isn't money in the 2021 budget to fund the survey.

After discussion, the Committee directed Fiene and Romportl to meet with the private landowner to explain the complexity and financial burden of the situation and try to get a "line by agreement". If the landowner will not come to an agreement on the property line, the County will need to get a survey and request money from the contingency fund.

Almekinder arrived at 3:52 p.m.

Carbon Credit Recommendation – Fiene reviewed the proposal provided by Steigerwaldt which could end up costing thousands of dollars. After conferring with a couple other counties, it was noted the other counties are working directly with Blue Source, the company that brokers the carbon credits.

Motion by Mott to authorize Fiene to proceed in contacting Blue Source and seeing what is involved in analyzing what we have and giving us a proposal. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Timber Producers Cooperative Solicitation of Investment Update – Fiene has yet to be contacted by TPC to make a presentation to the Committee. The Cooperative is still working on a purchase proposal for Verso.

NEW FORESTRY TRUCK UPDATE

Fiene received notification from Brickners of Antigo that corporate cancelled our truck order and they will not be able to fulfill the order after acceptance of their bid. Dodge will not be making fleet vehicles until at least November 2021 or later due to lack of parts.

Motion by VanRaalte to vacate the agreement for a new truck with Brickners of Antigo. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

2022 STAFFING REQUEST – LIMITED TERM EMPLOYEES (LTE’S)

Fiene reviewed the limited term employee staffing requests for the Forestry Dept. The ranger position would remain the same number of hours with increased responsibilities patrolling Gillette-Wickham and Townline Lake Park; however, the park laborers are seeing a significant increase of duties with mowing additional areas including Gillette-Wickham, Memorial Forest, Spruce Lake Dam, and trail mowing. Forestry is requesting an additional 200 hours at an approximate cost of \$3,100.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the staffing requests for the park laborers and the ranger position. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

PERCH LAKE PARK

Discuss/Approve Memorial Bench Request – David Tolsted – Fiene was contacted by David and Bernice Tolsted requesting approval to purchase and place a memorial bench at Perch Lake Park in memory of their son. Several prior requests for memorial benches have been approved over the years. All costs of the bench will be at the Tolsted’s expense.

Motion by Mott to approve the memorial bench at Perch Lake County Park. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Request for Additional Roll-up Door – RASTA – RASTA contacted Fiene requesting the County add the last roll-up door on the lake side of the outdoor shelter at Perch Lake. A few years ago, the County funded the purchase and installation of the current two doors. Adding the final door would help keep the wind from blowing into the fireplace/picnic area.

Committee requested Fiene/RASTA get an estimate and bring it back to the committee for discussion/approval.

AWARD ZIMMER PIT WEST GRAVEL BID

No bids were received. Rady will be contacting contractors to help determine why nobody was interested in bidding.

Motion by Mott to have Zimmer pit west gravel bid rebid. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS/APPROVE POTENTIAL PARCELS TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWAL/SELLING

After County Board unanimously voted against selling Townline Lake Park, Fiene was asked to look into potential parcels that may be advantageous to withdraw and sell.

Sec. 36, T35N, R9E, SE1/4, NE1/4, Town of Enterprise – Fiene believes this parcel may have a chance of withdrawal approval by the DNR as it is land locked by private landowners.

Sec. 4, T37N, R4E, SE1/4, SE1/4, Town of Lynne - Fiene explained although this parcel is surrounded by private property, the County does have access via the town road.

Sec. 11, T37N, R4E, NW1/4, SE1/4, Town of Lynne – This property is surrounded on three sides by DNR property. Oradei contacted the DNR to see if there was any interest; however, this parcel falls outside their project boundary and would require a master plan revision. Additionally the DNR would likely provide access to the property. Will likely be a good candidate for a future trade with the DNR for a 40-acre parcel on McCord Road surrounded by County land on three sides.

Part GL 2, Sec. 2, T36N, R8E, Town of Crescent – Fiene believes this parcel may have a chance of withdrawal approval by the DNR as it is not a part of Townline Lake Park and provides no benefit to the County.

Fiene will check with the DNR to determine what the next steps should be.

DISCUSS/APPROVE TOWNLINE LAKE PARK AMENITIES WITH FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK

- *Opening of the 2nd Gate*
- *Initial Mow of the Beach & Park Area* – Forestry committed to this pending County Board approval to retain Townline Lake Park.
- *Picnic Tables* – County allows memorial benches to be placed within park structures which seems similar to allowing picnic tables to be placed. Question to be answered - Can the TLLP Group donate money to the County to purchase picnic tables?
- *Trash Collection*
- *Bathroom Facilities* – Fiene stated precedence has been set with RASTA placing a porta potty at the Nose Lake parking lot.

Fiene recommends the initial mow of the beach and park area to happen sooner rather than later and prefers to wait on the other items until liability insurance and an agreement with the Friends of Townline Lake Park group are approved by Corporation Counsel and the Committee.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiene reviewed department highlights for 2020 despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the Forestry Department 2020 Annual Report and forward to the County Board. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers presented total \$62,560.69 including \$17,777.61 in performance bond refunds, \$31,818.64 for the Clements property purchase, and \$7,605.00 to MSA Professionals for the ATV Monico Connector 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 – July 7, 2021
- Carbon Credit Project Update
- Discuss/Approve Potential Parcels to Consider Withdrawal/Selling
- Discuss/Approve Townline Lake Park Agreement
- Discuss/Approve Additional Roll-up Door at Perch Lake Park
- Review/Approve ATV Trail Contract with WDNR
- Gravel Bid Update

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY