FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: June 2, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Sorgel, Lopez
Forestry Staff: Nemec, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR: Sydney Kottke

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Chair Almekinder called the meeting to order at 10:30 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 amended agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

Sorgel and Rady arrived at 10:31 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

ELECTION OF FORESTRY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

- Schultz nominated Briggs for the Vice Chair. Second by Lopez.
- Almekinder closed nominations for Vice-Chair.
- All members vote aye for Briggs, motion passes.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- *YTD Stumpage Report* - Rady reported May stumpage of $91,022.91 bringing the year-to-date total to $314,613.30. Currently have four active jobs and the Mosinee mill is no longer accepting softwood pulpwood.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Tischendorf explained that with the meeting change to earlier in the month, the Invoices Paid and Budget to Actual Reports will be delayed to the following month
- Nemec informed the committee of a Girl Scouts invasive species project for removal of knapweed at Townline Lake Park.
- The Almon Park beach toilet/changing room building roof replacement project has been completed. We have been hearing good feedback regarding the beach retaining wall removal.
- Nemec stated there are several upcoming land issues/requests access licenses, encroachment, deer stand violations, etc.) that will be brought to the committee in future meetings.

WDNR REPORTS

- *DNR Liaison* – Kottke stated Oneida County is at 104% of the allowed annual labor hour standards. The Rhinelander team will continue to help with reconnasiance and establishment.
- Fire staffing is coming to an end for the season – there were nine fires and approximately 4.46 acres burned.
- *DNR Wildlife Biologist* – Rollman was not available, but informed Nemec the Whitetail grant is about ready to submit.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

- No update provided by FTLLP

DISCUSS / APPROVE COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL & RESOLUTION (KELLY FIRE LANE)

- With the road abandonment by the Town of Little Rice, Nemec again outlined the options available to the County regarding access for Kelly Fire Lane.
- Almekinder stated he had several calls already inquiring about access and feels it would become an issue if we tried to restrict access.
- The Department's recommendation is to enroll the road into the county forest road inventory to collect gas tax funds and have the ability to block access during spring break-up.
- Motion by Sorgel to approve the proposed resolution to enroll Kelly Fire Lane as a county forest road and forward the resolution to the County Board. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – June 7, 2026
- Invoices Paid & Budget to Actual Reports for May 2026
- Access License Agreement(s)

CLOSED SESSION

- It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by roll call vote to enter into 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 and it is anticipated the Committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda. (Topics – Luber Lane Cell Tower Lease, and Approve Closed Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2026)
- Motion by Sorgel to go into closed session at 10:48 a.m. Second by Lopez. Roll call vote: All aye.
- Motion to return to open session at 10:57 a.m. Roll call vote: All aye.
- ANNOUNCEMENT: Almekinder announced the committee approved minutes of the April 14, 2026 closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

- With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER	TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE CHAIR	COMMITTEE SECRETARY