

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 7, 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: Nemec, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR: Sydney Kottke

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 Sorgel to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Motion by Sorgel to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026 meeting. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- *YTD Stumpage Report* - Rady reported June stumpage of \$62,669.61 bringing the year-to-date total to \$377,282.91.
- Hoping to see some activity over the next couple of months.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Nemec submitted the application to Wisconsin DOT to include Kelly Fire Lane as a County Forest Road.
- Nemec reported the Department received the new dump truck (originally ordered as a 2024 CIP).
- The online reservation/trail pass system, Recreogo, which was implemented this year, seems to be going pretty well.
- The girl scout project regarding the removal of knapweed and implementation of a pollinator garden at Townline Lake Park has changed a bit as the girls will be moving out of the area the end of July. Knapweed was pulled and an invasive species management plan for the park may be prepared; however, the pollinator garden will no longer be an option due to time constraints.
- Nose Lake trailhead toilet building and parking lot expansion is moving forward. Vault toilet has been ordered.

WDNR REPORTS

- *DNR Liaison* – Kottke stated with the new fiscal year, time standards have reset so they will be working on dozer projects, recon, timber sale establishment and the upcoming partnership meeting in September.
- *DNR Wildlife Biologist* – Rollman was not available and did not have any updates.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

- No update provided by FTLLP.

DISCUSS / APPROVE LTE STAFFING FOR 2027

- Tischendorf explained the department was seeking approval for existing LTE hours (1,200 hours for park maintenance and 500 hours for ranger position) for 2027.
- Motion by Briggs to approve LTE staffing for 2027. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE GORETSKI ACCESS REQUEST – EN-269

- Nemec explained this is a parcel completely surrounded by County forest. There is an existing woods road providing access to the parcel. Mr. Goretski is requesting to move forward with an access license to allow him to improve/gravel the existing road.
- Nemec further explained Mr. Goretski is requesting a 2nd road (development of new road) to provide access to the western eight acres of the parcel as there is a creek running through the parcel.
- Discussion regarding whether to allow a 2nd access road and where the most appropriate area is to provide additional access due to wetland impacts/culvert concerns.
- Motion by Sorgel to approve the proposed new access as shown by yellow dotted line in addition to existing access. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.
- Nemec will prepare an access license agreement and resolution for a future meeting.

DISCUSS / APPROVE POTENTIAL LAND SALE – EN-423 & EN-421

- Nemec stated the landowner approached the department about potential interest in the County purchasing these parcels.
- Parcel EN-423 is approximately 40 acres and abuts county land on two sides. EN-421 does not have current access.
- Based on criteria for potential acquisition outlined in the Oneida County 15-year plan, the parcel does meet some of the criteria; however, the acquisition would not provide significant benefit to the County.
- Discussion regarding funding, prior resolution not in favor of additional public land acquisition, County benefit, etc.
- Motion by Almekinder not to move forward with the potential purchase of EN-423 & EN-421. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

- The committee received the list of invoices paid in May 2026.
- Vouchers totaled \$37,461.21 including \$17,954.81 for grant - funded projects.
- Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL) REPORT

- The committee was provided a copy of the department's May report.
- No concerns at this time.
- Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – August 4, 2026
- Access License Agreement(s)
- Budget Items – CIP'S
- WCFA Fall Conference Schedule

ADJOURNMENT

- With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY