FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: August 4, 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, Truitt
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 amended agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Motion by Sorgel to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2026 meeting. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- *YTD Stumpage Report* - Rady reported July stumpage of $73,473.58 bringing the year-to-date total to $450,756.49.
- Currently have seven active jobs with a reduction in quotas imposed by the mills.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Nemec informed the Committee the WCFA Fall Conference is scheduled at Holiday Acres in Rhinelander in September if anyone would like to participate.
- Nemec reported the Washburn ski trail repair is complete with help from the WDNR dozer crew.
- Oneida County received the Whitetails Unlimited grant of $1,500 to help fund the wildlife game openings mowing project in the Town of Lynne.

WDNR REPORTS

- *DNR Liaison* – Kottke reiterated the dozer work was complete on the Washburn ski trail.
    - The team continues to work on timber sale establishment on Stefanez Road.
    - Wells should be back from leave in a few weeks.
    - Working to schedule the annual partnership meeting between WDNR and County personnel.
- *DNR Wildlife Biologist* – Rollman reported there are accepted bids for mowing of the wildlife game openings within the Lynne and Indian Village Grouse Management areas.
    - Secured funding to cover accepted bids – work to be completed by November 1st.

DISCUSS / APPROVE NATIONAL WILDLIFE TURKEY SUPERFUND GRANT APPLICATION

- Nemec stated this grant was previously awarded in 2024.
- Grant is awarded as a 75/25 percent match grant against funds already budgeted for 2026.
- Motion by Briggs to approve application submittal for the grant. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE GORETSKI ACCESS LICENSE PERMIT & RESOLUTION FOR PARCEL EN-269

- Nemec explained Mr. Goretski previously requested two separate access points to his property; however, due to the complexity of the 2nd access and the need for a certified survey, he would like to move forward with the original access road at this time.

- Nemec stated the once the Committee approves the license, then it would go to County Board for approval.
- Motion by Sorgel to approve the resolution to grant an access license across County forest in the Town of Enterprise to Quinn Goretski. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION – SOUTH EXIT ROAD

- Nemec informed the Committee the deadline to submit Sustainable Forestry Grants is August 15th.
- The Forestry Department has been utilizing these grants for several projects.
- Have recently started to apply for funds to help with County Forest road maintenance and offset CIP requests.
- Current request is to fund maintenance expenses for South Exit Road in the Town of Enterprise.
- Motion by Briggs to approve submittal of the grant application for South Exit Road. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

2027 BUDGET ITEMS

- 2027 – Replace Forestry Work Truck
- 2027 – Purchase Boom Attachment for Tractor
- 2027 – Rozell Road Rehab – 50%
- 2028 – Rozell Road Rehab – 50%
- 2028 – Kelly Fire Lane Culvert Replacement Project
- 2028 – Forestry Shop Repair
- 2029 – Zimmer Road Rehab – 50%
- 2029 – Cruiser's Road Rehab – 50%
    - Nemec provided some background on road rehabilitation projects and grant funding requests to help offset maintenance costs (if awarded).
    - Nemec outlined the necessity of the Kelly Fire Lane culvert project.
    - Discussion regarding culvert material, available department funding (County Forest Road Aids of $351 per mile) and current maintenance schedule.
    - Motion by Schultz to approve the 2027 CIP list and forward to the Executive Committee for review. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

- The committee received the list of invoices paid in June 2026.
- Vouchers totaled $4,679.10 including $326.75 for grant - funded projects.
- Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL) REPORT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – September 1, 2026
- 2027 Forestry Department Budget

ADJOURNMENT

- With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY