FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 1, 2026

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Lopez
Excused: Sorgel
Forestry Staff: Nemec, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR: Kristina Wells

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 Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2026 meeting. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- *YTD Stumpage Report* - Rady reported August stumpage of $204,688.32 bringing the year-to-date total to $655,444.81.
- Currently have 12 active jobs including a couple of higher priced aspen sales.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES – REPORTED BY NEMEC

- The department is down an employee due to a worker's compensation injury.
- Current LTE Ranger resigned early for full-time position with Lincoln County; however, a prior forestry LTE returned to help finish out the season.
- Gates for Kelly Fire Lane are being installed this week to allow for temporary closures as needed.
- Shingle Mill Road rehab project was completed last week.
- The County was awarded a Sustainable Forestry Grant for South Exit Road rehab in the amount of $76,300.

WDNR REPORTS

- *DNR Liaison* – Wells stated she was gradually working up to full-time after being out on leave.
    - The team submitted timber sale drafts for the fall bid opening.
    - Fire staffing continues with low precipitation.
- *DNR Wildlife Biologist* – No update provided.

DISCUSS / APPROVE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR KYLE KILBOURN ATTENDANCE WCFA FALL CONFERENCE

- Kilbourn reached out to Nemec regarding attending the WCFA Fall Conference. Committee of jurisdiction needs to provide approval for funding through the county board budget.
- Motion by Briggs to approve Kilbourn's request to attend the WCFA conference. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE SEIDEL UPDATED ACCESS LICENSE

- Nemec explained an access license for road access/improvements was granted in December 2025.

- Nemec stated it was later discovered an easement did not exist and a prior access agreement to the County for the Cassian ski/bike trail and access road that crosses Seidel's property had terminated with the sale by previous owners. A verbal agreement with Seidel is currently in place.
- Seidel is willing to provide the County the necessary access; however, he has proposed a land trade as a long-term option that will be considered at a later date.
- Discussion regarding benefits and consequences to involved parties and access fees already paid by Seidel to the county.
- Motion by Schultz to approve the proposed access license and refund 50% of the prior access license fees paid by Seidel. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE 2027 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET & RELATED FORMS

- Tischendorf outlined the various departmental business units and provided information detail for the revenue and expense line items.
- Nemec discussed decreasing stumpage and increasing costs causing challenges for the department. Very difficult to find areas to cut expenses without decreasing services (eliminate LTE summer help for park maintenance; however, park cleanliness and usage would decline).
- Motion by Briggs to approve the budget with adjustments outlined by Tischendorf and forward to the Executive Committee. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

- The committee received the list of invoices paid in July 2026.
- Vouchers totaled $82,107.20 including $73,394.27 for grant - funded projects including $54,000 for ATV trail maintenance and $14,000 for a snowmobile grant project.
- Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL) REPORT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – October 6, 2026
- Fall Timber Sale Bid Opening & Extensions
- Seidel Resolution

ADJOURNMENT

- With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER	TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE CHAIR	COMMITTEE SECRETARY