

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 4, 2019

TIME: 3:30 p.m. Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Sorensen, Pence, VanRaalte, Almekinder, Mott
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Tischendorf

Tom Wiensch – Assistant Corporation Counsel; Jeremy Holtz – WDNR; Matt Carothers – Consulting Forester

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.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 VanRaalte to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the minutes of August 7, 2019 FLR Committee meeting. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

Fiene reported stumpage revenue for August was \$123,105.31. Based on August's income, we are about 70% of the 5-year average for the month. Utilizing this calculation for the remainder of the year would put stumpage revenue just over \$1,000,000 for the year.

APPROVE AMENDED LANDFILL DEMO SITE 4, OPTION 3 PARCEL WITHDRAWAL RESOLUTION

Fiene explained that the previously approved resolution included verbiage stating the parcel would be re-entered into county forest upon closure and reclamation. Upon further discussion with WDNR, the parcel may not be eligible for re-entry to county forest because of the monitoring restrictions placed on the parcel after closure, creating the amended version of the resolution striking that verbiage.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the amended withdrawal resolution. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

BACKES ENCROACHMENT UPDATE

No updates since prior meeting. Waiting on Mr. Backes to provide survey for the Town of Cassian to adjust right-of-way. Once approved, we will move forward with the withdrawal process.

CONSIDER THE POLICY AND FORM FOR CONTRACT/LICENSES FOR PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT OWN LAND ADJACENT TO COUNTY FOREST WHO WISH TO OBTAIN THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT OR IMPROVE LOGGING ROADS ON COUNTY FOREST IN ORDER TO ACCESS THEIR LANDS UPDATE

Wiensch provided committee with updated draft copies to review after last month's meeting. Wiensch went over the changes made from prior requests from the committee.

Discussion regarding fee schedule for new road development versus road improvement including if the fees should be increased, record keeping/documentation of permits granted, the term length of the permit, and clarity of county approval for all requested improvements (initial and subsequent).

Motion by Almekinder to direct Assistant Corporation Counsel to draft the document with increased fees of \$5,000 per acre and \$500 for admin fees with the understanding that until the 15-year plan is adopted, the document is nothing more than a rough draft. Second by VanRaalte. Roll call vote: Mott, aye; Pence, no; Almekinder, aye; Sorensen, aye; VanRaalte, aye; motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to draft the document with the same proposed fees whether a new road or an existing road. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Mott to approve the verbiage changes and the rough draft as presented and Assistant Corporation Counsel continue drafting the final document. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Matt Carothers, consulting forester, provided some concern and questions regarding the proposed changes to the policy. Sorensen directed Fiene, Wiensch and Carothers to meet and discuss concerns and questions.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE DNR CWD SURVEILLANCE PERMITS ON COUNTY FOREST LAND

Holtz provided information regarding the WDNR request for CWD surveillance permits on county forest land. These are the same permits as provided last year.

Motion by Sorensen to approve the CWD surveillance permit request for 50 permits in the Cassian/Woodboro block and 100 permits in the Enterprise block for the 2019 deer seasons with the appropriate weapon and the appropriate season. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

WCFA ANNUAL FALL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

WCFA Fall meeting is scheduled in Rhinelander this year at the Quality Inn. Fiene will attend Thursday, Rady will attend Friday. VanRaalte will be attending as well.

Motion by Mott to approve travel and attendance for the WCFA Annual Fall meeting in Rhinelander. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

ROLAND FIR AND BTG LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATES

No updates on Roland Fir. Waiting for a response from BTG and may hear something back after September 15th.

Committee directed Fiene to inform the snowmobile clubs to begin looking at alternative routes. Fiene suggested a decision to determine alternative routes/close trails be made at October's meeting if no response from Roland Fir. Fiene will also reach out to Forrest Gibeault personally in an effort to resolve the issue.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selling County Land – Discussion regarding the negative impact the sale of county forest (particularly the western block) would have on stumpage revenue, state statute implications, and impact on recreational trails.

Sorensen requested Fiene provide a written response to the Funding Opportunities Committee regarding the items brought forth to the Forestry Committee for review. He referenced a similar letter provided by Jennrich for the Planning & Zoning Committee items for review.

Motion by Mott to reject selling off the county forest land in the Town of Lynne. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Retain Forestry Fees – Snowmobile & ATV Trails – Discussion regarding the ability to retain \$25 per mile for administrative fees. Fiene provided information showing that 16 of 19 counties do NOT charge administration fees for recreational trails. Recommendation by the Forestry department to keep the maintenance as is and distribute all maintenance funds to the clubs.

Motion by Pence to let the maintenance dollars remain with the club and not charge for administration costs. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

Retain Forestry Fees – RASTA – Oneida County pays RASTA \$19,900 per year for maintenance of the silent sports trails. Typically they use about \$16,000 for maintenance and are able to “bank” the remaining amount for equipment purchases and/or trail development.

Motion by Mott to continue funding RASTA at the \$19,900 per year. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Develop RV Park – Possible location at Town Line Park suggested. Discussion regarding the cost to develop and operate an RV park wouldn’t provide a return on investment for many years.

Motion by VanRaalte to reject the idea to develop an RV park on county land. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers totaling \$37,165.71 were presented. Majority of expenses (\$26,700.00) were for trail development of the Pel-cho and Bowman Connector ATV trails covered by grant money. An additional \$4,349.00 was paid to USDA APHIS for beaver management.

Motion made by VanRaalte to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mott wished to thank Rady and Fiene for their work in putting together the ATV ride for the new Pel-Cho ATV trail in the Town of Enterprise. A great job providing information regarding trail development processes. Sorensen recognized Bilogan for his work on this project as well.

Hansen stated RASTA just finished pouring concrete in groomer shed using their own funds. Also mentioned it may be beneficial for Oneida County to hire an LTE to enforce trail pass usage of the trails.

REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Fiene provided a handout showing the personnel detail (wages and benefits) by position. Accomplished the goal to be at 0% increase in non-personnel expenditures. Decrease in stumpage revenue due to markets and mother nature.

Mott presented a question regarding increased personnel expenses. Finance provided the department with personnel expenses for budgetary purposes. Snowmobile and ATV accounts are money in, money out.

Mott questioned the estimated stumpage revenue for 2019 at \$1.3 million when we are only expecting just over \$1 million at this point. Budgets were prepared about a month ago, and this number is a forecast only. Based on averages for the past five years, it could happen if all goes well for the remainder of the year. The original 2019 budget was \$1.5 million.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the 2020 Forestry Department budget as presented and forward to Admin Committee. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020 BUDGET COMMITTEE CHECKLIST ITEMS

Budget worksheet has been approved. Supplemental information form and continuing appropriation account balances worksheet was provided to committee.

Discussion regarding campground fees and the additional 2% severance provided to towns for road maintenance.

Question and discussion regarding land purchase continuing appropriations account.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the budget checklist and items have been reviewed. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Highlights for 2018 include: New record of \$2 million in stumpage revenue, zero worker's compensation claims, met the goal for allowable timber harvest, and the completion of an additional 6.7 miles and rehabilitation of 5 miles of ATV trail in the Town of Enterprise.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the annual report and forward to the County Board. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS/MEETINGS

- Roland Fir and BTG Land Use Agreement Update
- Consider the Policy and Form for Contract/Licenses for Private Entities That Own Land Adjacent to County Forest Land Who Wish to Obtain the Right to Construct or Improve Logging Roads on County Forest in Order to Access Their Lands Update
- 15 Year Plan Process & Public Hearings

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY