

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 9, 2025

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz
Excused: Ives, Sorgel
Forestry Staff: Nemec, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR: John Gillen

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Almekinder called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 12, 2025 meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

REVIEW / APPROVE 2026 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Tischendorf presented the 2025 year end estimates – no questions from Committee.

Tischendorf presented the 2026 proposed departmental budget – discussion on proposed software purchase to allow for online reservations and purchase of services with credit/debit cards.

Motion by Schultz to approve the budget as presented. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW / APPROVE 2026 CIP UPDATES

Almon Park Retaining Wall – Nemec explained the department met with a landscaper and the recommendation is to tear out the retaining wall, create a slope from the grass to the beach and re-seed. The department's opinion is this project can be accomplished with department continuing appropriations funds rather than a CIP. Recommend to eliminate CIP project and increase Parks Improvements by \$10,000 for 2026 budget.

Motion by Briggs to accept recommended change – eliminate CIP project and increase 2026 Parks Improvement budget by \$10,000. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

Almon Park Restroom Improvements – Nemec contacted another contractor to request an estimate, however, has not received at this time. Current estimate of \$50,000 is best we have – will keep CIP as approved at August meeting.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Stumpage Report - Rady reported August stumpage of \$20,030.33, bringing the YTD stumpage to \$523,977.91. Computer issues prevented billing invoices for the last two weeks of August causing additional carryover into September. Currently have seven active jobs.

WDNR REPORTS

DNR Liaison – Gillen reported the WDNR and County held their annual partnership meeting yesterday. Continue to work on timber sale establishment and most of the dozer work is complete.

DNR Wildlife Biologist – No update.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

Nemec referenced the update provided by FTLLP. Additionally the department and FTLLP met to discuss maintenance responsibilities of current and future items/infrastructure within the park. Agreement of both parties that once infrastructure (docks, picnic tables, benches, etc.) is placed, maintenance (repair & replacement) becomes the county's responsibility.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

The committee received the list of invoices paid in August 2025.

Vouchers for the month totaled \$173,285.22 including \$167,817.29 for grant funded and/or reimbursed expenses. Rozell culvert replacement project was completed for \$61,450 with grant funding, Dump Road ATV project was finished for \$99,814.03.

Discussion regarding Dump Road project coming in significantly over original bid.

Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT)

The committee was provided a copy of the department's year to date budget for review. A few accounts currently show over budget and will need line item transfers to cover negative balances. No concerns at this time.

Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Hanson, RASTA – volunteers working on trails.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – October 14, 2025
- Timber Sale Extensions
- Hodag Sno-Trails Re-route – OC Hwy Dept

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY