

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** September 12, 2023

**TIME:** 8:00 a.m. County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Almekinder, Winkler, Sorgel, Schultz  
Excused: Briggs  
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf, Truitt

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

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Sorgel to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 meeting. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

*YTD Timber Stumpage Report* – Fiene reported August stumpage of \$86,553.14 bringing the year-to-date total to \$590,896.72 which is still behind the 5-year average. Markets remain quite low with two active jobs.

### **AWARD ATV BID**

Prior committee approval to purchase an ATV with tracks and sell the 2012 Tundra snowmobile and 2013 Polaris ATV to offset the cost. Received four bids; however one did not include the tracks so it was marked as incomplete. Low bid from Erv's Sales & Service of \$14,383.95 and met all bid specifications.

Motion by Sorgel to accept the bid from Erv's Sales & Service as presented.. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

### **DISCUSS / APPROVE MEMORIAL BENCH REQUEST – TOWN OF ENTERPRISE ATV**

Fiene informed the committee that the department received a memorial bench request from one of the parents of the deceased teenagers that were found along the Enterprise ATV trail. The proposal is for a concrete bench weighing approximately 1,200 pounds.

Fiene recommends approving the installation of a bench, but prefers a bench type that is able to be moved/relocated if needed.

Schultz arrived at 8:09 a.m.

Motion by Almekinder to approve placement of a memorial bench and if it they are set on the concrete bench presented, they will be responsible for installation and installation has to be done on an insured basis. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

### **DISCUSS / APPROVE RASTA REQUEST FOR STORAGE SHED – PERCH LAKE PARK**

RASTA is requesting to place a 12' x 12' storage shed at Perch Lake as the current garage is beyond capacity. RASTA would provide all funding, maintenance, insurance, etc. Fiene will discuss with Corporation

Counsel regarding ownership of the building once installed. Assumption is RASTA maintains ownership as the shed is not a permanent building.

Discussion regarding appropriate size and placement of proposed shed.

Motion by Winkler to approve the shed with a minimum size of 12' x 12' with RASTA retaining ownership based on approval by Corporation Counsel. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

#### **FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE**

As a representative from FTLLP was not available, Fiene summarized the update report provided. Music in the Bowl event was a great success, spotted knapweed was found in the park, looking to have another dock section added to the kayak pier to accommodate the approved bench, working on a walking trail around the park and placement of the donated wooden dock.

Recommendation to defer approval to add an additional dock section to the kayak pier to next month.

#### **OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN – DRAFT (FRED HEIDER, NCWRPC)**

Fred Heider, NCWRPC provided the committee with draft copies of the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2024-2028. Explained purpose of the plan, goals and objectives of the plan, survey results and proposed recommendations including any input/updates provided by the towns.

Any changes or revisions can be submitted to Fiene to compile and forward to Heider. Fiene cautioned the committee that any project recommendations or improvements listed in the plan do not guarantee the projects will be completed; however, to qualify for grant funding, projects need to be listed or would require a plan amendment.

Per Heider, no need for a public meeting as the survey allowed for public input. Heider will check with the DNR to determine if boat launches / lake districts, lake associations, etc. should be included in the plan.

#### **REVIEW / APPROVE 2024 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

Fiene explained that the state informed us yesterday the recreational trail grants we typically receive did not score high enough to receive funding for 2023-24 so we will be decreasing the parks account revenue by \$14,950. These grants helped offset the maintenance costs paid to RASTA to groom and maintain the silent sports trails. Additionally, included in the budget is an additional \$5,000 for RASTA as the county has been paying them \$19,900 annually since 2013. Trail pass revenue has been increasing and we are proposing an annual pass increase beginning March 2024, along with RASTA's costs to maintain the trail systems, so it is recommended to approve the cost increase despite the loss of grant revenue.

The department is requesting money from the parks improvement continuing appropriation account in addition to \$10,000 requested from the general fund to help fund proposed maintenance projects including: Almon park boardwalk repair/replacement, retaining wall repair/replacement and bathroom maintenance, Townline boat landing repair, Perch Lake shelter maintenance.

Increases shown for gasoline and equipment repairs due to increased costs.

Overall forestry revenue and stumpage revenue remains about the same as last year. Planning slight revenue increases from firewood, balsam bough, Christmas tree and remote camping permits.

Campground revenue and expenses relatively even to this year. May propose to increase registration fees for 2025.

No planned land purchases or sales for 2024.

County forest roads is all grant funded by WDOT road aids of \$351 per mile and Trout grant funding of approximately \$250 per mile totaling approximately \$19,000 annually. Budgeting to use some appropriation

funds to outsource gravel/grading of county forest roads. Also includes grant funding of \$46,000 of \$52,500 project to replace culverts on Rozell Road in the Town of Little Rice.

Wildlife Habitat is all grant funded by WDNR nickel an acre resulting in \$3,870 which is used to maintain wildlife habitat primarily by mowing and seeding.

ATV and Snowmobile accounts are all grant funded and includes funding for both maintenance of trail systems and motorized trail projects including bridge rehabs, trail rehabs, etc.

Motion by Winkler to approve the budget as presented (less the \$14,950 loss of grant funding for RTP) and move it on to Administration Committee. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

**INVOICES PAID REPORT**

The committee was provided a list of the invoices paid in the month of August 2023.

Vouchers for the month totaled \$51,892.69 including \$45,552.52 of grant funded projects, reimbursed expenses and road aids.

Informational only.

**BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT**

The committee was provided a copy of the department's year to date budget for review.

Informational only.

**DISCUSS / APPROVE ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR HODAG'S HWY 8 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL RE-ROUTE**

Snowmobile grant funded project previously approved by the committee. Did not receive any bids from advertising in April. After contacting multiple engineering firms, Rady was able to solicit two potential bids. Looking for approval to award the contract to the low bidder pending review of the proposals for bid specifications and approval by Corporation Counsel.

Motion by Almekinder to award the contract to the lowest bidder pending meeting specifications and legal aspects. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS**

- Next meeting – October 10, 2023, CR #2 due to budget meetings
- November Bid Opening Date
- Timber Sale Extensions / Expirations
- Friends of Townline Lake Park Update & Dock Addition
- Outdoor Recreation Plan – Fred Heider

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY