

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 16, 2020

TIME: 5:00 p.m. County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, VanRaalte, Pence
Via Phone: Mott Excused: Almekinder
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf,
DNR Liaison: Oradej; NCWRPC: Fred Heider

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Pence to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Mott joined the meeting via zoom at 5:05 p.m.

15-YEAR PLAN OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fiene introduced the department employees and read an opening statement including Oneida County Forest statistics and the update procedure for the 15-year plan.

The following comments were received prior to the meeting via phone/email/US mail:

Public comment from Henry Wozniel requesting UTV verbiage be added to County code was read into the record by Fiene. Fiene stated this will be addressed with the final code revisions.

Public comment from Ryan Williams in support of smaller, diverse, and evenly staggered timber harvests to provide better wildlife habitat read into the record by Fiene. Fiene believes his concerns have been addressed.

Public comment from Ron Eckstein, a retired DNR wildlife biologist, supporting Oneida County continuing efforts to sustainably manage the forest resources summarized by Fiene. Fiene believes the County is already focused on the forest management as outlined.

Public comment from TJ Hauge of the Wisconsin Chapter of Hunters and Anglers requesting areas of the county forest remain closed to recreational motor vehicle to promote hunting and fishing opportunities was summarized by Fiene. Fiene believes we have covered his comments.

There were not any public comments received from the Lac du Flambeau Tribe. As required, a virtual meeting was set up by the WDNR comprised of the WDNR, LDF, Oneida County and Vilas County representatives to discuss the 15-year plan.

Public comment from the Oneida County ATV Council in support of developing more ATV/UTV trails was read into the record by Fiene.

Public comment from Andrew at sampkamp@yahoo.com in support of primitive camping on County Forest land was read into the record by Fiene. Fiene stated a remote camping permit and regulations will be developed for the revised 15-year plan.

Technical difficulties resulting in Zoom disconnect from 5:30-5:35.

VanRaalte left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Mott left the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Pence left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Technical difficulties resulting in Zoom disconnect from 6:12-6:14 p.m.

Due to technical issues with Zoom connection, the public comment period will be extended for ten days. Comments will be accepted through noon on September 27, 2020.

No additional comments were received during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY