

## **FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** October 2, 2019

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m. Committee Room 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

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

Tom Wiensch – Assistant Corporation Counsel; Lisa Charbarneau – LRES;  
Guy Hansen – RASTA; Manny Oradei - WNDR

### **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 Almekinder to approve the minutes of September 4, 2019 FLR Committee meeting. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

*YTD Stumpage Report* – Fiene reported stumpage revenue for September was \$104,342.30. This is about 75% of the 5-year average. If we continue at this rate, we would be looking at a year end total of approximately \$1,088,000. With the continued rain, things remain pretty slow.

*Fall Timber Sale Bid Opening/Awarding Dates* – Fiene proposed to open bids on Monday, November 4, 2019 rather than November 6, 2019 due to a conflict with the Northern Highland State Forest bid opening.

### **FORESTRY DIRECTOR VACANCY/RECRUITMENT**

Sorensen stated that all/any of the Forestry, Land & Recreation Committee members are able to participate in the interview process. Will need to post if a quorum of the committee.

Charbarneau explained there are three options for the committee to choose from for recruitment of the position: internal promotion, internal recruitment, external recruitment. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **SERVICE AWARDS/EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Sorensen presented Fiene with a 25-year certificate and Rady with a 15-year certificate of service. Congratulations and thank you for your years of service!

### **ROLAND FIR AND BTG LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATES**

Rady provided update on various attempts to communicate with Roland Fir representative. Rady informed both affected club presidents of the situation. If an agreement is not signed, these trails will be closed.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve having the trails re-routed on town/county roads and authorizing Rady to negotiate this with the townships/highway department. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

### **ATV GATE ISSUE**

Forestry department received a letter of concern from Mr. Bill Wenzel regarding the width of the ATV gates on Oneida County forest. Rady measured all gates and they range between 69.5 – 73 inches with an average of 71 inches wide. ATV clubs have previously requested the gates not be wider than 70 inches.

Consensus of the committee to follow up on this issue next summer due to current staffing concerns.

### **WORKLOAD CONCERNS RELATING TO RECREATION TRAIL REQUESTS**

Discussion regarding the increase in ATV trail development requests from the various ATV clubs within Oneida County. ATV trail development takes a lot of time from the county with grant proposals, overseeing the project, providing expertise to the club, etc. With current staffing, it is not feasible to provide county resources at this time.

Additionally there is already a list of suggested trail development projects and very difficult to manage requests from 11 various clubs. Discussion as to whether the newly formed Oneida County ATV/UTV Council should be the one to prioritize and direct new trail development instead of the county. Suggested to provide guidance to clubs with alternative options to write/sponsor grants without county involvement.

Motion by Pence to direct staff to inform ATV clubs there is a hold on new trail development (not already in progress) for the county until the department is fully staffed. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

### **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 updated draft of the contract. Discussion regarding who is able to sign the contract...an individual person, an entity, all landowners with an interest, etc. Consensus of the committee is to write the contract with a record title holder and the contract should be valid until the title changes ownership.

Proposed fees to be addressed with public comment hearings with the 15-year plan.

Wiensch will update and provide a new draft.

Sorensen left the meeting at 4:55 p.m. and returned at 4:58 p.m.

### **DISCUSS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS & POTENTIAL SAVINGS**

The Funding Opportunities Committee requested the committee discuss/recommend whether the county should continue their membership with the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) at a cost of approximately \$8,300 per year.

Discussion regarding benefits of WCFA membership presented by Fiene and VanRaalte.

Motion by VanRaalte to maintain membership with the WCFA. Second by Pence. Roll call vote: Mott, aye; Pence, aye; Almekinder, aye; Sorensen, no; VanRaalte, aye. Motion carried.

#### **FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 15-YEAR PLAN**

Fiene provided a brief timeline of the 15-year plan process. Consensus of the committee to bring each chapter draft to regular forestry committee meetings as they are completed with an entire draft to the DNR by October. Discussion regarding involving the tribes and other recreational user groups. Fiene will work on putting together a user group list to solicit public input with a tentative plan for a public forum in August 2020.

#### **VOUCHERS AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Vouchers totaling \$69,967.01 were presented. Majority of expenses (\$60,525) were for the Oneida Snowmobile Council for the first half of snowmobile maintenance for 2019-20. Also included are costs for cabin demolition at Gillette-Wickham.

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Hansen wanted to commend the Forestry Department for a great job. With the staffing concerns, the committee may not want to wait a month to fill the administrator job.

#### **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
- Award Fall Timber Sales
- Backes Update & Resolution
- Forestry Director Vacancy/Recruitment Options

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF  
RECORDING SECRETARY