FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: October 6, 2026

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Lopez
Excused: Sorgel
Forestry Staff: Nemec, Rady, Tischendorf
Youth in Governance Representative: Parker Lee

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 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 September 1, 2026 meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Introduction of Parker Lee, Youth in Governance Representative.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- *YTD Stumpage Report* - Rady reported September stumpage of $217,730.32 bringing the year-to-date total to $873,175.13.
    - Previously had 10-12 active jobs and currently down to two active jobs.
- *November Timber Sale Bid Opening Date* - Rady stated bid opening will be October 29, 2026.
- *Timber Sale Extensions* – Three contracts coming due in November that could need contract extensions.
    - *Iron Gate Aspen* - #1802 contracted with Wiitala & Vozka Logging
        - Four year contract
        - All cutting and forwarding is complete
        - Some bulldozer work and a bridge removal needed
        - Extension needed for billing and contract close out process
        - Motion by Almekinder to approve a one-year extension as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion passes.
    - *S Curve Aspen* - #1800 contracted with Wiitala & Vozka Logging
        - Four year contract – winter access only
        - Started last winter and completed about 1/3 of the harvesting before spring break up
        - Mark Vozka commented on weather conditions and market challenges
        - One-year extension with 15% stumpage increase recommended as the department believes it is in the County's best interest due to partial harvest, access concerns, market conditions, etc.
        - Motion by Briggs to approve a one-year extension with 15% stumpage increase as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion passes.
    - *East Loop Hwd* - #1820 contracted with Twin Forest Products (Central Wisconsin Lumber)
        - Four year contract
        - All cutting and forwarding is complete and approximately 15-20 loads to haul
        - Extension may be needed for billing, bull dozing and contract close out process
        - Motion by Almekinder to approve a one-year extension as presented. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion passes.

DRAFT

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES – REPORTED BY NEMEC

- Update on the Nose Lake vault toilet and parking lot expansion.
    - Vault pit is dug and waiting for delivery of the toilet.

WDNR REPORTS

- *DNR Liaison* – Wells was unavailable, Rollman provided an update in her absence.
    - Completed the partnership meeting with County and various WDNR personnel.
    - Discussed timber sale assignments for 2027 and planning marking camp for 2026.
- *DNR Wildlife Biologist* – Rollman reported Oneida County received $1,500 from the National Wildlife Turkey Federation to provide additional funding for mowing of the wildlife openings.
    - Contractor is currently mowing the openings with a November deadline.
    - CWD positive reported north of town, not on Oneida County lands.

DISCUSS / APPROVE FORESTRY PROJECT LOAN RESOLUTION

- Nemec provided information on the ability to apply for forestry project loans with 0% interest through the WDNR.
- Previous discussion with the Executive Committee during CIP meeting to look into the possibility of funding upcoming Forestry capital requests with a project loan.
- Discussion by the committee on whether to support the resolution.
- Motion by Almekinder to approve the resolution and forward it to County Board for discussion as non-consent agenda. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE SEIDEL UPDATED ACCESS LICENSE RESOLUTION – SEC. 14 T37N R7E TOWN OF CASSIAN

- Nemec reminded the Committee of the previous access license provided to the landowner and the need to update the access license to include reciprocal access to the County across the landowner's property for forestry and recreational purposes.
- Prior committee approval to refund 50% of original access license fees of $295.00.
- Motion by Almekinder to approve the updated access license and forward the resolution to County Board as consent agenda. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

- The committee received the list of invoices paid in August 2026.
- Vouchers totaled $61,127.51 including $44,809.10 for grant - funded projects including approximately $39,000 for a wildlife management grant project and $12,500 for RASTA trail maintenance.
- Informational only.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL) REPORT

- The committee was provided a copy of the department's August report.
- Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – November 3, 2026
- Award Fall Timber Sale Bids

ADJOURNMENT

- With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DRAFT