FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: November 3, 2026

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Lopez, Sorgel
Forestry Staff: Nemec, Rady, Tischendorf, Truitt
WDNR: Kristina Wells
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 Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Motion by Schultz to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2026 meeting. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- *YTD Stumpage Report* - Rady reported October stumpage of $104,670.60 bringing the year-to-date total to $975,611.77.
    - A lot of timber sale activity happening now.
- *Award Timber Sale Contracts* - Rady reported 7 of 16 tracts sold with a total of 16 bids (1 invalid bid received). Estimated revenue for the sold sales is $480,322.50 compared to minimum bids of $301,993.00.

High Bids Received:

Tract 9-25	Stone Cold Hardwood	No Bids Received	
Tract 14-25	Pawned Off Hardwood	No Bids Received	
Tract 7-26	Pop A Top Hardwood	Twin Forest Products	$133,221.00
Tract 8-26	Kick Wax Aspen	Wiitala & Vozka Logging	$126,825.00
Tract 9-26	Not A Picnic Hill Resale	No Bids Received	
Tract 10-26	DW Cheq Resale	No Bids Received	
Tract 11-26	Ricochet Ridge	Smola Enterprises	$ 45,841.00
Tract 12-26	Red Wrecker	Wiitala & Vozka Logging	$ 89,700.00
Tract 13-26	Starship Enterprise	Twin Forest Products	$ 30,879.00
Tract 14-26	Circus Hardwood	No Bids Received	
Tract 15-26	Corgi Pine	Smola Enterprises	$ 33,750.00
Tract 16-26	Northwesterly Hwd Resale	Steve Dassow	$ 20,246.50
Tract 17-26	Marheine Hwd Resale	No Bids Received	

Recommendation to award sales to high bidders.

Motion by Sorgel to accept the high bids on the tracts as presented. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATES – REPORTED BY NEMEC

- Nothing to report

WDNR REPORTS

- *DNR Liaison* – Wells arrived at 8:15, no update provided
- *DNR Wildlife Biologist* – Rollman was absent, no update provided

DISCUSS / APPROVE WDNR PROJECT LOAN ITEMS

- Nemec stated the prior resolution authorizing up to $800,000 in project loans was passed by County Board in October.
- Need direction from the Forestry Committee on how much to apply for and whether or not the County wants the 75% loan advance.
- CIP priority list provided to Committee for review.
- Motion by Almekinder to forward current priority list to Executive Committee for final approval. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE SURVEY FOR SHED ENCROACHMENT – EN-394-1

- Nemec explained there is a shed encroachment on County property that was discovered through arial photography.
- Nemec contacted and outlined the issue with the property owner. Owner will not discuss the situation without a current survey (approximate cost of $3,000).
- Discussion by Committee and Nemec regarding available options with or without an updated survey.
- Consensus to delay a survey until surrounding timber needs to be harvested.
- Nemec will send landowner a letter requesting the shed be moved as the current survey shows it is encroaching on County land. May bring back to Committee depending on outcome.

DISCUSS / APPROVE NOTICE FOR BIDS

- *Conservation Road ATV Trail Development* - Truitt stated this is a new trail (currently a snowmobile trail) within the Town of Lynne that connects to an existing trail. The project is 100% grant funded.
    - Motion by Sorgel to approve the notice for bids and move forward with the project. Second by Lopez. All aye, motion carried.
- *South Exit Road Rehab Project* – Nemec explained this project is 100% funded by a Sustainable Forestry Grant to replace culverts, gravel and grade 2.24 miles of county forest road in the Town of Enterprise.
    - Motion by Schultz to approve the notice for bids. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP)

- *Discuss / Approve Maintenance Agreement Proposal* – Nemec provided background information regarding the organization of the FTLLP group after the County proposed the sale of Townline Lake Park to offset the purchase of Gillette-Wickham Recreational Area.
- FTLLP has been providing general maintenance of the park and beach area since late summer of 2021. Prior to then, the park and beach area had not been maintained by the County for several years.
- Nemec stated there have been some challenges with the group maintaining the park this season.
- FTLLP provided the Committee with an updated proposed maintenance agreement which would basically rely on the County to manage the park maintenance with FTLLP aiding in funding and development of the park area.
- Nemec stated the department is already challenged with the current forestry and recreational responsibilities and labor available (including LTE hours which are difficult to fill).
- David Walters, President of FTLLP, spoke on behalf of the group and the challenges with equipment needed to maintain the initial cleanup and ongoing maintenance. FTLLP would like to see the responsibility of maintenance revert to the county and the FTLLP can focus efforts on fundraising to improve the park.
- Kelby Scheel, FTLLP, spoke in favor of the FTLLP maintenance proposal.
- Almekinder explained the challenges with budget constraints, continued increases to the county budget, and concerns with securing LTE hours.
- Discussion between FTTLP and Committee regarding ongoing maintenance of the park.
- Dave Dement, FTLLP, spoke in reference to the park and garbage usage at the park and beach.
- Tracy Beckman, FTLLP, spoke in regards to the overall vision of the park.

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- Linnea Newman, spoke regarding the benefits and use of the ADA kayak launch available at Townline Lake Park.

Briggs left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

- Almekinder asked that additional discussion come to the Committee at a future meeting.

INVOICES PAID REPORT

- The committee received the list of invoices paid in September 2026.
- Vouchers totaled $188,316.65 including $184,690.84 for grant - funded projects including $184,443.75 for snowmobile supplemental maintenance for the 2025-26 season.
- Informational only.

Lopez left the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL) REPORT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – December 1, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

- With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER	TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE CHAIR	COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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