

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: November 4, 2020

TIME: 3:30 p.m. County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, VanRaalte, Pence, Almekinder, Mott
Forestry Staff: Rady, Tischendorf, Fiene (via Zoom)
DNR Liaison: Oradei

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 Mott. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020 and October 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported county forest stumpage for October is \$44,422.54 bringing the year-to-date total to \$1,018,978.82. A couple loggers have indicated they plan to start up after deer season.

Award November Timber Sale Bids – Fiene stated we received 44 bids and sold 13 tracts.

High bids received:	Tract 4-20	TNT Timber Improvement	\$151,336.55
	Tract 5-20	Stella-Jones	\$124,722.00
	Tract 8-20	Northwest Hardwoods	\$ 16,999.00
	Tract 10-20	Wiitala & Vozka Logging	\$ 58,585.00
	Tract 12-20	Kleinschmidt Logging	\$ 60,280.00
	Tract 13-20	Johnson Brothers	\$ 42,175.25
	Tract 14-20	CTO Logging, LLC	\$ 14,060.50
	Tract 15-20	Futurewood Corporation	\$ 39,101.80
	Tract 17-20	Futurewood Corporation	\$ 32,776.20
	Tract 19-20	Futurewood Corporation	\$ 46,990.00
	Tract 21-20	Roberts Logging, Inc.	\$133,500.00
	Tract 22-20	Roberts Logging, Inc.	\$ 41,620.00
	Tract 23-20	Kleinschmidt Logging	\$ 3,900.00

Motion by Mott to approve the timber sale bids as presented. Second by VanRaalte. Discussion regarding a typo on Tract 8-20. Minimum bid listed was \$77,675.00 and should be \$7,675.00. Motion by Mott to approve the timber sale bids with the amendment. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the difference between high bid and minimum bids. Fiene explained that minimum bids were reduced to accommodate current market prices and the impact of the closure of the Verso mill. Fiene also requested the committee grant approval to direct sell timber sales (at minimum prices) that received no bids.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve authorizing the Forestry Director to direct sell those tracts that received no bids at minimum bid if they can be sold. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

ATV PROGRAM

Endorse Nokomis ATV Club for Bypass Trail of Highway 51 – Rady stated the Nokomis Club requested to pull this item from the agenda.

Hire Engineering Firm for Monico Connector Grant – Rady explained this is a 100% grant funded ATV project that will connect Oneida County trails to Forest County trails. The landowner, the Department of Transportation is requesting engineered blueprints and plans of this trail. These costs were incorporated into the grant request. Rady confirmed with Corporation Counsel that it was acceptable to contract directly with MSA without going through the bidding process. Due to the tight time table and the fact that MSA has previous experience engineering blueprints of DOT right-of-ways with other ATV trails, Rady is requesting approval to forego the bidding process and grant MSA the contract.

Discussion regarding the engineering contract time table and project completion date.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the professional services agreement with MSA pending review by Corporation Counsel. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

COUNTY GRAVEL PITS

Burrows Pit – Stump Update – Fiene confirmed with Town Chair Margitan that the stumps will be ground up and removed from the pit. Committee requested Fiene get this in writing with an estimated completion date before providing documentation that reclamation is satisfactorily complete.

Shingle Mill Pit – Gate Access & Gravel Removal – Fiene provided background information and photos showing the wildlife opening and road that has been destroyed by “mud trucks” as well as dumping appliances, garbage, etc. as well as some gravel theft. Fiene recommended gating the road into the gravel pit.

Motion by Pence to approve the gate. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

GILLETTE-WICKHAM ADA PROJECT MEETING UPDATE

Sorensen stated that he authorized Fiene to postpone the graveling of the road/parking lot until we know if we were approved for the ADA grant funds which may cover the graveling costs.

Highway Department is working on providing a quote for graveling the road/parking lot and a paved ADA path from the parking lot to the lake.

PROPERTY FOR SALE – NOKOMIS BLOCK

Fiene was contacted by a realtor to see if the county was interested in approximately 200 acres in the Town of Nokomis.

Fiene does not recommend pursuing this property as we do not have the funds available, it falls outside the current acquisition boundary and would create additional private property lines. VanRaalte provided additional comments related to timber revenue and appraisal value supporting this recommendation.

Motion by VanRaalte to not pursue the purchase of the property. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

CONSIDER SELLING TAX DELIQUENT PARCEL LR 39-25

Fiene provided background regarding the parcel in the Town of Little Rice that was taken on tax delinquency in 1991. Fiene’s recommendation is to forego any interest in adding this parcel into County Forest Law and support the sale of the parcel.

Motion by Mott to not pursue adding this parcel to the county forest and recommend the property be sold. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

TOWN LINE SALE

Fiene requested the committee approve revising the original sale plan to include access to the proposed sale property from the north-east side rather than from Town Line Lake Road.

Public comments received from Beth: Requesting an updated appraisal, a copy of the survey, and verification regarding the classification/protection of bladderwort. Inquiry regarding the selling process and zoning requirements.

Public comments received from Kelby Scheel: Question about proposed access road off Town Road. Abutting property owner stating many issues with public regarding his property, however, he is opposed to the sale of the park.

Motion by Mott to approve new appraisal of the Town Line Lake property to include access off the Town Road and the appraiser to look into invasive species. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

It is anticipated that the committee may meet in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Stats. § 19.85 (1) (c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session. (Topic – Forestry Director performance evaluation and goals and Approve closed session minutes from November 6, 2019) AND it is anticipated that the Committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.

The committee will return to open session and may ratify any matter(s) discussed in closed session.

Motion by Pence to go into closed session at 4:22 pm. Second by VanRaalte. Roll call vote: All aye.

Motion to return to open session at 5:01 p.m. Roll call vote: All aye.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The committee went over the performance evaluation and goals for the Forestry Director and approved the closed session minutes from November 6, 2019.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion by Mott to approve vouchers in the amount of \$145,481.73. The majority of this is the 1st half supplemental snowmobile maintenance of \$124,050.00. Also included is a timber sale deposit refund of \$14,326.00 to Fink Forest Products and the final payment to the Highway Department for the Washburn Haul Road grant of \$2,961.11. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Sorensen will not be attending the December FLRC meeting

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

ALAN VANRAALTE
VICE-CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY