

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: November 6, 2019

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

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

Tom Wiensch – Assistant Corporation Counsel; Guy Hansen, Scott Watson – RASTA; Hillary Keller - WNDR; Scott Krueger – Town of Enterprise Resident

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 VanRaalte to approve the minutes of October 2, October 15, October 22, 2019 FLR Committee meetings. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported stumpage revenue for October was \$68,658.25. Two jobs active right now.

Awarding of Fall Timber Sales – Fiene stated 5 of 12 tracts sold for a total of \$436,055.40. Added to the spring sales brings the total to \$1,425,000 million for the year.

High bids: Tract 11-19 Pea Patch Pine – Wiitala & Vozka Logging with a bid of \$163,139.00
Tract 13-19 Nose Job – Northwest Hardwood with a bid of \$63,947.50
Tract 16-19 Memorial Pine – Futurewood Corporation with a bid of \$35,963.90
Tract 17-19 Gil-Wick – Country Forest Products with a bid of \$70,900.00
Tract 18-19 Washtub Aspen – Roberts Logging with a bid of \$102,105.00

Motion by Mott to approve 2019 fall timber sale bids as listed. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT NEW FORESTRY DIRECTOR

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the resolution appointing Fiene as the new Forestry Director and forward to the County Board. Second by Pence. Unanimous aye vote, Motion carried.

BACKES ENCROACHMENT UPDATE

Fiene stated the survey has not been received yet so the withdrawal is on hold until it is complete.

ROLAND FIR AND BTG LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATES

Wiensch stated that Roland Fir has signed a 3-year agreement with the County. There is no need for a re-route at this time. Rady has some potential re-routes in mind if needed. Rady

plans to proceed with the Town of Cassian and Little Rice to get approval to use road routes as a back up option.

ENTERPRISE FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Scott Krueger, resident of Enterprise posed questions to the committee regarding the lack of maintenance on Shingle Mill Road. Discussion regarding the limited employee resources available to maintain roads, parks and trails and vehicle maintenance. Fiene stated Shingle Mill is next on the list for road maintenance.

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 based on the discussion from the prior meeting.

Changes made to allow any/all owners of a parcel can sign the contract. Discussion relating to pros/cons of one/some owners vs. all owners signing the contract. Clarification of liability and insurance requirements for multiple owners if all do not sign the contract. Wiensch confirmed the contract is reasonable at this time.

Final approval of the contract will happen after the public comment session for the 15 year plan update.

RASTA

Request for Trailer at Zimmer Parking Lot – RASTA has requested approval to place a storage trailer at the Zimmer Parking lot to keep grooming equipment readily available for grooming the Enterprise winter recreational trail.

Discussion regarding liability of theft, vandalism, etc. If approved, the contract would include revisions to include liability of the trailer/equipment in Enterprise.

Motion by Mott to approve RASTA parking a trailer in the Zimmer Parking lot for storage of grooming equipment. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Request to Name Trails – RASTA is requesting approval to name the silent sports trails to help users identify the various trails/loops within the system. Rady recommended RASTA may want to look into implementing a form of TINS within the trail system for emergency purposes.

Motion by VanRaalte to allow RASTA to name Oneida County silent sports trails with Forestry Department approval. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS/APPROVE INCREASE OF CAMPGROUND FEES FOR 2020

Fiene explained that the Admin Committee requested an increase in campground fees during the budget review hearings.

Handout provided showing the potential impact of the increased fee. The county would need to see a decrease of approximately 33% occupancy to show a negative effect on revenue.

Motion by VanRaalte to increase the campground fee to \$15 per night for 2020. Second by Pence. 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 Account Technician compensation and Approve closed session minutes from May 15, 2019, October 15, 2019 and October 22, 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 4:25 p.m. Second by Almekinder. Roll call vote: All aye.

Motion to return to open session at 4:35 p.m. Roll call vote: All aye.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Approval of closed session minutes. Motion by Almekinder to approve the compensation increase request for the Forestry Account Technician and forward to the LRES Committee. Second by Pence. Roll call vote: All aye. Motion carried.

VOUCHERS AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers totaling \$152,002.73 were presented. Majority of expenses (\$121,050) were for the Oneida Snowmobile Council for the first half of snowmobile supplemental maintenance for 2018-19. Also included are two performance bond refunds for timber sales totaling \$25,481.88 and \$1,285.87 to RASTA for the Washburn Trail Reconstruction Grant.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fiene introduced Ben Broquard as the new Forester I to the Committee. Ben previously worked with Forest County as the acting Assistant Administrator.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS/MEETINGS

- BTG Land Use Agreement Update (if needed)
- Backes Encroachment Update (if needed)
- RASTA Maintenance/Grooming Contract for 2020
- Forestry Department Annual Work Plan
- Forestry Department Long Range Plan

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

ALAN VANRAALTE
VICE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY