

MEETING OF PELICAN RIVER FOREST COMMITTEE
MAY 1, 2023
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Robert Briggs, Supervisors Roach, Winkler, Ryden and Almekinder.

Call to order: Chairman Briggs called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion by Winkler/Roach to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All aye; motion carried.

Approve minutes from the April 3, 2023: Motion by Roach/Winkler to approve the minutes from April 3, 2023. All aye; motion carried..

Public comment –

John Kopp – Nokomis Resident – Spoke in favor of the Pelican River Forest Easement.

Kathleen Cooper – Pelican Resident – Spoke in favor of the Pelican River Forest Easement. Spoke against developing the property.

10:05 am. – Supervisor Tommy Ryden arrives

Discuss Town of Sugar Camp and Town of Monico Resolution – Briggs presented the Sugar Camp and Monico resolutions.

Discuss proposed Langlade County Resolution – Holewinski expressed concern with the Langlade County Resolution as it addressed a number of items impacting Oneida County, however, Oneida County and Oneida County towns were not included on the creation of the resolution.

Discuss Economic Development Letters – Verdoorn spoke to the economic impact of the Pelican River Forest Easement to Oneida County. Verdoorn presented two information sheets addressing economic concerns with the easement. Verdoorn expressed concern with the easement locking land into the lowest value taxable land which is in MFL. Verdoorn reported that harvesting wood in easements is more expensive and more difficult due to needing to harvest the wood in larger land increments. Verdoorn stated that much has been said about this land being opened to tourists, however, the road will only be opened for 6 months out of the year and Verdoorn believes that the people using the property are current landowners and tourism will not be positively impacted by this easement. Discussion with Verdoorn over other uses for the land (ATV trails, hunting, logging roads, timber). Winkler spoke in support of conservation but expressed concern with the finality of a permanent easement. Newman expressed concern with mining coming onto this property.

Resolution #25-2023 Resolution to Object to the State Removing Future Taxable Land by Purchasing Conservation and Access Easements – The Committee will be discussing making changes to the resolution, doing nothing with it and/or proposing an alternate resolution to go back to the County Board – Briggs stated that he would like to see this committee create a resolution using Monico and Sugar Camp resolutions as the basis.

Roach stated that he has heard comments that people would like to see the errors corrected and believes that should be done. Holewinski recommended that the committee come back with a resolution to be brought to the County Board using the guidance that has been provided by the members of the committee. Schreier spoke in support of writing a new resolution and focusing on the lack of communication with the communities that are directly impacted by these decisions. Discussion regarding the impact the proposed easement will have on Monico. Holewinski recommended that the committee assign writing a resolution to a member of the committee and schedule a meeting for next week to review the proposed resolution. Motion by Ryden/Winkler to scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m. All aye; motion carried. Motion by Winkler/Ryden to instruct Briggs to create a resolution to bring to the next meeting. All aye; motion carried.

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings: The next administration committee meeting will be held on May 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn – Briggs adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Hartman, Recording Secretary
Oneida County Clerk