

**MEETING OF PELICAN RIVER FOREST COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 9, 2023**  
**Minutes**

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

**Committee members absent:** Supervisor Roach

**Call to order:** Chairman Briggs called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 Almekinder/Winkler to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All aye; motion carried.

**Approve minutes from the May 1, 2023:** Motion by Winkler/Almekinder to approve the minutes from May 1, 2023. All aye; motion carried.

**Public comment –**

Karl Fate – Crescent Resident – Spoke about protecting the water shed and property owners being allowed to engage in conservation on their own land.

Kathleen Cooper – Pelican Resident – Spoke to the support for the easement and addressed statements that she felt were misleading at the last committee meeting.

Erik Rampala – Town of Cassian – Encouraged the committee to slow down to allow residents to have time to express their opinions and spoke to concerns regarding mining.

Tom Wiensch – Town of Pelican – Expressed frustration with the DNR's handling of the easement and expressed concern with the speed with which the county is moving forward with a resolution.

**Resolution #25-2023 Resolution to Object to the State Removing Future Taxable Land by Purchasing Conservation and Access Easements – The Committee will be discussing if it wants to make corrections to the resolution or supply a new resolution to go back to the County Board –** Briggs stated that it was decided at the last meeting that the original resolution was not going to be corrected due changes made at the state level. Briggs presented a new resolution to the committee. Briggs reminded the committee that this is a non-binding resolution. Holewinski expressed a concern with the easement moving forward and removing all of the land from future development. Holewinski spoke to the ATV trails and the lack of ATV/UTV trails in the proposed easement. Holewinski stated that the proposed resolution addresses a number of concerns expressed with the easement, however, will still allow for purchase and development of land in Monico. Discussion regarding proposed roads, ATV/UTV trails, potential usage of the land. Discussion regarding other easements in the state that are not being properly managed and do not allow access by ATV/UTV, hunters and other interested groups. Winkler expressed concern with information that has been presented at the Natural Resources Board and the lack of follow through on some of the plans that have been proposed. Schreier thanked the committee for the effort put into the resolution and the concerns that were addressed in the new resolution. Schreier would like to see more control locally with what happens with trails and roads. Schreier would like to see an assessment of the economic impact of the proposed easement. Schreier expressed support for making changes to the process that is used in the future when these types of purchases or

easements are proposed. Ryden expressed support of the resolution and believes that future easements should allow more input from the local government units. Holewinski expressed support of the land owners being allowed to put their property in an easement, however, the use of federal and state funds should have input from local government units before tax dollars are approved. Motion by Almekinder/Ryden to move the proposed resolution onto the County Board for further discussion. All aye; motion carried.

**Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Hartman, Recording Secretary  
Oneida County Clerk

DRAFT