

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** March 2, 2022

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m. Committee Room #2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Sorensen, Pence, Almekinder, VanRaalte, Mott (via Zoom)  
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf  
WDNR – Manny 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 agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of February 2, 2022 meeting. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time. Able to comment during specific issues at the time of the agenda item.

### **REVIEW/APPROVE WOLF POPULATION CONTROL RESOLUTION**

Public Comment: Fiene read emails on behalf of Dan Huhnstock supporting a limit for the state's wolf population and Laurie Groskopf providing statistics regarding predator deer mortality.

Fiene stated the Town of Little Rice contacted him to inform him they have had some issues and will be addressing it at their next town board meeting.

Sorensen stated he wrote a letter to the tribal chairmen of the Chippewas for both Lac du Flambeau and Mole Lake tribes inviting them to the meeting.

Discussion by VanRaalte regarding the need for the resolution as the new ruling placed wolves back on the federal endangered list and a prior resolution was approved by County Board in 2010 supporting a state limit of 350 wolves.

VanRaalte provided a spreadsheet to the committee showing the county/state's deer and wolf populations from 2007-2020 based on a DNR study. Additional discussion regarding the population data on the spreadsheet and the mortality information provided by Groskopf.

Motion by Pence to forward the updated resolution to the County Board. Second by Mott. Roll call vote: VanRaalte – aye; Mott – aye; Almekinder – aye; Pence – aye; Sorensen – aye. Motion carried.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT**

*YTD Stumpage Report* – Fiene reported stumpage for February was \$88,507.03 and for the first two days of March the stumpage is \$21,283.60. Things are slowing down considerably and getting into the lower priced sales. Nothing positive with the markets. Currently have five or six active jobs.

*Set Date for Spring Timber Sale Bid Opening* – Bid opening will be scheduled for May 2, 2022 with the awarding of bids at the May 4, 2022 Forestry Committee meeting.

*Connor Forest Management Overdue Account Update* – Fiene discussed the situation with Corporation Counsel and the decision was made to cash in the performance bond for the outstanding stumpage. A

request for payment on the letter of credit was made to the financial institution. Connor Forest Management has been notified that the remaining bonds will be retained and dependent on re-sale results.

**REVIEW/APPROVE WPS EASEMENT REQUESTS, TOWN OF CASSIAN; CA-865 & CA-889**

Fiene received an easement request from WPS; however, they did not provide updated maps as requested, showing exact distances in the event the committee wishes to charge any fees for the easement. Fiene's recommendation is to postpone the request until accurate maps have been provided.

Fiene suggested the committee ponder whether or not they want to charge an easement fee and if so, how they want to determine the fee (per foot, acreage, etc.) as he was unable to find prior utility easement agreements with the County.

Motion by VanRaalte to postpone until more information is available. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

**REVIEW/APPROVE FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE 2022 MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Fiene provided a copy to the Friends of Townline Lake Park for review and they will be taking it to their board meeting tonight for approval.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the 2022 Townline Lake Park maintenance contract between Oneida County and Friends of Townline Lake Park subject to their agreement. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

**REVIEW/DISCUSS WORKER'S COMPENSATION REPORT**

LRES requested department heads provide their committee of jurisdiction with a copy of the worker's compensation report for 2021. Forestry department had one claim for an LTE employee.

No action taken, informational only.

**AWARD ATV PROJECT BIDS**

*Monico ATV Connector Project* – Rady provided a brief project description. Approximately \$141,000 left from the current grant. Recommendation to accept the low bid from Musson Brothers for \$132,116.96. Musson has a pit very close to the project site.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the Musson Brothers bid for the ATV Monico trail. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

*Burrows North Rehab Project* – Rady provided a brief project description. Grant approved for \$195,000. Recommendation to accept the low bid from Rynders, Inc. for \$133,333.00.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the Rynders bid for the Oneida County ATV Burrows N Rehab. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

**PURCHASE OF HANSON PARCEL EN-269 – REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE PENDING KNOWLES-NELSON APPROVAL**

Fiene stated this had been discussed at the last Forestry meeting after the CIP Committee had concerns with the timing of the proposed purchase and the proposed sale of county land. After direction from the Forestry Committee, Fiene contacted the landowners and they are not willing to wait for the sale of county land before the purchase of their property can be finalized. CIP Committee has provided their agreement to proceed with the purchase as the withdrawal application was re-written to specify how the funds would be distributed.

Motion by VanRaalte to proceed with the purchase of Hanson parcel EN-269 pending Knowles-Nelson approval. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Mott excused at 4:24 p.m.

**VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

*Vouchers* - Vouchers presented totaling \$79,315.79. Approximately \$34,000 if performance bond refunds for satisfied timber sales to Northwest Hardwoods and TNT Timber. Additionally \$36,364.00 was to Dave Marston Motors for the new forestry work truck, and \$3,668 for the 2022 beaver control agreement with APHIS.

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

*Line Item Transfers* – There are \$1,580 of line item transfers within the forestry, parks and maps accounts to cover negative balances for 2021.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the line item transfers as presented. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS**

- Next meeting – April 6, 2022
- Connor Forest Management Account Update
- WCFA Summer Tour – June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> in Ladysmith - Rusk County
- Hanson Property Update – Town of Enterprise
- WPS Easement – Town of Cassian

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

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JACK SORENSEN  
CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF  
RECORDING SECRETARY