

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 1, 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: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf

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 June 3, 2020 FLR Committee meeting. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported county forest stumpage for June of \$7,859.30 bringing the year-to-date total to \$688,679.30. Additionally we have \$7,160.40 from non-county forest stumpage for total stumpage revenue YTD of \$695,839.70. Currently two active jobs.

Verso Mill Shutdown – Possible 0% Extensions for Fall 2020 – Fiene provided an update on the Verso Wisconsin Rapids mill shutdown and how it may affect both Oneida County and the state of Wisconsin. Over the past five years, approximately 8% of Oneida County's forest timber has gone to the Wisconsin Rapids mill. If the mill remains closed for any length of time, we can expect stumpage prices to drop and anticipate a significant reduction in activity and income for the remainder of the year.

The DNR has already stated they will be giving 0% increase extensions to all first year and first extension contracts. Recommendation by Fiene to wait and see how the markets react, etc. before deciding how to handle fall extensions.

LITTLE RICE LANDOWNER – POTENTIAL SALE TO COUNTY OF PARCEL LR 38, Sec. 3, T36 R5E UPDATE

Fiene has ordered an appraisal of the property. Once received, Fiene will bring information back to committee.

BTG LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATE

The forestry department held a meeting on June 30th with the snowmobile council president, nine of the ten snowmobile clubs and Joe Mattke (Steigerwaldt representative), regarding BTG land use. Rady provided an update to the Committee: Face to face meeting is no longer an option at this time due to Covid concerns; the three clubs affected have been looking into re-

routes involving town roads and expensive wetland crossings; requested BTG legal talk directly with Corporation Counsel; BTG legal is looking at the contract and Mattke requested two weeks to get an update from BTG; Oneida County Snowmobile Council is drafting a letter to send to BTG if needed.

Discussion regarding the feasibility of re-routes and implications of BTG not signing the agreement.

TROUT CREEK DOG TRAINING AREA UPDATE

John Fetzer previously requested to open a road to allow use of an area off Trout Creek Road for dog training exercises as there are a couple of small ponds available for retrieval training.

Fetzer provided an estimate of approximately \$1,700 for grading/graveling of the road. Fiene explained that due to liability concerns, the County would need to contract directly with the contractor and receive reimbursement from Fetzer. Committee suggested Fetzer reach out to Hodag Sport Club, Ducks Unlimited, etc. for donations.

VanRaalte would like to see more information provided relating to the County's long-term commitment of department time and funds. Mott requested Fetzer come back with specific figures and how the project will be paid for initially and what ongoing costs may be.

Motion by Sorenson for Forestry Department to work with Fetzer to come up with a feasible plan and contact Corporation Counsel to come up with a contract. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

POLLOCK EASEMENT AND PURCHASE REQUEST – Sec. 14 T37N R7E TOWN OF CASSIAN

Glen Pollock has requested an easement exchange on a property he recently purchased on Sheep Ranch Road. Prior owner was granted a standard access permit by the County. Wisconsin statutes are very clear that easements will not be granted on County Forest unless proven to create higher and greater use to the County.

Pollock also requested to purchase an 11-acre parcel next to his property. Fiene does not believe the sale and withdrawal of this parcel from County Forest Law would be approved by the WDNR.

Pollock has also requested and provided permission to the County to re-locate the gate by the ski trail to his property to help prevent vehicles from gaining access to the trail. Fiene will work with Corporation Counsel on an agreement for moving the gate.

Fiene's recommendation is to not pursue the requested land sale and offer the standard access permit based on the response from the WDNR.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the standard access permit and working with Pollock and Corporation Council on the gate re-location. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS/APPROVE OPENING ALL COUNTY FOREST ROADS TO ATV/UTV'S

Hodag 4-Wheeler and Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz ATV Clubs have requested the Forestry Department open the gas tax County Forest roads within the Town of Enterprise to ATV/UTV's. The Town of Enterprise has provided a letter supporting this request.

Fiene and Rady believe it makes sense to open these roads as most town and county roads are now open to ATV/UTV's.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve opening all county forest gas tax roads to ATV/UTV traffic. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the request by the Town of Enterprise to open all county forest roads. Committee prefers to keep roads gated, bermed, etc. as is.

TOWN LINE PARK

Fiene was contacted by a gentleman questioning why Town Line Park is no longer maintained and had heard that the County was planning to sell it. Although not part of the original decision, Fiene recalls at the time it was the least used county park, there was a budget crunch and Forestry had to reduce a position so the decision was made to no longer maintain Town Line Park, Willow Rapids and Bass Lake picnic areas. Additionally an increase of bladder wort took over the beach area.

As part of the proposed sale, the County plans to keep the boat landing. Additionally, the proceeds from the sale of this property were approved by County Board to offset the County costs to purchase the Gillette/Wickham properties.

Comments received by Kelby Scheel, Town Line resident and Beth Follenweider opposed to the sale of Town Line Park.

15 YEAR PLAN DRAFT

Review/Approve Chapter 800 – Motion by Mott to approve Chapter 800 with revisions proposed by VanRaalte and Mott. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Review/Approve Chapter 900 – To be reviewed next month. Any current comments can be forwarded to Fiene to revise for next month.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion by VanRaalte to approve vouchers for March 5, 2020 through March 23, 2020 in the amount of \$56,170.48 of which \$55,080.00 was a performance bond refund for a completed timber sale and vouchers for June 4, 2020 through July 1, 2020 in the amount of \$1,516.39. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Verso Update
- Trout Creek Road Dog Training Update
- Clements Appraisal Update
- BTG Land Use Agreement Update
- 15 Year Plan – Chapters 900, 1000, 2000

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 5:22p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY