

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** July 6, 2022

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

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Sorgel (via Zoom), Winkler (via Zoom)  
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf  
WDNR – John Gillen; RASTA – Guy Hansen

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Almekinder 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 Schultz to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Schultz to approve the minutes of May 25, 2022 and June 1, 2022 meetings. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Gillen, WDNR Team Lead Supervisor announced that there are currently five vacant positions within his team; however, they will move forward with lateral transfers to help fill forester/liaison positions. Interviews will be held next week with possible start dates as early as August 15<sup>th</sup>. The technician positions were concluded and anticipated start dates are August 15<sup>th</sup> as well.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

*YTD Stumpage Report* – Fiene reported stumpage for June was \$126,485.62 for a year-to-date total of \$402,581.26. Year-to-date revenue is significantly behind the last few years with no improvements in the market. Currently have several active jobs.

### **TOWN OF LYNNE SURVEY UPDATE**

Fiene stated he sent a letter to the private landowner informing him the County plans to proceed with the timber sales in the fall. At this time, no response has been received.

### **REVIEW/APPROVE MSA BID DOCUMENTS – CDBG PROJECT: ALMON PARK SHELTERS**

Fiene provided a brief overview regarding the MSA bid specifications and notice for bids document. Total document count will be over 200 pages. Fiene worked with Corporation Counsel and our grant administrator to review the documents to ensure the grant information meets CDBG guidelines.

The plan is to have the notice for bids published next week and allow 2-3 weeks for bids. Bid deadline can be set for August 2<sup>nd</sup> and award the bid at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Motion by Briggs to move forward with the bid process as discussed. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

### **MINOCQUA FOREST RIDERS REQUEST FOR ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO AWSC AS SNOWMOBILE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

Tischendorf stated that after a discussion with an AWSC representative, the main benefits are the marketing aspect for the club and community and the ability to recognize the volunteer work provided by the clubs.

Minocqua Forest Riders are requesting permission to use Oneida County Forestry as a reference supporting their application.

Motion by Schultz to support the Minocqua Forest Riders with their application to AWSC as a snowmobile friendly community. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

### **REVIEW/APPROVE NEW CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACCOUNT – TREE PLANTING**

Fiene provided brief overview of continuing appropriations accounts. Currently the Forestry department has two accounts (Forestry Equipment and Parks Projects) in which levy funds are requested to “build up” funds for larger purchases and projects.

Fiene is requesting to add a continuing appropriations account to accumulate funds (maximum of \$50,000 at approximately \$10,000 annually) for prep and planting of trees to re-generate tree plantations to support sustainable forestry. Additionally, there was \$12,000 included in the 2022 budget for prep work that will likely remain unspent as there weren’t any bids received for the site prep work. Fiene is requesting this amount be placed in a new continuing appropriation – tree planting account.

Motion by Briggs to approve the Forestry Department’s request to turn the line item of Tree Planting Expense (minus offsetting grant funding) into a new Continuing Appropriation account, carrying over \$12,000 from the 2022 budget and moving that amount to the new Continuing Appropriation account for Tree Planting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE**

Linda Casey gave a brief report including: assembly and placement of three picnic tables, two porta potty placements; update on 2<sup>nd</sup> Father’s Day fishing event; insurance update; and fundraising update. The next board meeting will be at the park on July 14<sup>th</sup> as a public meeting.

### **REQUEST BY ONEIDA COUNTY FAIR TO BORROW TRACTOR FOR PULLING TROLLEY**

Fiene was contacted by one of the fair volunteers requesting to borrow the Forestry Department’s tractor to pull the fair trolley for the Oneida County Fair.

For the past 3-5 years, the fair has borrowed the tractor; however, now that the fair is no longer funded by the County and has become a private entity, there is a concern with setting precedence of non-County entities using County equipment. Additionally, the tractor currently has a leaking seal that could lead to more damage if utilized for the fair.

Discussion regarding whether the tractor will be fixed in time for the fair and if the County should allow use of the tractor for one more year as the County initiated the fair to become independent. Fiene will look into getting the tractor repaired as soon as possible; however, there aren’t any guarantees that it would be fixed and available in time for the fair. Additional discussion regarding other avenues the fair might pursue.

Winkler joined via Zoom at 4:10 p.m.

Motion by Briggs to inform the fair coordinators that the tractor currently needs repairs and will not be available and the fair committee should pursue other options. Second by Schultz. Three ayes (Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz), two abstain (Sorgel and Winkler), motion carried.

### **VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

*Vouchers* - Vouchers presented totaling \$40,146.24. JW Austin Associates was \$26,500 for the survey conducted in the Town of Lynne. Additionally \$9,950 was for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the RASTA trail maintenance contract for 2022. Remaining expenses were routine operational expenses for the department.

Motion by Sorgel to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS**

- Next meeting – August 3, 2022
- CIP Requests
- FTLLP Update

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

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ROBERT ALMEKINDER  
CHAIR

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TANYA TISCHENDORF  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DRAFT