

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 2, 2020

TIME: 3:30 p.m. County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, VanRaalte, Pence, Almekinder
Via Phone: Mott
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf,
DNR Liaison: 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 current 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 August 5, 2020 FLR Committee meeting. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported county forest stumpage for August is \$84,841.39 bringing the year-to-date total to \$808,763.10. If things stay status quo, anticipate stumpage coming in around \$1,000,000 for the year. Currently two active jobs right now.

November Timber Sale Offerings – Fiene stated there has been a lot of discussion with the WCFA regarding offering fall timber sales. Several counties have decided to hold off the fall sales; however, the majority are going ahead with them with adjusted timber pricing due to current market prices. Fiene's recommendation is to offer fall sales with adjusted pricing.

Timber Sale Extensions – Consider 0% Increases – Most counties are offering 0% increase extensions for contracts expiring this fall due to the markets. Fiene's recommendation is to approve November 2020 extensions with 0% increase and allow a one time 5th year extension to Connor Forest Management contracts.

Motion by Almekinder to extend contracts for Connor Forest Management one year with 0% increase and no further extensions beyond 5th year. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to extend contracts for Verso for one year with 0% increase. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to extend contracts for Fink and Kleinschmidt for one year with 0% increase. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS/APPROVE BTG LAND USE AGREEMENT

Discussion regarding agreement changes were presented at prior meeting.

Mott questioned some items within the agreement. Fiene stated that BTG was pretty clear they would approve the agreement as written, no further revisions.

Motion by Pence to approve BTG land use agreements. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

TROUT CREEK DOG TRAINING AREA CONTRACT ISSUE

Approval was provided at last month's meeting for Fetzer to improve the road pending insurance requirements. Fetzer called Fiene stating he is unwilling to pay for the required insurance and feels the County should step up.

Fiene is now looking into the County contracting directly with Pitlik to alleviate the insurance requirement for Fetzer. Sorensen requested Fiene work through a revised agreement with Corporation Counsel and Pitlik and update the Committee at the October meeting.

APPROVE ATTENDANCE FOR WCFA ANNUAL FALL MEETING

WCFA is offering both virtual and in-person attendance for the fall meeting scheduled in Rothschild. LRES has provided approval for the County to attend in-person. Fiene is requesting approval to attend in-person.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve forestry personnel and committee members to attend virtually and/or in-person. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

ATV/UTV UPDATES

Resolution Opening All County Forest Roads to ATV/UTV's – The Committee previously discussed and approved this item in July; just bringing the amended resolution for signatures and approval to bring to County Board.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the resolution and forward to County Board for approval. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

ATV/UTV Width/Weight Changes – Wisconsin ATV Association (WATVA) recently had a meeting discussing increasing the width and weight restrictions of ATV/UTVs. Most counties are against the change due to safety and increased width providing vehicle access through ATV/UTV gates. Pel-Cho Mudd Nutz stated they are against the change.

Motion by Pence to oppose increased width and weight specifications. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

Proposed DNR Willow Property Master Plan Change: Establishing ATV/UTV Trails – The Forestry Department is seeking approval to comment in favor of proposed additions/changes to the DNR Willow Property helping to connect the County trail systems.

Motion by VanRaalte for the committee to support these changes. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER OF JOHN'S MEMORIAL DRIVE FROM THE TOWN OF ENTERPRISE

Rady explained the transfer of John's Memorial Drive was requested by the Town of Enterprise as part of the purchase of the Gillette/Wickham property.

Fiene proposed revisions to the resolution for clarification purposes.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the resolution to accept jurisdictional transfer of John's Memorial Drive from the Town of Enterprise and forward to the full County Board for approval. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

BURROWS LAKE GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION

VanRaalte stated the Town of Little Rice is looking for County approval to proceed with and complete the reclamation of the Burrows Lake gravel pit. Copies of emails show that the DNR has given approval for reclamation.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the Burrows Lake gravel pit reclamation by the Town of Little Rice. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Sorensen requested VanRaalte follow up with the Town of Little Rice regarding the existing gravel in the pit.

ROZELL ROAD FIRE NUMBERS & ROAD ACCESS

Rozell Road is a gas tax road located in the Town of Little Rice. There are five private properties that utilize an old logging road off Rozell Road for access. The Town is looking to place fire numbers and had concerns with the condition of Rozell Road for emergency purposes.

Fiene stated there has been major road work completed on Rozell Road over the last few weeks removing large rocks and gravel/grading. Emergency vehicles should be able to access from the south off McCord Road once Forestry completes road maintenance.

Informational only, no action taken.

REVIEW/APPROVE 2021 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Budget provided with the packet incorporates possible expense reductions for the department. Fiene provided a revised budget with 0% increase and discussed the line item changes.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the changes discussed in the proposed 2021 budget to restore \$6,600 to those line items bringing the budget up to 0% increase budget. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Questions by Mott regarding the allocation dollars for the Forestry Administration Grant, the revenue increase in the County Roads account due to the continuing appropriations for gravel crushing and the estimated stumpage revenue decrease for 2021 due to the market and Verso closure.

Mott is opposed to reducing the LTE ranger hours due to the possibility of increased vandalism and other issues that could occur. VanRaalte feels the position pays for itself.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the 2021 Forestry Department budget with the changes. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE 2021 BUDGET COMMITTEE CHECKLIST ITEMS

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the supplemental information forms provided to the Committee. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiene provided an update regarding the access road/parking lot for the Gillette/Wickham property.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the 2019 Annual Report for the County Board Supervisors. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Committee decision that a closed session is not necessary.

Fiene provided the appraisal figures to the Committee. The property was appraised at \$32,000 of which \$12,000 value was for the building and \$20,000 for the land.

Fiene has confirmed with the WDNR that Knowles-Nelson Stewardship covers the building value so the application would be approximately \$16,000.

Discussion regarding the purchase price including the building value and potential disposal costs.

Motion by VanRaalte to offer the owner of the property in question \$32,000 for the property contingent upon the County receiving Knowles-Nelson grant funds. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to authorize Fiene to apply for Knowles-Nelson grant funds. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

15 YEAR PLAN DRAFT

Finalize Open House Meeting Date/Time – Tentative: September 16th from 5-7 pm – Committee approves Open House meeting date/time and Committee attendance as a Forestry meeting.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion by VanRaalte to approve vouchers in the amount of \$66,381.98. Included are payments for Snowmobile maintenance for 2020-21 in the amount of \$62,025 and two months of highway gasoline expenses. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the line item transfer to include grant funds/expenses of \$47,700 for the Washburn Haul road for the 2020 budget. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Trout Creek Dog Training Contract
- September 16, 2020 – Open House for Public Comment on 15 year plan
- 15 year plan – approval of any amendments from Open House

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY