

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: October 10, 2023

TIME: 8:00 a.m. Committee Room #2, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Winkler, Sorgel, Schultz, Briggs
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Almekinder called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.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 Winkler 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 September 12, 2023 meeting. Second by Winkler. Minor correction made by Tischendorf regarding amount of Trout funding per mile. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Timber Stumpage Report – Fiene reported September stumpage of \$81,091.86 bringing the year-to-date total to \$671,988.58 which is still behind the 5-year average. We have a couple of active jobs with a couple more starting up. Markets remain unstable with temporary mill shut downs and quotas.

November Timber Sale Bid Opening Date – Due to the new committee meeting date/time, Fiene stated the fall timber sale bid deadline will be Friday, November 10th at noon and opened at 1 p.m. Upon bid verification and approval, bids will be awarded at the November 14th Forestry committee meeting.

Timber Sale Extensions/Expirations – #1717 Price County Line – Johnson Brothers – Fiene provided background regarding this contract which was a resale from a prior contractor and was given allowable extensions to try to complete the sale. Fiene's recommendation is to cancel the contract at expiration, retain the bond and try to resell again.

Motion by Briggs to accept Fiene's recommendation to cancel the contract, retain the bond and offer for resale. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

Discuss/Approve Additional Dock Section – Request for approval to add additional dock section to the current kayak/fishing pier to allow placement of a donated bench.

Motion by Winkler to approve the request to add the additional dock section to the kayak/fishing pier. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

Dave Schmitz stated there have been additional docks donated to FTLLP and they will look at placement for 2024. Requested to include Townline Lake Park walking trails as a project in the updated Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Requested the county share in the cost of the portable toilets at Townline Lake Park.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE – FRED HEIDER, NCWRPC

Fiene provided a handout of changes that have been updated including map revisions. Fiene will make sure the walking trails for Townline Lake Park is included.

Updated version is available online for those that wish to review it.

DISCUSS / APPROVE USER & PERMIT FEES FOR 2024

Handout provided showing current user/permit fees, proposed fees, etc.

Annual Trail Pass – Current fee is \$25; proposed to increase to \$30 beginning April 2023. Last increase was 2019.

Park Shelter Reservation – Current fee is \$75 + \$50 security deposit; proposed to increase to \$100 + \$100 security deposit. Last increase was 2012.

Firewood Permits – Current fees are \$20 Oneida County resident/\$30 non-resident; proposed to increase to \$25 Oneida County resident/\$35 non-resident. Last increase was 2017.

Balsam Bough Permits – Current fees are \$10 residential permit/\$100 Oneida County resident commercial permit/\$200 non-resident commercial permit; proposed to increase to \$20 residential permit/\$150 Oneida County resident commercial permit/\$250 non-resident commercial permit. Current fees in place for 10+ years.

Christmas Tree Permits – Current fee is \$5 per tree, limit two trees per household; proposed to increase to \$10 per tree, limit two trees per household beginning November 1, 2023. Current fee implemented in 2021.

Remote Camping Permit – Current fee is \$10, limit of 14 consecutive days per permit; proposed to increase to \$20 per permit.

Discussion regarding rules and regulations of the remote camping permit.

Motion by Winkler to approve the proposed recreational user permit fee increases. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS / APPROVE BROADBAND TOWER LOCATION

Fiene was recently informed that a proposed tower site was located on the county forest in the Town of Little Rice and after discussion with Bug Tussel, a new site for the tower was proposed near the old gravel pit by Burrows Lake Road. If this becomes an approved site, the request would need to go to the DNR for withdrawal from the county forest.

Motion by Briggs to approve the proposed site if Bug Tussel wishes to proceed with the cell tower. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Winkler to approve Fiene to move forward with the withdrawal process if the site is approved. Second by Schultz. Winkler and Schultz vacated motion and second.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGET / ACTUAL REPORT)

The committee was provided a copy of the department’s year to date budget for review.

Informational only.

VOUCHERS / LINE ITEM TRANSERS (INVOICES PAID REPORT)

The committee was provided a list of the invoices paid in September 2023.

Vouchers for the month totaled \$150,990.05 including \$133,704.25 of grant funded projects and reimbursed expenses.

Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – November 14, 2023, CR #2 due to County Board meeting
- Award November Timber Sale Bids
- Outdoor Recreation Plan – Fred Heider
- Forestry Director’s Performance Evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
COMMITTEE CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY