

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

April 13, 2017

8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Ronald Nye, Donald Scupien, Sam Hardin, Joe Novak, and Duff Leaver

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Josh Waukau, DNR Liaison; Dave Peterson, Joe Jopek, Chris Berry, Angie Close, Andrew Tainter, Brady Koss, Jerry Rice, Jeremy Stensberg, Beth Wagner, and Terry Poltrock

**Location:** Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Hardin, seconded by Leaver, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas –None.
4. Discuss Request for Mountain Bike Trail in the Jack Lake Area – Andrew Tainter of Langlade Area Mountain Bike Association made a presentation to the committee about developing a 5-8 mile single track mountain bike trail in the Jack Lake area. Brady Koss, President of the Antigo Bike & Ski Club, stated that the Antigo Bike & Ski Club would help develop and maintain the trail in conjunction with the Langlade Area Mountain Bike Association. They would like to have the trail in place by October, 2017. The trail would be at no cost to the county as they have financial backing. Rantala stated that he would like to have a Special Recreational Use Agreement with one of the clubs to ensure proper maintenance of this trail. As it currently stands, the Forestry Department does not have the resources or the expertise to develop a new mountain bike trail. This trail will not conflict with timber harvesting. The Langlade Area Mountain Bike

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Association would also like to assist with the Jack Lake snowshoe trail and possibly use as a fat bike trail in the winter. The group is also looking to apply for a Recreational Trails Aid Grant for additional funding for trail development. Rantala explained that the grant deadline is May 1, 2017 and any grant funds received would be for work done in 2018. Also, Rantala will check on any permit requirements for this project. Chris Berry and Angie Close also discussed possible economic impact to Langlade County by having such a trail in the county. Motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to support the mountain bike group in their development of a mountain bike trail in the Jack Lake area and to authorize Rantala to work with the group and assist them with applying for a Recreational Trails Aid Grant. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Discuss/Update Road Closures due to Presence of Garlic Mustard – Rantala informed the committee that five of the 21 timber sales being offered for bid on May 11, 2017 will have seasonal restrictions due to the presence of garlic mustard. These sales would normally be sold as summer timber sales which generally receive higher stumpage prices. Also, in the Augustyn Springs area, Rantala is recommending to limit motorized access to certain areas by either gating or berming some roads in an effort to reduce the likelihood of spreading garlic mustard from known locations. Forestry Department staff is finding more areas of garlic mustard on forest roads across the County and it is starting to directly impact the timber sale program. Motion by Leaver, seconded by Nye stating that the Forestry and Recreation Committee supports the efforts of the forestry staff to try to control the spread of garlic mustard on the Langlade County forest. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Review Proposals for Wood from American Transmission Company Project - Rantala stated that at the March meeting the committee had given him approval to advertise the wood for sale that had been harvested in the Township of Ackley when the American Transmission Company had shifted the right-of-way 50 ft. south. The proposals received are as follows:

Dave Raith Logging - \$18,000.00  
Jacobs Enterprises - \$18,350.00

Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to sell the wood in Township of Ackley from the American Transmission Company project to Jacobs Enterprises for \$18,350.00. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. DNR Liaison Report – Josh Waukau, DNR liaison, updated the committee on several items provided to him by Janet Brehm, DNR wildlife biologist.
8. Administrator Report – Rantala reported that road limits are still on. Very little activity on the County Forest as far as logging goes.

All spring sales are complete and written up. We are in the process of proofing them and will go to the printer next week. Staff did a great job completing their work so we could have an earlier timber sale this spring. We also have a good start on the fall sale

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already. Approximately 400 acres are set up. This should free up some time to get an early start on garlic mustard control.

Targeting May 1 for ATV trails to open, weather dependent.

Foresters finished the Good Neighbor Authority contract that was authorized last year. They marked approximately 80 acres of red pine. They worked 4-10 hour days doing County work, with the 5<sup>th</sup> day working on GNR for two weeks. The County will be reimbursed their pay as well as an overhead cost and mileage. They did an excellent job reaching the target residual basal area when check cruised by DNR. Target was 125 square feet.

Governor's budget calls for the elimination of the forestry mil tax. This was a segregated forestry account, now it will be funded through General Purpose Revenue. With this proposal, this will be fully funded in the '17-'19 biennium.

Hired two casual employees for the Invasive Species positions. Their start dates are May 1 and May 22.

I was approached by the Hyland Lakes Lions Club regarding doing a project on County Land, possibly at Veteran's Memorial Park or Otter Lake. They are looking to do something on the north end of the County.

There is a meeting in Antigo on April 27 to discuss recreational opportunities on State lands. The Recreation Opportunities Analysis will examine existing outdoor-based recreation opportunities and future recreation needs on State lands.

9. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through March 31, 2017.
10. Closed Session – At approximately 9:15 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons required a closed session, to discuss possible land for sale and the possible sale of County land. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to go into closed session at 9:52 a.m. Roll call vote: Leaver – aye, Hardin – aye, Novak – aye, Scupien – aye, and Nye - aye. Motion carried.
11. Open Session – Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to return to open session at 10:15 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

No action taken. Information only.

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12. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be the Spring Timber Sale opening scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
13. Adjournment – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary