Forestry and Recreation Committee

April 8, 2013

7:45 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, David Solin, Michael Klimoski, Rick Bina, and

Sam Hardin

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Richard Olsen, Gary Olsen, Dave Peterson and Terry

Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. <u>Call to Order</u> – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 7:48 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discuss Potential Land Purchase – Rantala updated the committee on the land that Plum Creek Land Company has for sale in the Sections of 20, 21, 28, 29, 31 and 32; Township of North Langlade. The area is approximately 2,158 acres and their asking price is approximately \$3.7 million. Rantala met with their representatives this past week and they would be willing to work with Langlade County to sell it over a two year period or all at once. Their asking price is \$1,500-\$1,700/acre. Rantala stated that Section 31 would be beneficial to Langlade County as there is productive hardwood in that section and excellent roads. Rantala stated that \$1.7 million might not be available in its entirety through the State's stewardship grant program. Rantala is recommending that the land be purchased in two or three parcels. Rantala stated that the next step would be a resolution of intent from the Langlade County Board, which is non-binding. Plum Creek Land Company has provided Langlade County with a non-binding letter of intent to sell the property.

Rantala has spoken with Gary Olsen regarding funding options for the \$1.7 million that would be Langlade County's responsibility. Olsen had contacted the Commissioners of Public Lands to see if Langlade County could borrow from them to purchase the Plum Creek property. When Olsen looked into financing three months ago, the interest rates for a 15 to 20 year loan was 3.75%, but could change. For a loan amount of \$1.7 million, the annual payment would be as follows: 20 year loan - \$126,904. Olsen

Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – April 8, 2013

stated that if the forestry department would continue to have good revenue years that excess timber sale revenue could be used to make the loan payment. Also, this loan can be paid early with no penalty. If there was no excess timber sale revenue, landlocked and non-County Forest Law land 40's and 80's could be sold. Olsen stated that he has a call in to the State to see if having a debt payment that would be paid off by excess timber sale revenue would have an adverse affect on Langlade County's tax levy in the future. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to forward a resolution to county board recommending intent to purchase Plum Creek Land Company property in Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 31, and 32 in the Township of North Langlade and to have Erik Rantala apply for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant for 50% of the purchase price. All ayes. Motion carried.

- 3. <u>Discuss Applying for Sustainable Forestry Grant to Purchase "Rough" Tablet for Field Recon</u> Rantala explained to the committee that the forestry department was planning to purchase a "rough" tablet, which is an all-weather tablet for field reconnaissance. Rantala stated that some of our field recon is over 20 years old and these tablets would be very helpful and assist the department with updating the field recon more quickly. Rantala was informed that there are still funds available in the Sustainable Forestry Grant program, and this purchase may be grant eligible. The cost of the tablet would be approximately \$2,600. If the tablet meets our needs for forestry recon, a second tablet would be purchased from budgeted funds. Motion by Solin, seconded by Hardin to approve Rantala applying for a Sustainable Forestry Grant for the purchase of a "rough" tablet for forestry recon. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 4. <u>Adjournment</u> Motion by Hardin, seconded by Solin to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock Recording Secretary