

Forestry and Recreation Committee

August 11, 2016

8:00 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Duff Leaver

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Don Peterson, Renewable Resource Solutions; Rob Meyer, Expera; Henry Schienebeck, Great Lake Timber Professionals; Gordy Mouw, Verso; Lisa Haefs, Joe Jopek, Dave Peterson, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. A motion was made by Harden, seconded by Scupien to excuse Duff Leaver. All ayes. Motion carried. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Scupien, seconded by Nye, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2016 meeting with corrections. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – None.
4. Discuss FSC Certification – Rantala explained that currently Langlade County is third party certified under the SFI standard and has been since 2004. Don Peterson explained to the committee what he is looking for, which is a resolution in support of Langlade County being FSC certified, which is Forest Stewardship Council, another third party certification. Peterson, Meyer, Schienebeck and Mouw explained why they feel FSC certification is important. One reason they stated is that FSC is global and some companies are specifically requesting FSC-certified products. Under FSC, timber can be chain of custody certified which ensures that the timber products are certified from stump to the end user. If Langlade County becomes FSC certified, it does not guarantee that all wood is chain of custody certified, due to a number of factors. Meyer stated that

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in Wisconsin many counties are dual certified, SFI and FSC. Rantala will investigate further FSC requirements for both the county and loggers and will report back to the committee at their September meeting.

5. Discuss Moccasin Lodge – Lisa Haefs addressed the committee stating that the Elcho Ski Club would like to build a lodge at the parking lot of the Moccasin Lake Cross-Country Ski Trail in memory of Michelle Koss. Haefs explained that the lodge will need electricity, which will cost approximately \$15,000. She explained that they should have the funding to begin building this winter. Haefs explained that she is requesting approval for the site work to be done and WPS to install the electricity. The building will be Langlade County property and there will be no cost to the county to building the lodge. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Hardin to proceed with electrical and site work. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
6. Other Matters – Chairman Nye stated he wanted mentioned in the minutes the committee’s appreciation for the article in the Antigo Daily Journal where the Dog Sled group gave thanks for the trails in Langlade County.
7. Review and Approve 2017 Budgets and 2018 Plans - The committee reviewed the 2017 budget and 2018 budget plan. Rantala reviewed projects planned for 2017.

FORESTRY AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

REVENUES/EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Proposed Budget</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>		
County Park Fees	123,000.00	123,000.00
Forest Crop Stumpage (90%)	1,830,000.00	1,830,000.00
Misc. Income (Non-FCL, Wood & Bough Permits)	2,500.00	2,500.00
Interest Income	100.00	100.00
Forest Administrator Grant	50,288.00	50,288.00
Cell Tower Revenue	16,506.00	16,506.00
Total Revenues	\$2,022,394.00	\$2,022,394.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Forestry Department Expenses	400,806.00	407,881.00
Forestry Management	153,829.00	156,001.00
Tree Planting	500.00	500.00
V.M.P. Expenses	194,331.00	195,366.00
Recreation Program/Facilities (Range & Post Lake Dam)	21,898.00	21,898.00

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Total Expenditures	\$ 771,364.00	\$ 781,646.00
Total County portion tax levy/(County Revenue)	\$(1,251,030)	\$ (1,240,748.00)

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak, to approve the proposed draft 2017 budgets and proposed 2018 plans as presented and forward to the Finance Committee. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

8. Discuss Selling Non-County Forest Lands – Rantala informed the committee that there would be approximately 200+ acres that are available for sale that are not in the county forest boundary. There might also be 200 additional acres that might be available for sale. As we still do not know if Langlade County will be successful in being awarded a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant, Rantala is asking the committee for direction. The committee stated that Rantala should start to investigate these properties and possible avenues available to appraise/sell the property and to report back at the September committee meeting.

9. Discuss Richards Property Request – Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by George Richards of Rhinelander, Wisconsin regarding interest in two forties located in the SENE and NESE of Section 8, T34N-R9E (Township of Parrish) for a possible land sale or trade. Rantala stated that in investigating the request, a similar request was made in 1992. Rantala stated that it is county policy not to sell or trade property that is in the county forest boundary, as these properties are. Motion by Novak, seconded by Scupien to deny the land requested per county policy. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Novak, seconded by Scupien to excuse Nye at 9:25 a.m. 4 ayes, 1 absent.

10. Discuss Sign Relocation in Ackley – Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by Angie Close of Economic Development regarding the “County of Trails” sign located on Hwy. 45. Ownership of that property has changed hands and the new owner is requesting rent to leave the sign on their property. Close requested to move the sign to county land. After visiting the site, Rantala and Close suggested the property on Hwy. 64 on the Langlade/Lincoln County line in the Township of Ackley. Rantala stated that all costs involved in the moving would be covered by Economic Development. Motion by Novak, seconded by Hardin to approve relocation the “County of Trails” sign from Hwy. 45 to Hwy. 64 in the Township of Ackley. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

11. Discuss Cabin on County Forest – Rantala informed the committee that Cody Brauner and Josh Waukau found a cabin on county forest land when they were setting up a timber sale. Upon investigation, it seems that the cabin has been on county property for 40 years. It is in a very secluded area, which is very difficult to get to. Rantala was in contact with the corporation counsel regarding proper procedure. The building must be posted and a notice put in the local newspaper. If no one claims and interest in this cabin within 30 days of the posted notice, it will be deemed abandoned and property of Langlade County. Rantala will report back at the September meeting.

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12. Discuss Otter Lake Restroom Closure – Rantala stated that the restroom at Otter Lake is 30 years old and is a cinder block building and the interior would need some repairs to keep open. Staff believes the building gets very little use, if any, as it is located close to gas stations with restrooms. The pump was removed from Otter Lake a few years ago so there is no longer water available. Rantala did put in the 2017 parks budget to remove the restroom. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to close/remove the restroom at Otter Lake in 2017. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.
13. DNR Liaison Report – Rantala reported that Waukau is in Wyoming fighting fires, but did provide a brief report. Antlerless deer tags will go on sale on August 15 at 10 a.m. Three culverts were replaced in Ackley. Repairs were made to Middle Eau Claire River Flowage and Spider Creek Dam. There was beaver control on three flowages in Ackley. Four openings were renovated and re-seeded on Hill Road. They are mowing openings and hunter walking trails in the Jack Lake area. Eighty openings in total will be mowed.
14. Administrator Report – Rantala reported that camping receipts are up this year. He will be working with the highway commissioner and corporation counsel on ATV policy and dates associated with requests. We are planning on taking this back to committee in September. Snowmobile and ORV Council funding meetings will occur on August 22 and 23. After the meetings, will know if projects will be funded. The retaining wall at the 100 yard targets at the gun range was reconstructed. The work was done in-house with the assistance of the highway department. There was significant damage at Summit Lake on two occasions over the last month. Good Neighbor Authority – approximately 300 acres in western Oconto County needs to be marked. Met with an individual about carbon credit opportunity for the County Forest. He would like to be on our September agenda to present to the committee. Foresters assisted in finding a missing berry picker earlier this week at the Jack Lake ski trails.
15. Review Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for July.
16. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through July 31, 2016.
17. Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8 at 8:00 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, fairgrounds, Antigo.
18. Adjournment - Motion by Novak, seconded by Hardin to adjourn at 9:52 a.m. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary