

Forestry and Recreation Committee

August 13, 2015

8:00 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Dave Solin, Josh Waukau, DNR liaison; Dave Peterson, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2015 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discuss Well at Sawyer Lake – Rantala informed the committee the hand pump on the well at Sawyer Lake has not worked in some time. Cody Brauner went to repair the hand pump and believes that the bottom of the pump has rusted off. All wells need to be tested annually and because no water can be pumped from this well, it has not been tested in years. Rantala would like permission to condemn the well at Sawyer Lake. He had contacted Marie Graupner at Land Conservation and grant funding is available for condemnation of wells. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to seal the well at Sawyer Lake and have it condemned. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Approve Agreement with TIP (Timberlands Invasive Partnership) for 2016 – Rantala informed the committee that he would like to enter into an agreement with TIP for 2016 for inventory and control of garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and buckthorn. The cost is \$5,000, which has been budgeted. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to approve the agreement with TIP for 2016. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Review and Approve 2016 Budgets and 2017 Plans - The committee reviewed the 2016 budget and 2017 budget plan. Rantala reviewed projects planned for 2016.

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FORESTRY AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

REVENUES/EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Proposed Budget</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>		
County Park Fees	113,000.00	113,000.00
Forest Crop Stumpage (90%)	1,830,000.00	1,830,000.00
Misc. Income (Non-FCL, Wood & Bough Permits)	3,000.00	3,000.00
Interest Income	500.00	500.00
Forest Administrator Grant	45,700.00	45,700.00
Cell Tower Revenue	16,506.00	16,506.00
Total Revenues	\$2,008,706.00	\$2,008,706.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Forestry Department Expenses	385,664.00	392,488.00
Forestry Management	138,844.00	150,925.00
Tree Planting	500.00	500.00
V.M.P. Expenses	163,127.00	164,161.00
Recreation Program/Facilities (Range & Post Lake Dam)	21,973.00	21,973.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 710,108.00	\$ 730,047.00
Total County portion tax levy/(County Revenue)	\$(1,298,598)	\$ (1,278,659.00)

Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien, to approve the proposed draft 2016 budgets and proposed 2017 plans as presented and forward to the Finance Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. DNR Liaison Report – Josh Waukau, DNR liaison, reported that there was a cougar sighted in Langlade County. Also discussed the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), which allows the DNR to assist with management on the National Forest using State policies and procedures, not Forest Service. There will be an opportunity for Counties to subcontract through DNR to get work accomplished. Counties would be reimbursed for time and materials, though those rates are not yet known. We are interested in participating and may ask for committee approval to work under these agreements in the future. Waukau also discussed the Strategic Alignment (re-organization) of the DNR. Four private land forester positions were cut. One of the positions was in Merrill. Five forest nursery positions were also eliminated.

7. At approximately 8:30 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1)(c), Wisconsin Statutes, considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body

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has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to discuss department re-organization/staffing plan – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to go into closed session at 9:38 a.m. Roll call vote: Klimoski – aye, Hardin – aye, Nye – aye, Novak – aye, and Scupien – aye. Motion carried.

8. At approximately 9:00 a.m., return to open session with possible action on any matters discussed in closed session – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to return to open session at 8:56 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Nye to reclassify the recreation coordinator/forest tech position to a forester position and approve park manager position changes and forward to Personnel, Executive and County Board for approval. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Administrator Report – Rantala reported that the three-season shelter should be completed next week. Plumbing should be done on Monday, and the electricians yet this week. Solicited proposals to construct ski chalet. Will be forwarding costs to Mr. Spsychalla for his approval and requesting that project is complete by November. Emerald Ash Borer infested two trees in downtown Rhinelander. First trees detected since the beetle was found in a trap. These trees were approximately one mile from the trap location. Continuing to spray for invasives. Finding more wild parsnip, Wolf River State Trail is really bad in spots. Also found some by Crocker Hills horse trailhead. Also, buckthorn and garlic mustard found at Mills Recreation Area. Have closed off a number of roads on county forest due to invasive species. Some are continuing to run over gates, pull out. Ordered a pump and set up water supply so we can assist loggers in spraying off equipment, will possibly rent out for loggers to use. The Vilas County Board visited Jack Lake and were very positive and impressed with the park. They are looking to add a campground to their program. At the gun range, will be residing building and adding a door for trap club to use. The Friends of Moose Lake invited the committee to their potluck on Saturday, August 15 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
10. Review Payment of Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for July.
11. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through July 31, 2015.
14. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo with a tour of the county forest and Jack Lake to follow.
15. Adjournment – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to adjourn at 9:20 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary