

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

August 7, 2014

8:00 a.m.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Ted Ave'lallemant, Robin Stowe, Michelle Koss, Pat Girtz, Terry Poltrock, and Dave Peterson

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Update on 2nd Annual Splash and Dash at Veteran's Memorial Park – Michelle Koss updated the committee on the 2nd Annual Splash and Dash held at Veteran's Memorial Park on July 12. Koss stated that the event went very well and that there were 91 racers. Racers came from as far as Oregon and Colorado. Koss stated that they need to do a better job of advertising the event as many campers would have been interested in participating but did not know about the event, but they only have a limited budget for advertising. Koss stated that the event was over and cleaned up by 11:45 a.m. so did not affect picnickers and swimmers wanting to use the beach area. Koss thanked the committee and Tom Lazars for their support of this event.
4. Discuss/Approve Recreation Coordinator/Forester Position – Rantala reviewed with the committee the various options for filling this position:

## Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – August 7, 2014

### **Option 1: Recreation Coordinator/Forester (4 year Recreation Management/Forestry/Natural Resource Degree; pay based on Forester rate)**

- Would be able to contribute to both Recreation and Forestry Programs. Time spent on each would be on an as needed basis.
- Would provide flexibility on a day to day basis, in both programs.
- Would have individual to be “face” of Recreation Program. Work closely with the 11 snowmobile clubs, four ATV clubs, horse/sled dog clubs, XC ski, etc.
- By requiring a 4 year degree, potentially get individual with more technical skills, would benefit with grant writing, mapping (i.e., GIS).
- Could require a 2 year degree in Natural Resources/Forestry. This position potentially would be more field based i.e., trail/road work, heavy equipment operation, timber marking.
- Could maintain salary range as set by matrix committee

### **Option 2: Recreation Coordinator (keep position as it was, prefer 2 year degree, not required)**

- This position would be exclusively recreation. Focus would be on various recreation programs, maintaining waysides, bow and gun range development, Wolf River State Trail development.
- Would seek and apply for grants.
- Similar duties as listed in the job description under “Recreation”.
- Forestry needs would be satisfied using contractors or casual employees, on an as needed basis.
- During slow periods (trails not open), potentially have limited ability to contribute to forestry operations.
- Could add additional duties, Veteran’s Memorial Park, etc.

### **Option 3: Part-time Recreation Coordinator and part-time Forester (as suggested at County Board)**

- The Recreation Coordinator position that was vacated started out as part time. Shortly after this position went permanent part time, it went permanent full time.
- Clubs and public were calling on days that coordinator was not in the office.
- Others were taking complaints, messages and either taking care of the issue or it was delayed until coordinator was back in office.
- Snowmobile season was the most difficult, as issues arise quickly. (Trails open/close, logging activity on trails, trail re-routes, etc.)

### **Option 4: Forester**

- Hire another full time forester, and assign recreation duties as needed.
- Would satisfy all needs on a day-to-day basis.
- As the “County of Trails” this may not be consistent with the message that has been used with various user groups/clubs.

### **Option 5: Do not fill vacancy**

- Duties would be spread out with current staff and possibly contract work (marking, mowing, etc.).

## Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – August 7, 2014

- Forest Administrator would take on most administrative duties with the recreation program. Would be less available within the timber sale program, marking, administration, etc.

The committee reviewed the various options and Hardin stated that at the Public Property Committee meeting that it was suggested a recreation coordinator/fairgrounds promotion position. Questions were asked of Stowe regarding this proposition as there was no job description or what funding source would be used for these duties. Stowe also stated that when asked at the Public Property Committee if the fairgrounds position had anything to do with the current forestry department operations, there were none. After discussion, motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to support Option 1 with the original salary and to send an explanation sheet of all options in the county board packet. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Discuss/Approve WPS Easement Request – Rantala explained to the committee that WPS has a substation on Hwy. T east of Summit Lake. They would like to have a 25' x 10' anchor easement at the substation. There would be no fences so it would not interfere with forest management. Stowe did review the easement. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to approve the easement request for WPS. All ayes. Motion carried.
6. Discuss Swamp Creek Firelane Project – Rantala informed the committee that the Mole Lake Tribe would like to improve the Swamp Creek Firelane culverts, located on County Forest property, with a bridge or new culverts. The current culverts are deteriorating and are currently set too high, restricting water flow. This project would be part of a larger project on Swamp Creek, with two other crossings being reconstructed on private lands upstream. The goal is to increase fish passage on this tributary to the Wolf River. The tribe received a proposal of approximately \$11,000 for data and design costs to determine the type of structure and costs to get these culverts replaced. The tribe will be applying for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant for this project. Construction would be planned for 2015. The tribe would like Langlade County to have a stake in this project so are requesting some funding for this project. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to have Rantala negotiate with the tribe regarding funding for this project up to \$5,000 from the forestry budget. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Discuss Land for Sale – Town of Summit – Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by the owner of Pine River Lumber, who owns land in Section 16; T33N-R9E – Township of Summit, wondering if Langlade County would be interested in purchasing the land. Pine River Lumber is looking to divest themselves of their holdings in Wisconsin and Michigan over the next few years and are contacting government entities before the land is put on the market as they would like the land to be managed as they have managed it. It is 360 acres and is mostly hardwood, which was managed very well. The land is not in the county block but is adjacent. Information only.
8. Discuss/Approve Credit Cards for Foresters – Rantala stated that Rick Dedeyne and Luke Williams do not currently have credit cards and with Williams taking on some of the maintenance at the bow and gun range and having to purchase chemicals for spraying invasive species that it would be very beneficial for both of them to have a credit card with a limit of \$500. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to approve a credit card for both

**Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – August 7, 2014**

Rick Dedeyne and Luke Williams with a credit limit of \$500 and to forward this request to the finance committee for approval. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Review and Approve 2015 Budgets and 2016 Plans - The committee reviewed the 2015 budget and 2016 budget plan. Rantala reviewed projects planned for 2015.

**FORESTRY AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**REVENUES/EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2016 Proposed Budget</u>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>		
County Park Fees	103,000.00	103,000.00
Forest Crop Stumpage (85%)	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
Forest Land Purchase (5%)	80,000.00	80,000.00
Misc. Income (Non-FCL, Wood & Bough Permits)	2,500.00	2,500.00
Interest Income	1,000.00	1,000.00
Forest Administrator Grant	48,177.00	48,177.00
Cell Tower Revenue	16,506.00	16,506.00
Total Revenues	\$1,751,183.00	\$1,751,183.00
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>		
Forestry Department Expenses	479,107.00	486,568.00
Forestry Management	52,300.00	47,300.00
Tree Planting	500.00	500.00
V.M.P. Expenses	150,735.00	151,778.00
Recreation Program/Facilities (Range & Post Lake Dam)	21,211.00	21,211.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 703,853.00	\$ 707,357.00
Total County portion tax levy/(County Revenue)	<b>\$(1,047,330.00)</b>	<b>\$ (1,043,826.00)</b>

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Klimoski, to approve the proposed draft 2015 budgets and proposed 2016 plans as presented and forward to the Finance Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Project Updates – Rantala stated that Part B of the Wolf River State Trail is being surfaced by the Highway Department and should be completed in the next few weeks. Dave Peterson expressed concern that due to the crown that is on the trail that snowmobile grooming might be difficult. The lead reclamation project at the bow and gun range was completed. Langlade County’s percentage of the lead reclamation will not be as much as originally projected due to the difficulty of the terrain due to hills and large boulders. The area has been reseeded and the range is open again. Invasive species continue to be dealt

## Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – August 7, 2014

with. The forestry staff has been working in conjunction with Land Records and the Menominee Tribal System and have been very appreciate of their assistance. The restroom in the campground is now working properly and is 95% complete.

11. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant updated the committee on deer management advisory committees. A deer management advisory committee will be established in each county in 2014 that will hold “herd status” meetings to evaluate local data regarding the deer herd. The committee will begin making recommendations to the Department for the 2015 deer seasons. Membership may vary by county based on interest with potential membership including: Conservation Congress, local group representing deer hunting interests, agricultural, forestry, tourism, transportation, urban, and tribal representative. Rantala has been contacted to be a representative on Langlade County’s advisory committee as a forestry representative. Deer browsing on the property will be reported. Wildlife management would be overseeing this program, but limited staff might make this difficult. It is possible that antlerless deer tags will be made available to the property owner if there is compliance with the program.
12. Review Payment of Paid Bills – The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for June and July.
13. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through July 31, 2014.
14. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
15. Adjournment – Motion by Novak, seconded by Scupien to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary