

Forestry and Recreation Committee

December 27, 2012

8:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Ted Ave'lallemant, Gary Olsen, 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. Discuss Refilling Vacant Forest Administrator Position Internally and Refilling Entry Level Forester Position Externally – Chairman Nye stated that this agenda item had been referred back to the forestry committee by the Personnel Committee on December 6. Committee members discussed the pros and cons of filling the position of forest administrator both internally or externally. Concern was expressed that the longer this process takes the longer the forestry department will be understaffed especially in light of Dale Carlson's retirement on December 31. After much discussion, motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to refill the vacant forest administrator position by promoting Erik Rantala and to fill the entry level forester position externally. 3 ayes, 2 nays. Motion carried.
3. Update on Plum Creek Land Company Land Purchase – Rantala updated the committee on the land that Plum Creek Land Company has for sale in the Sections of 20, 21, 29, and 31; Township of North Langlade. The area is approximately 2,000 acres and their asking price is approximately \$3.4 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. If Langlade County was not interested in this parcel eventually it would be offered to an investment group. Rantala stated that \$1.7 million should be available through the State's stewardship grant program. Rantala stated that

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the next step would be a resolution of intent from the Langlade County Board, which is non-binding. Plum Creek Land Company would then provide Langlade County with a non-binding letter of intent to sell the property.

Rantala had spoken with Gary Olsen regarding funding options for the \$1.7 million that would be Langlade County's responsibility. Olsen contacted the Commissioners of Public Lands to see if Langlade County could borrow from them to purchase the Plum Creek property. The interest rates would be: 6 to 10 year loan – 2.75% and 15 to 20 year loan – 3.75%. For a loan amount of \$1.7 million, the annual payment would be as follows: 10 year loan - \$216,038, 15 year loan - \$158,536 or a 20 year loan - \$126,904. Olsen 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, taxes could be raised to pay the annual payment. The committee also requested that Rantala research landlocked 40's and 80's that could be sold, if necessary. Ave'lallemant reviewed with the committee the annual allowable cut, which is being met with the department; and even with staying within the allowable cut, Langlade County timber sale revenues have been excellent. This was for information only and will be discussed further at the January meeting.

4. Set Next Meeting Date to Review Applications for Forester Position – The next meeting date to review applications for the forester position will be Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
5. Adjournment – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary