

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

December 6, 2011

8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Ronald Nye, Thomas Schultz, Richard Olsen, George Bornemann, and David Solin

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Steve Jackson, Erik Rantala, Tammy Kubiacyk, Robin Stowe, Terry Poltrock, Ted Ave'lallemant, Mike Lietz, Terry Trapp, Dave Peterson, and Interested Loggers

**Location:** Clover Room, Multi-Purpose Building, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Introductions – Nye welcomed all the interested loggers to the bid opening. Jackson explained the process of the timber sale bid opening and the change to bidding by ton instead of cord for pulpwood.
3. Opening of Timber Sale Bids – The bids for the 2011 Fall Timber Sale were all received by the Forestry and Recreation Department at the Forestry Office and in the Clover Room of the Multi-Purpose Building. All bids were received by 8:30 a.m. as advertised. The bids were all opened by the committee and the Forestry and Recreation Department staff, and the total was read aloud by Steve Jackson.

Dave Solin arrived at 9:05 a.m.

It was moved by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann, to convene into closed session under Section 19.85(1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, at 9:28 a.m. to review the following bids. Roll call vote: Olsen – aye, Schultz – aye, Bornemann – aye, Solin – aye, and Nye – aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Bornemann, seconded by Solin, to convene into open session at 9:30 a.m. Roll call vote: Schultz – aye, Olsen – aye, Bornemann - aye, Solin – aye, and Nye – aye. Motion carried.

Jackson announced that all the high bids were reviewed in closed session. A motion was made by Bornemann, seconded by Solin to award the bids to the apparent high bidders on all of the fall timber sale jobs contingent on all bid values being correct. All ayes. Motion carried.

There were 19 of 19 sales sold. A total of 107 bids were received from 26 bidders. The grand total of the winning bids was \$939,134.24.

4. Minutes – A motion was made by Schultz, seconded by Solin, to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2011 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Review Goals for 2012-2016 Five Year Recreation Plan – Fred Heider of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission provided the following potential goals and objectives for the 2012-2016 Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

**Goal 1 – Promote adequate recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors to Langlade County.**

Objectives:

1. Provide recreational opportunities to a wide variety of groups, and reduce user conflict by keeping incompatible uses reasonably separate from one another.
2. Provide a wide variety of year-round passive and active outdoor recreation facilities.
3. Provide outdoor recreation facilities that are accessible to persons of all ages and abilities with special consideration for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

**Goal 2 – Protect, restore, and enhance the natural resources in Langlade County for outdoor recreation.**

Objectives:

1. Follow Best Management Practices for water quality and for invasive species control in development of outdoor recreation facilities. This will maintain forest certification.
2. Identify and preserve sites that have scientific, historic, or archeological significance. Cooperating with DNR to establish state natural areas is one way to preserve such sites.

**Goal 3 – Continue to improve and develop outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Langlade County.**

Objectives:

1. Focus on creating a high quality cross-country ski experience.

2. Determine how to increase revenue through user fees.
3. Finish developing the Wolf River State Trail.
4. Promote trails by using social media and digital GPS trail maps.
5. Develop National Scenic Byways.
6. Upgrade existing trails of all types.
7. Become a bicycle friendly county.
8. Establish better communication between groups and the Forestry Department.

The committee stated that they did not think it was realistic to create one high quality cross-country ski experience in Langlade County like Nine Mile in Marathon County. Also, many of the volunteers who work on the trails are getting older and younger adults are not volunteering. Also, the two friends groups would not want to give up their two trails. The committee also requested that Jackson investigate the trail pass for cross country skiing at Jack Lake. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to accept the goals and objectives for the 2012-2016 Five Year Recreation Plan. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Recreation Update – Tammy Kubiaczyk – Kubiaczyk informed the committee that the ATV trails were closed for the season as of December 1. The waysides have been closed for the winter. The grants to replace culverts on Nine Mile Creek were received. The project will begin next spring. Kubiaczyk also stated that at the snowmobile council meeting the night before the question was raised whether ATVs were covered under the clubs’ liability policy while riding on snowmobile trails. They are. Many landowners might not realize that ATVs ride the snowmobile trails. The question was also raised if landowners needed to purchase additional liability insurance because a snowmobile crossed their property. Stowe stated that their homeowner’s insurance would cover this, but they are also covered by the recreational use immunity statute. Dave Peterson stated that snowmobile clubs can add landowners as an additional insured on to their club’s liability insurance for an additional \$10 per landowners. Peterson stated that all clubs should check to see if this additional coverage is available by their insurance carrier. Chairman Nye questioned the status of the Sawyer Lake boat landing. Jackson stated that they are waiting to hear back from the DNR. Jackson did take Ken Washatko of the Highway Department to view the area and Ken suggested a way to divert the runoff into the adjacent woodlot.
7. Review Draft of 2012 Langlade County Forest Work Plan - Jackson explained that the annual work plan functions as a planning guidance tool and further defines and supplements the county’s fifteen-year comprehensive land use plan. This work plan also fulfills the DNR requirement to meet with Langlade County annually and evaluate whether both parties have met their partnership obligations. The plan covers timber harvest, reforestation, forest protection, wildlife management, other forest uses, land purchases/sales/exchanges, recreation, time standards, forest certification, special projects, grants, funding and partners. Some changes to previous plans include planning for treatment of invasive species, a cut in wildlife management funding, and changes to forest certification regarding green tree

- retention. Having the Langlede County Board of Supervisors approve the annual work plan is a requirement of eligibility to apply for the forest administrator grant, which reimburses Langlede County for wages and fringe benefits of the forest administrator of over \$48,000 annually. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Solin to approve the 2012 Langlede County Work Plan and forward a resolution to county board for approval. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Review Resolution for County Conservation Aid Grants – Jackson informed the committee that CCFA funds are State Aid for fish and game projects. In the past, we have used this grant for Langlede County’s beaver control program and some projects at the bow and gun range. Jackson was contacted by Annie Loechler of the DNR, who requested an updated resolution, as the resolution they had on file was from 2004 and in the event of a DNR audit, they need an updated resolution on file authorizing Jackson to apply for these grants and to file the proper paperwork. Jackson also stated that these are 50/50 grants. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approved the updated resolution which authorizes Jackson to apply for CCFA grants for Langlede County’s beaver control program, etc., and to forward the resolution to the county board. All ayes. Motion carried.
  9. Update on Land Purchase – Jackson updated the committee on the proposed purchase of 880 acres of Plum Creek property (Airhole Lake) in the Township of West Elcho. The total cost of the property is \$1,481,280 and Langlede County has received a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship for 50% of the purchase price (\$740,640). Jackson informed the committee that of the 880 acres – 360 acres is mixed hardwood and 250 acres could be bid out next spring, 250 acres is red pine, and 200 acres of wetland is black spruce and tamarack, which is merchantable. Only 40 acres would be considered non-productive. There is also a gravel pit on the property as well as recreational trails. The purchase would be paid for from the following: land buy account - \$175,000; 2010 excess timber sale revenue - \$360,000; and sale of non-county forest crop law property - \$243,300. A 2/3 majority vote of the county board is needed for the sale to proceed. Plum Creek would like the closing to take place in 2011. The Finance Committee would need to approve paying the full amount of \$1,481,280 and then once all the paperwork is received by the State, they will reimburse Langlede County \$740,640 within one week of receiving the paperwork. Stowe informed the committee that Langlede Abstract found no encumbrances or concerns with the property. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to authorize the county board chairman to sign the Contract of Sale and to start the 15 day timeline for purchasing the property and to forward to the finance committee and county board for their approval. All ayes. Motion carried.
  10. Discuss Proposed Mishler Easement – In October, Jackson informed the committee that he received a letter from Ken Mishler regarding permission for forestry staff to cross Government Lot 3, Section 20; T33N-R10E in the Township of West Upham. Access would only be allowed if the balance of \$13,433.75 that was owed on his two timber sales was forgiven. Jackson contact Mr. Mishler to see if Langlede County could purchase a perpetual easement to cross his property for the approximately

- \$4,800 plus interest that was owed on the timber sales. There were questions if a perpetual easement could be purchased as there are other judgments against this property. Stowe informed the committee that in researching the property it was found that there was an originally surveyed lake on the property. There is no lake and it would be considered omitted property and the Bureau of Land Management would consider this a gross error and could resurvey the property. Stowe stated that any property owner that has adjacent property to the land, which Langlade County does can express interest in the omitted land by sending a letter to the Bureau of Land Management and asking that they investigate. The Bureau of Land Management would have the property resurveyed and then offer it for sale and at a price, which is usually well below market value. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to have the corporation counsel draft a letter to the Bureau of Land Management asking to have the property investigated. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Update on Belongia Request – Chairman Nye informed the committee that he and Stowe visited the questionable property in Section 25, Township of East Upham. Jackson had not been available when they made their visit. There was an encroachment on to county land and several violations of county ordinances. At the October meeting, an access permit had been proposed. Stowe stated that an access permit is a privilege and not a right that is guaranteed. The road that Mr. Belongia wants access to crosses county forest land. Mr. Belongia was granted an access permit at a previous meeting. Mr. Belongia would prefer to have a land trade with Langlade County instead of an access permit. Jackson stated that if Langlade County would agree to the land trade that 1.29 acres would need to be withdrawn from the county forest law program, which is not a simple process and Langlade County would need to prove that removing the land from the county forest law program was for a higher good. Mr. Belongia is proposing trading Government Lot 2, which would be a 10 to 1 trade. Jackson stated that if Langlade County is interested in doing a trade that Mr. Belongia also trade to Langlade County CSM Lot 2. Jackson also stated that this land trade would be of no benefit to Langlade County as proposed by Belongia. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to not approve a land trade with Mr. William Belongia and to have the corporation counsel send him a letter informing him of their decision and offering the access permit. 4 ayes, 1 abstained. Motion carried.
  12. Review Budget Summary - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through November 30, 2011.
  13. Review and Approve Paid Bills - A motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Schultz, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
  14. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., in the Forestry Office Conference Room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.

15. Adjournment - A motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Solin, to adjourn at 11:02 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary