

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

December 8, 2016

8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Vice-Chairman Donald Scupien, Sam Hardin, and Joe Novak

**Members Absent:** Ronald Nye and Duff Leaver

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Nathan Gilbert, Rick Dedeyne, Luke Williams, Cody Brauner, Josh Waukau, Mike Lietz, Andy Neveln, Joe Solin, Dale Carlson, Neil Schallock, David Raith, Tim Jacobs, Travis Larson, Quentin Strong, Mark Strong, Jeff Lawrence, Andy Ihn, Jake Christianson, Patrick Meverden, and Terry Poltrock

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

1. Call to Order – Vice-Chairman Scupien called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Introductions – Scupien welcomed all the interested loggers to the bid opening. Rantala explained the process of the timber sale bid opening.
3. Opening of Timber Sale Bids – The bids for the 2016 Fall Timber Sale were all received by the Forestry and Recreation Department at the Forestry Office. 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 Erik Rantala.

It was moved by Novak, seconded by Hardin, to convene into closed session under Section 19.85(1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, at 10:05 a.m. to review the following bids. Roll call vote: Hardin – aye, Scupien – aye, and Novak – aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Novak, seconded by Hardin, to convene into open session at 10:07 a.m. Roll call vote: Scupien – aye, Novak – aye, and Hardin – aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hardin, seconded by Novak to award the bids to the apparent high bidders on all of the fall timber sale jobs contingent on all bid values being correct, the advertised minimum bid for each specie being met, and all specifications and reference checks are met. All ayes. Motion carried.

There were 23 of 23 sales sold. A total of 137 bids were received from 23 bidders. The grand total of the winning bids was \$974,930.70.

4. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Novak, seconded by Hardin to excuse Ron Nye and Duff Leaver. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – DNR Update – Mike Lietz, NR Region Team Supervisor, updated the committee on the Strategic Alignment of the DNR.
6. Minutes – A motion was made by Novak, seconded by Hardin, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.
7. Review/Approve Veteran’s Memorial Park Policies - Discuss/Approve Veteran’s Memorial Park Policies - Tom Lazars reviewed with the committee several policy changes that they would like the committee to consider for Veteran’s Memorial Park.
  - a. Implementing an additional care fee (3+ vehicles) of \$2.00-\$5.00/car. Current policy allows 2 vehicles/site. Could do a day pass/camping pass. Free if park in overflow area.
  - b. Implementing a pet fee for any additional pets (over 1-2 pets) - \$2.00-\$5.00/pet. No current number set on pets.
  - c. Discuss current firewood policy: No outside firewood allowed.
  - d. Designate 8 more sites as reservable (5, 6, 7, 28, 29, 39, 40, and 41). Currently there are 8 sites reservable.
  - e. Raise rates by \$5.00 on a rotational basis:
    1. Cabins: raise to \$65.00/night for 2017
    2. Group/Primitive Sites: raise to \$25.00/night for 2018
    3. Shelters/Lodge: raise to \$55.00/day (Lodge - \$105.00/day) for 2019
    4. Individual Campsite: raise to \$35.00/night in 2020.
  - f. Implement new invoices to collect payments from reservations.

Lazars suggested eliminating the \$5.00 dump station fee for campers and establish a \$15.00 dump station fee only for non-campers. Also suggested was a Veteran’s discount of \$20.00/night for camping. After discussion, motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to add eight additional reservable sites, charge a dump station fee only for non-campers of \$15.00, offer a Veteran’s discount of \$20.00/night for camping, raise rates by \$5.00 on a rotational basis, and add a fee of \$5.00/additional cars over two. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

8. Discuss Christmas Tree Policy on the County Forest – Rantala stated that currently there is no Christmas tree policy for Langlade County and in the past they had not wanted to compete with private sellers. Rantala showed the committee a copy of a Christmas policy for Lincoln County. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to establish a Christmas tree cutting policy/permit for Langlade County allowing one per household for \$5.00. 3 ayes/2 absent. Motion carried.
9. Closed Session – At approximately 10:30 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons required a closed session, to discuss possible lands for sale. Motion by Novak, seconded by Hardin to go into closed session at 10:50 a.m. Roll call vote: Hardin – aye, Novak – aye, and Scupien – aye. Motion carried.
10. Open Session – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to return to open session at 11:00 a.m. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to approve Rantala to take action as discussed in closed session. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

11. Administrator Report – Camp Lyle, I have been soliciting proposals for an appraisal to be done. I have inquired of DNR who would pay for the entire cost of appraisal if JFC denies project. There is a new sign at the Jack Lake ski trail, which was constructed and donated by the Spychalla family. There has been interest in organizing an event on the Ice Age Trail for June, 2017. The proposal will include the trail on the County Forest in the Parrish area. This will be brought to the committee when I have more details. I met with the Langlade County ATV clubs to discuss this past season and for projects for 2017. Our department has had many good comments on our trails given the limited ability to complete some work due to the wet weather. Staff has been cruising and marking sales for the spring timber sale. Logging has been a bit slow on the County Forest. Crews are hoping for continued cold temperatures to freeze winter jobs. Pulp markets are still soft, with lower prices.
12. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through November 30, 2016.
13. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.

14. Adjournment – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to adjourn at 11:08 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary