

Forestry and Recreation Committee

February 13, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, Sam Hardin, Joe Novak, and Don Scupien – arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Dave Solin, Nathan Heuss, Dave Peterson, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:32 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 January 15, 2015 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Update on Veteran's Memorial Park Restroom Project - Nate Heuss, facilities director, provided a more finalized plan for the restroom/ 3 season shelter to be built in the picnic area at Veteran's Memorial Park. The floor plan calls for 1,500 sq. ft., a 30'w x 50' l building. The capital improvement plan budget cost was set at \$250,000. The timeline is as follows: March 25 – 2 p.m. – bids due, March 26 – 9 a.m. – open bids. The bids will be reviewed at the next Forestry Committee meeting scheduled for March 27. Construction would begin in May weather permitting and the entire project should take approximately four months. Substantial completion will be set at August 15. The committee requested Heuss to assess liquidated damages of \$100/ per day for every day construction extends beyond the completion date. Langlade County typically withholds 5% of each pay request until final billing and all items are complete. Heuss advised that assessing liquidated damages to a project may increase the bids slightly. The base bid would include the restroom and open air shelter including foundation and footings for the fireplace and chimney, alternate bid #1 would be the fireplace and chimney, and alternate bid #2 would be the overhead coiling doors. If bids come in over budget, one option is to construct the restroom and foundations/floor slab only for the open air shelter. The

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shelter could then be constructed at a later date, dependent on funding. During construction, the specifications require that the contractor have additional costs approved in writing prior to additional work being completed. Heuss advised that there should be a contingency allowed for any construction project. Heuss advised that there is value in having a Contractor that does not underbid a project and then attempt to recoup costs through change orders. The committee also questioned where the project would be advertised. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to approve the plans for the restroom/3-season shelter at Veteran's Memorial Park and to bid out the project and to advertise in Antigo, Wausau, and the Pioneer Express. 4 ayes, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

4. Discuss Jack Lake Ski Trail Shelter Donation – Lazars was contacted by the James Spychalla family after the passing of James Spychalla, who was very passionate about silent sports at Jack Lake. He was there almost every day either hiking or cross-country skiing. The family expressed interest in donating to Jack Lake something that would enhance the silent sport experience at Jack Lake. It was suggested to build a warming shelter similar to the warming shelter at Gartzke Flowage near the cross-country ski trailhead. The structure would be approximately 17' x 20'. A similar building had been previously identified by the Forestry Department as a need at the trailhead, and plans for a building were included in the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan. The committee gave approval to continue with the process.
5. Discuss Recreation Coordinator/Forest Technician Position Vacancy – Rantala informed the committee members who were not aware that Taylor Schenk had resigned his position as recreation coordinator/forest technician and February 13 was his last day. Rantala had met with Chairman Nye and County Board Chairman Solin and was given approval to offer the position to Cody Brauner, the second choice from the interviews in October and he accepted the position. Brauner will begin employment with Langlade County on February 23. He was previously employed as an LTE with Oneida County.
6. Discuss Carryforward Request - Rantala informed the committee that he is requesting to carryforward excess timber sale revenue to: replenish the recreation fund to \$100,000, which would be \$29,827.85; to replace the beach restroom at Veteran's Memorial Park, as the holding tank has cracked - \$111,500 (\$138,500 was carried forward in 2013 for this project), and to carryforward from a miscellaneous revenue account \$20,376.24, which was the amount Langlade County received for the lead reclamation project at the bow and gun range, which will be used in conjunction with a grant received for improvements at the bow and gun range. Rantala also stated that approximately \$600,000 will be paid back to the general fund from excess timber revenue, which is over two payments of the \$250,000 per year that was targeted to be paid back annually. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to approve the carryforward requests and to forward to the finance committee. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Department Annual Report - Rantala briefly reviewed the Forestry and Recreation Department's Annual Report for 2014 and asked

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they review it further and call him if they have any questions. Rantala reiterated that it had been a very good year for the department.

8. Closed Session – At approximately 9:30 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, land purchase. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to go into closed session at 9:40 a.m. Roll call vote: Klimoski – aye, Hardin – aye, Nye – aye, Scupien – aye, and Novak - aye. Motion carried.
9. Open Session – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to return to open session at 9:52 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to rescind the offer to purchase land as discussed in closed session. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Discuss/Approve James Wing Land Use Agreement – Rantala stated that Langlade County has had a land use agreement with Mr. Wing since 1959 to cross his property using an existing road in the Town of Vilas. The land use agreement stated that the road would be open to the public and forestry department staff and Langlade County would maintain the road to certain, reasonable standards. Mr. Wing has been very easy to work and would also like to extend the land use agreement. Rantala is requesting to extend the land use agreement for another ten years for \$1.00. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to approve the extension of the land use agreement with Mr. James Wing for ten years for the cost of \$1.00. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Administrator Report – Rantala informed the committee that a DNR audit was conducted in December for the period of 2011-2013. DNR stated that we did an excellent job getting the town severance payments out to the towns in a timely manner. Also, less than 8% of forest recon was found to be over 20 years old. Also, our timber sales over that three year period took in \$6.4 million. The DNR just had a few small changes that they recommended regarding timber sale files and contract language. Overall, it was a very good audit.

Rantala stated that currently 900 acres are set up for the spring timber sale and would like to set up 400-500 acres more. Timber sales are slow this winter, but hopefully they will pick up soon. Langlade County was approved for a grant for the Swamp Creek Firelane. The Discover Wisconsin episode on county forests aired this past Saturday.

Rantala stated that on Wednesday, February 11 that he and Lazars held a cross-country ski trail meeting with clubs to discuss improving the trails at Jack Lake and Kettlebowl. It was a very positive meeting and a few individuals have volunteered to assist with brushing in the fall.

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12. Review Payment of Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for January.
13. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through January 31, 2015.
14. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2015, at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
15. Adjournment – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary