

Forestry and Recreation Committee

February 23, 2012

8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Tom Schultz, Richard Olsen, and George Bornemann

Members Absent: David Solin

Others Present: Steve Jackson, Ted Ave'lallemant, Tammy Kubiaczyk, Tom Lazars, Terry Poltrock, Tim Rusch, William Belongia, Dave Peterson, Tom Anderson, Daryl DeZur, Elmer and Sally Mulhollon, and Harlan and Pat Girtz

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Schultz to excuse Solin. All ayes. Motion carried.
2. Minutes – A motion was made by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2012, meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Tom Anderson to Address Committee Regarding 4-H Shoot – Tom Anderson wanted to thank the committee for allowing the 4-H shoot to be held at the Bow and Gun Range on September 24. Anderson stated that over 20 youth attended the shoot. This was a national qualifying event. The youth used pellet rifles for the most part. They would like to hold this event again this fall at the bow and gun range and will meet with the committee at a later date to discuss and schedule this event.
4. Discuss Belongia Land Exchange – Jackson stated that in Government Lot #2, Mr. Belongia owns 10.3 acres in Section 25; T33N-R11E in the Township of East Upham. Jackson is suggesting an exchange of 6.7 acres for the 1.3 acres of county land. Langlade County would also need to receive a light vehicle perpetual easement for use of the private road. After discussion, motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to approve the land exchange and to forward to the Water & Land Use Committee and the county board for their approval. All ayes. Motion carried. The 1.3 acres of county land needs to be withdrawn from the county forest crop law program.

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5. Discuss Road Damage in Parrish and Elcho Areas – Jackson stated that some of the roads were damaged this last deer hunting season due to the early snowfall then having temperatures rising above freezing. Most of the damage is caused by pick-ups not by ATVs. The county spends approximately \$30,000/year on the road system and another \$25,000-\$30,000 from the ATV program to maintain ATV trails. Currently most forms of motorized vehicles are allowed to use ATV trails. Increased damage to forest roads has become more common over recent years. One of the suggestions would be to reroute the snowmobile trail onto the ATV trail, which would provide the county with additional maintenance funds for the upkeep on the dual usage of the trails. Some signage changes would need to be done. Another suggestion is to gate or berm the trails to pick-ups during the spring and fall when it is wetter, but to still allow ATV access. The forestry staff will look over the damaged road/trail areas and report back to the committee. This was for information only.

6. Open Land Sale Bids – Jackson stated that two bids were received for the Upham tract, which is located in the South ½ of the Southeast of the Southwest of, Section 26; T33N-R10E. The following bids were received:

Douglas Goebel -	\$38,500.00
Corey Carter -	\$39,501.00

Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Olsen to accept the high bid of Corey Carter of \$39,501.00 pending approvals. All ayes. Motion carried. Jackson will check with the corporation counsel to see if county board approval is needed for the sale of the parcel of land.

Jackson also informed the committee that the Ainsworth tract may be of interest to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and they have a tract that would be of interest to Langlade County and may be willing to do a trade for an additional \$9,000-\$10,000. Jackson will investigate further and report back to the committee at the March meeting.

7. Discuss Firewood Sales at Jack Lake – Lazars stated that currently at Jack Lake ricks of firewood are sold for \$3.00/rick. Presently, 170 face cords or 2,358 ricks of wood are purchased; but because of stolen wood, Langlade County is losing money selling ricks of wood. Lazars is suggesting selling pre-bundled firewood for \$4.00/bundle. Lazars also purchased a bundler and would also bundle wood for purchase at the park. After discussion, motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to approve selling pre-bundled firewood at Veteran’s Memorial Park for \$4.00/bundle and to sell pre-bundled kindling for \$2.00/bundle. All ayes. Motion carried.

Lazars also informed the committee that in pursuing the permits for the sleeping cabins at Veteran’s Memorial Park that he was informed that there must be potable water within 400’ of each cabin. This is a requirement by the DNR. Lazars is investigating tapping into the existing well and using a hose bib to provide water for the cabins. The cost would be approximately \$2,000-\$3,000. Lazars will update the committee regarding this item at the March committee meeting.

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8. Review 4-H Camp Susan Lease – Jackson stated that he was contacted by the corporation counsel regarding the 4-H Camp Susan lease because they are looking to extend the lease due to putting a new roof on the lodge. Jackson informed the committee that in reviewing the lease it contained approximately 2,000 acres of county forest land. Jackson could not determine why the original 1941 lease contained so many acres, but he is proposing changing the acreage to 625 acres. He will also add to the lease that lands included in the lease area will be managed according to the Langlade County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approve modifying the legal description in the 4-H Camp Susan lease to only include 625 acres of county forest land. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Discuss Request by Antigo Area Hunter Education Organization – Jackson informed the committee that he was contacted by Mary Umland of the Antigo Area Hunter Education Organization and they would like to hold a shoot at the Bow and Gun Range on Saturday, March 10 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and request that the range be closed to the public for that morning. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approve the closing of the range for that event on March 10. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. DNR Liaison Report – Ave’llemant provided information on the Post Lake Dam. The fishway was constructed in 1946 and was owned by the Highway Department. It was operated from 1946 – 1966. It became inoperative and was removed sometime around 1967. A 1952 fish survey was conducted to identify the numbers, sizes, and species of fish using the fishway. Results for a 19 day survey period were as follows: 350 fish passed (146 panfish, 114 suckers, 90 gamefish {73 walleyes}). The 1967 assessment of the fishway revealed that it had deteriorated to a point where it would need to be replaced, could do possible harm to passing fish in warm water situations, passed more panfish and rough fish than gamefish (3:1 ration), and posed a safety risk. It needed to be removed rather than replaced. The current assessment is that a breeding population of walleye exists below the current dam. Natural recruitment in Post Lake is almost non-existent, likely due to habitat deficiencies. Passing walleye from good breeding habitat to poor habitat would be poor management. Building a fish ladder to allow passage of these fish would be extremely cost ineffective (as opposed to walleye stocking in Post Lake) as well as be an unnecessary maintenance cost.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to excuse Olsen at 9:35 a.m.

11. Discuss Purchase of Table and Chairs for Conference Room – Jackson informed the committee that the forestry department is looking to purchase a 54” x 144’ racetrack table with half drum base for the conference room as well meeting room chairs with funds budgeted in the 2012 budget from the forest preservation fund. He received the following quotes:

Clermont Printing -	\$6,834.00
Office Supplies 2U -	\$7,238.00

Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to accept the low quote of \$6,834.00 from Clermont Printing. All ayes. Motion carried. Jackson will check with the corporation

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counsel and Janice Cahak to see if the purchase needs to be approved by the Public Property Committee also.

12. Discuss Resolution regarding The Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act – Jackson informed the committee that for over 30 years Federal, State and Counties have been operating under the EPA’s Silvicultural Rule. Forestry has been exempt from being required from having a storm water permit for logging roads. In 1995, Forest Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality programs began. Six hundred timber sales have been monitored with great success. Ninety percent of the time water quality is protected on timber sales. Ninety-nine percent of the time water quality is protected on timber sales when BMPs are used. This issue came up in Oregon in August, 2010 where the topography and soil types are drastically different than Wisconsin. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found using roads for logging is an industrial activity, which would require a storm water permit for point pollution. Jackson stated that requiring storm water permits would slow our logging operations down drastically and could affect 16,000 miles of forest roads statewide. The Wisconsin County Forests Association is requesting that all counties send a letter and county board resolution to President Obama in support of The Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to forward the resolution to county board for approval. All ayes. Motion carried.
13. Approve Attendance at WCFA Spring Conference - Jackson informed the committee that he and Erik Rantala will be attending the Wisconsin County Forests Association meeting in Wausau, March 22-23. Jackson and Rantala would like to stay overnight due to the lateness of the meetings and the early start each morning. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approve all necessary expenses and to allow the overnight stay at the Wisconsin County Forests Association meeting in Wausau, March 22-23. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Approve Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2012-2016 – Jackson explained that this plan will assess the existing recreation system in Langlade County, identify recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating outdoor recreation improvements, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years. Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids. Non-profit groups, foundations and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities. Jackson further explained that adoption of this plan by the Langlade County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will continue eligibility of the County and its local units of government for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds. Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Langlade County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Langlade County applies on their behalf. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to approve the Langlade County Outdoor Plan, 2012-2016 and to forward to the county board for approval. All ayes. Motion carried.

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15. Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Department Annual Report - Jackson handed out the Forestry and Recreation Department's Annual Report for 2011 and asked they review it and call him if they have any questions. Jackson reiterated that it had been a good year for the department, but things could be very different next year due to the amount that the finance committee increased the forestry revenue budget to help balance the county's budget.
16. Review Payment of Paid Bills - A motion was made by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
17. Review Budget Summary Report - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through January 31, 2012.
18. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., in the Forestry Office Conference Room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
19. Adjournment - A motion was made by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann, to adjourn at 9:50 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary