

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

February 9, 2017

8:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Ronald Nye, Donald Scupien, Sam Hardin, Joe Novak, and Duff Leaver

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Robin Stowe, Janet Brehm, DNR Wildlife Biologist; Dave Peterson, Joe Jopek, Pete Resch, Lisa Haefs, and Terry Poltrock

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Leaver, seconded by Novak, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – Joe Novak commented on the snowmobile trails and comments he has heard about the trails. Chairman Nye passed around the application that the Lumberjack RC & D received about the Langlade County Forestry Department and consequently Langlade County was awarded the Chairman's Special Achievement Award on Forestry on January 26, 2017.
4. Discuss/Approve Change in Bass Lake ATV Trail Project – Rantala informed the committee that he had met with the DNR Water Regulations staff regarding the Bass Lake ATV Trail Project and they will not allow fill on the railroad grade for this project due to wetland issues. An alternate route would be to use a logging road to Hwy. J, which was approved by the Highway Committee on February 8. Motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to approve the trail change for the Bass Lake ATV trail project. 4 ayes, 1 nay. Motion carried.

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5. Discuss/Approve Hiking Event on Ice Age Trail – Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by Josh Wheeler, who would like to hold a 30-mile hiking event on the Ice Age Trail in June. There would be approximately 100 participants. The majority of the event would be held in Lincoln County with only one or two miles of the Langlade County Ice Age Trail in Parrish being used. Rantala will report back to the committee when he has more information.
  
6. Update/Approve Michelle’s Lodge Project at Moccasin Lake Ski Trail – Lisa Haefs updated the committee on the progress of fundraising for Michelle’s Lodge at Moccasin Lake Ski Trail. Haefs informed the committee that the foundation and electric work were not done this fall, but will be completed this spring. The lodge will be constructed by the Elcho High School technology education classes; but if it is not completed by them during the school year, Nicholson Brothers will step in to complete construction by the fall. All of the funds for the project have been received either by donation or grant. Any additional funds will be used for enhancements for the lodge, maintenance of the lodge, and new grooming equipment. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Leaver to approve the Michelle’s Lodge project in its entirety contingent on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Elcho Cross-Country Ski Club and Langlade County. All ayes. Motion carried.
  
7. Approve Carry Forward Request for 2017 - Rantala informed the committee that he is requesting to carryforward excess timber sale revenue to: replenish the recreation fund, which would be \$29,545.50 and to carryforward from a miscellaneous revenue account \$1,030.50, which was the remainder of the amount Langlade County received for the lead reclamation project at the bow and gun range. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to approve the carryforward requests and to forward to the finance committee. All ayes. Motion carried.
  
8. DNR Liaison Report – Janet Brehm, DNR wildlife biologist, updated the committee on wildlife issues.
  
9. Administrator Report – Rantala informed the committee that logging jobs have been real slow this winter due to the weather. We have had a number of crews opening/freezing roads, but not much activity on the sales due to lack of frost in the woods.

Don Peterson of Renewable Resource Solutions would like to be on the next agenda to discuss FSC certification again.

Ski event is at Jack Lake this weekend. They will be setting up on Friday, laying out the course. There will be something posted at the trailhead about the race. Also, EMT’s will be on hand. Organizer has secured a number of sponsors and is thinking there will be around 30 participants.

Staff is doing a great job setting up timber for our spring sale. We will be in a position to be able to decide what sales to sell in the spring vs. in the fall.

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Picked up both new snowmobile and UTV in the last few weeks. Both are working great, the UTV is getting around as good as we hoped in these snow conditions.

All snowmobile trails are open and are in good shape. I have been out inspecting trails for signing and safety issues, and things have looked pretty good.

Reviewing Governor Walker's '17-'19 budget as it relates to forestry issues. Possibly looking to restructure DNR and move Chief State Forester north of Hwy. 29. May be some changes to advertising for timber sales. Also proposed changes to mil tax, which could affect forest preservation and the forest administrator grant.

10. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through January 31, 2017.
11. Closed Session – At approximately 8:45 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 land for sale and the possible sale of County land. Motion by Leaver, seconded by Novak to go into closed session at 9:02 a.m. Roll call vote: Leaver – aye, Hardin – aye, Novak – aye, Scupien – aye, and Nye - aye. Motion carried.
12. Open Session – Motion by Leaver, seconded by Scupien to return to open session at 9:42 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.  
  
Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to wait on a resolution regarding the DNR properties until the DNR receives federal approval to sell said properties. All ayes. Motion carried. Other items discussed in closed session were for information only.
13. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 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 9:45 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary