

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

January 12, 2017

8:30 a.m.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Dave Solin, Josh Waukau, DNR liaison; Dave Peterson, Joe Jopek, Angie Close, Chris Arrowood, Andy Koss, and Terry Poltrock

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Scupien, seconded by Leaver, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – Dave Solin informed the committee that the Lumberjack RC & D had awarded Langlade County the Chairman’s Award on Forestry. The presentation and dinner will be on January 26 at 11:45 a.m. at Quinn’s, Neva. The forestry committee and forestry staff are invited to attend the luncheon. Land Records will pay the registration for all who wish to attend. Those wishing to attend should contact Marie Graupner.
4. TIP Report – Chris Arrowood updated the committee on his activities for 2016 regarding invasive species in Langlade County. Species of concern in Langlade County are Garlic Mustard and Wild Parsnip. The TIP Annual Meeting will be on February 28, 9 a.m., in Keshena. Kelly Kearns from DNR will be presenting. Arrowood has found that contracting through TIP for controlling invasives costs \$112.61/acre, but contracting with an outside firm could cost \$884.27/acre. Forestry had budgeted \$5,000 for TIP for invasives control in 2016. Also, TIP uses spot control so recreational areas do not lose

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as much vegetation in the areas that are sprayed. In Langlade County, there are 55 unique populations. 41.5 acres are garlic mustard and 2.9 acres are wild parsnip. TIP has received a DNR grant to work with 30-35 citizens who have a snowmobile trail crossing their property to control garlic mustard.

5. Langlade County Economic Development Update – Angie Close updated the committee on the work of Langlade County Economic Development, which covers both business and tourism. They also administer the langladecounty.org and Jack Lake websites. Requests for ATV maps were the #1 hit at 184 followed by the recreation map at 117, and the snowmobile map at 69. Next week, they will be attending the Chicago Travel Show, then the Green Bay RV show, and lastly the Milwaukee Sport Show. Langlade County is also in the Wisconsin Travel Guide. They also use billboards to advertise as well as the Langlade County app and Facebook. They also promote through Everbridge and the ALC portal website.
6. Discuss Request for Land Trade in Town of Summit – Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by Cal Watters who would like to purchase more acreage in the Town of Summit. Watters owns property in the SE1/4 of Section 6 in the Town of Summit and the land he is looking to purchase is in Section 7 and is surrounded by County Land. He would like to trade the 40 in Section 7 to the county for 80 acres in Section 6 as well as a monetary amount to be agreed upon. Rantala stated that because of a creek on the property that Mr. Watters has allowed Langlade County to cross his property to access timber sales in the past. The committee stated that Rantala should continue to investigate.
7. Discuss Resolution Restoring Funding for County Forest Administration Grant – Rantala stated that this funding mechanism was previously removed from the 2015-17 State budget. As the legislative session has resumed, member counties of WCFA are asking to have this put back in the budget. This funding is critical to maintain the operation of the Wisconsin County Forest Association. Without this funding, more costs would be incurred by each county. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to support resolution to restore funding for the County Forest Administration Grant. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Approve Grant Application to Ruffed Grouse Society for Wildlife Habitat Work on County Forest – Rantala stated that per county policy, grant requests must be supported by oversight and finance committees. This grant is a non-matching grant (\$3,500) and projects were identified on the hunter walking trail system that the forestry department manages. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Nye to approve the grant application to the Ruffed Grouse Society for wildlife habitat work on the county forest. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Review and Accept Proposals for 2017 UTV and Snowmobile – Rantala provided the committee with the following proposals for a 2017 UTV with tracks:

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<b>Dealer</b>	<b>Make/Model</b>	<b>Engine Size</b>	<b>Base Price</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Verne's	2016 Honda Pioneer	999cc	\$13,700	\$6,170	\$19,870	2016 model, 3 seat machine
Verne's	2016 Honda Pioneer	999cc	\$15,463	\$6,470	\$21,933	2016 model – 5 seat machine
Antigo Yamaha	2017 Can Am Defender DPS HD10	976cc	\$13,125	\$5,860	\$18,985	
Antigo Yamaha	2017 Can Am Defender XT HD10	976cc	\$15,200	\$,950	\$20,150	Bumpers, better tires standard
Antigo Yamaha	2017 Polar Ranger	875cc	\$11,850	\$5,830	\$17,400	Under specs at 875cc
Rew Motors	2017 Kubota RTV-X900	898cc (Diesel)	\$12,425	\$5,850	\$18,275	Diesel-top speed approx 25 mph

After discussion, motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to purchase the 2016 Honda Pioneer for \$19,870 from Verne's with funds budgeted in the 2017 budget. All ayes. Motion carried.

Rantala provided the committee with the following proposals for a 2017 snowmobile:

<b>Dealer</b>	<b>Make/Model</b>	<b>Engine Size</b>	<b>Base Price</b>	<b>Trade Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Verne's	2017 Arctic Cat ZR5000LXR	1000cc	\$8,600	\$2,250	\$6,350	Available in 3 weeks
Antigo Yamaha	2017 Ski Doo Renegade Sport	600cc	\$8,200	\$2,000	\$6,200	Available immediately

After discussion, motion by Leaver, seconded by Novak to purchase the 2017 Ski Doo Renegade Sport from Antigo Yamaha for \$6,200 with funds budgeted in the 2017 budget. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Recognition of Monetary Donation to Bow and Gun Range – Rantala informed the committee that Randy Molle donated \$250 for projects at the range. Rantala had a letter for the committee to sign recognizing his generous donation.
11. Review 2016 Timber Sale Harvest Volumes and Revenue - Rantala reviewed the 2016 wood volume harvests with the committee.

He handed out a summary of the wood harvests for the past 15 years. In 2016, there were 32,779 total cords cut. There were 11,036 cords of hardwood pulp cut. The hardwood logs were down 477,300 board feet from 2015 to 2016 at 873,380 board feet. Rantala reported that the timber sale scale charges, which are the total value of material

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cut, scaled, and actually removed off the County Forest, is at \$1,954,398 for 2016. In 2015, the timber sale scale charges were at \$2,206,145.

The actual timber sale revenue for 2016 is \$1,859,546 compared to \$1,851,502 for 2015. The timber sale revenue figure is the actual revenue from payments made on the scale charges during the year, and it does not include the prepayments on timber sales or credit balances. Rantala also mentioned that \$205,937.83 will be returned to the townships as severance payments for those townships that have county forest in them, on a proportional basis.

12. DNR Liaison Report – Josh Waukau updated the committee on the DNR alignment, fish and wildlife fund, legislative proposal to split the DNR, and continuing work with Langlade County.
13. Administrator Report - Rantala informed the committee that the appraiser will be on the Camp Lyle property today to start working on the appraisal. Title commitment has been ordered as well. The Grogan property will be going in front of Joint Finance Committee very soon. We needed title commitment as well on this project. This was a recent change in the grant program.

A number of logging contractors have called with concern of selling tamarack that they have under contract. A large mill that used to take it said they are not taking it anymore and this is a permanent change. Other mills do not buy large volumes of it, if at all. We may want to consider extending contracts with no increase, if these cannot be cut. Contractors have been having a difficult time freezing roads. The rain we had over the holidays took whatever frost we had out of roads.

Tom Lazars and Rantala met with a number of cross country skiers that are interested in helping out at Jack Lake. They are organizing and communicating with Lazars. Ski event is being planned at Jack Lake. Organizer has secured a number of sponsors and is thinking around 30 participants. It will be held on February 11 at 10 a.m. Water heater and flooring at park manager's house is being processed through insurance.

All snowmobile trails are open and are in good shape.

14. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through December 31, 2016.
15. 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, to discuss possible lands for sale. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to go into closed session at 10:25 a.m. Roll call vote: Leaver – aye, Hardin – aye, Novak – aye, Scupien – aye, and Nye - aye. Motion carried.

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16. Open Session – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to return to open session at 10:50 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Scupien, seconded by Nye to approve Rantala to take action as discussed in closed session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hardin left at 10:51 a.m.

17. Other Matters – Dave Peterson, Langlade County Snowmobile Council President, updated the committee on the status of the snowmobile trails.
18. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
19. Adjournment – Motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary