

Forestry and Recreation Committee

January 15, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, David Solin, Rick Bina, and Sam Hardin

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Tammy Kubiacyk, Robin Stowe, Tom Lazars, Terry Poltrock, Chris Berry, Dave and Judy Peterson, and Elmer and Sally Mulhollon

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Bina, seconded by Klimoski, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Finalize Land Purchase Details – Robin Stowe, corporation counsel, updated the committee on the behind the scenes work/review that has been done by himself, Rantala, and Dave Tlusty to make sure that no unforeseen circumstances arise regarding the proposed land purchase between Langlade County and Plum Creek Land Company of approximately 2,352 acres. A resolution will be going to county board on January 21, 2014 to approve this purchase and the proposed funding mechanism. Stowe explained that Plum Creek Land Company sells their property “as is” in their contract of sale. Plum Creek does provide title insurance through the date of closing. Stowe also explained that the County has requested an owner’s affidavit that basically states that Plum Creek is not aware of any exceptions that would affect ownership. While reviewing the acquisition, it was found that a number of road easements are present on the property. The lands (approximately 2.5 acres) that those easements are on will not be eligible for grant funding and enrollment into CFL. The approximate cost of the property is \$3,888,500 with the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant funding approximately \$1,920,000 and Langlade County’s portion of approximately \$1,968,500 will come from the general fund, which will be reimbursed from excess timber sale

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revenue over a period of time. The State's Joint Finance Committee is still reviewing the grant but should be rendering a decision regarding approval within the next day or so. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to forward a resolution to county board for the approval of the land purchase with Plum Creek Land Company and the proposed funding mechanism. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Discuss Request by Friends of Moose Lake - The Friends of Moose Lake are requesting Langlade County's support in applying for a grant, which would enable them to develop a lake management plan. A lake management plan would allow them to be pro-active and prepared to deal with water quality issues, aquatic invasive species, and fish management. Motion by Solin, seconded by Klimoski to provide a letter in support of the Friends of Moose Lake grant application for a lake management plan. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Update on Veteran's Memorial Park Projects – Rantala stated that the second cabin was completed and has been rented out. The fuel tank installation is complete, but are still waiting on the State of Wisconsin for the permit so the tanks can be filled with fuel. Lazars stated that the new restroom in the campground is still being worked on and should be completed for the camping season, which begins May 1. The restroom is 80% complete. Lazars stated that the cabins will also have electricity. The third cabin will be started as soon as the weather allows. Lazars provided the committee with a preliminary plan for the restroom that needs to be replaced on the beach. It would be a restroom with a three-season shelter and patio area. It would be enclosed with perhaps a curtain wall, which could be opened if the weather and insects allowed. It would be very rustic, so to not be high maintenance, and would not be insulated so it would be shut down for the winter. These plans are only preliminary and will be updated at the February meeting. Planned construction would be in 2015 and a grant would be applied for.

Lazars also stated that the committee agreed last year that six sites (9, 25, 18, 19, 42 and 43) could be reserved, which went over very well; but when there are large groups camping together, they are spread over the campground. Lazars would like to add two more reservable sites (17 and 31) so that large groups could camp together. As this was not on the agenda, it will be added to the agenda for the February meeting.

6. Recreation Update – Kubiacyk updated the committee regarding the ATV season. During the past spring/summer/fall ATV season, 19 projects were completed on the trails. Also the ATV clubs are working on a new map for the 2014 season. The park signs are almost completed and Kubiacyk will inform the committee when they are done. Also, the snowmobile trails are looking good. Rantala stated that they are working with the sled dog club regarding a new training area. In previous years, sled dog teams were crossing groomed snowmobile trails creating a safety issue. The forestry department staff found an area near Kettlebowl that does not affect the snowmobile trails and the sled dog group is very happy with this area. The Moose Lake restroom has been completed and landscaping will take place in the spring. Langlade County received a \$1,000 donation from the Mattoon Sportsmen's Club to use toward the project, which we are very grateful and appreciative of. The application for the grant for the bow and gun range is being evaluated and ranked. Solin stated that funds were received from the

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Menominee tribe to be distributed to area ATV clubs. Dave Peterson updated the committee on the downhill ski season at Kettlebowl so far.

7. Discuss Expired Timber Sale Contracts - Rantala reviewed with the committee a list of expired contracts, along with the staff recommendations for each.

Rantala explained the extensions stating that the first increase for an expired contract is 5 percent and then each increase after that is 10 percent. The Forestry Department staff has reviewed all contracts.

The committee reviewed each expired contract and took the following actions:

Expired Timber Sales – 2013

| <u>Job No.</u> | <u>Contractor</u> | <u>Expired</u> | <u>Comments</u> | <u>Committee Action</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1014-08 | Graap Logging | 12/10 | Summit-2 nd Avenue Winter job – not started. | Take back – resell. |
| 1120-10 | Graap Logging | 12/11 | Summit- Stone Rd. Winter job – not started. | Take back – resell. |
| 1085-09 | Rodney Hix | 12/11 | Highway 45 - Winter job – not started. Plan to do this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1197-11 | Tim Jacobs | 12/13 | Firelane Road - not started. | Assess 5% stumpage increase for 2014. |
| 1199-11 | Tim Jacobs | 12/13 | Sand Lake – Road is open. Will cut this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1209-11 | Tim Jacobs | 12/13 | Elton Firelane - not started. | Assess 5% stumpage increase for 2014. |
| 1083-09 | Marshall Logging | 12/11 | Stone Road - freezing road. Will cut this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1086-09 | Marshall Logging | 12/11 | W. Ackley – ¼ done. Road is open. Will cut this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2014. |

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| <u>Job No.</u> | <u>Contractor</u> | <u>Expired</u> | <u>Comments</u> | <u>Committee Action</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1160-10 | Marshall Logging | 12/12 | Hwy. Q – Winter job, road is open. Will cut this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1163-10 | Marshall Logging | 12/13 | Prairie River Firelane- ½ done – summer job. | Assess 5% stumpage for 2014. |
| 1140-10 | Brad Mihalko | 12/12 | Sherry Road – Not started. Summer job. | Assess 10% stumpage increase for 2014 |
| 1224-12 | Brad Mihalko | 12/13 | Hwy. H curve – Not started. Winter job. Planning to do this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1211-11 | Mlhalko Land & Logging | 12/13 | Perch Lake Road – In sale now, will finish this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1242-12 | Randy McKee | 12/13 | Hwy. S – ½ done - summer job. | Assess 5% stumpage increase for 2014. |
| 1202-11 | NewPage Corporation | 12/13 | Lost Lake - Winter job. Road in - will finish this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1161-10 | Dave Raith | 12/12 | Hwy. Q – Road/ landing is in. Will finish this winter. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2014. |
| 1115-10 | Schreiner Forestry | 12/12 | Ackley – 1/2 done. Winter job. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase for stumpage for 2014. |
| 1184-11 | Twin Forest Products | 12/13 | Roehrig Road - winter job. In sale now – will finish. | Give until April 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase for stumpage for 2014. |
| 1116-10 | Whitetail Logging | 12/12 | Moccasin Ski Trail - ¼ done - Summer job. Attempted last summer, too wet. | Give until November 1, 2014 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase for stumpage for 2014. |

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Rantala informed the committee that back in 2007 a timber sale contract default policy was approved that stated that if a logger returned a county timber sale that the county could retain all the performance bond money from the timber sale contracts and the logger would be refused the opportunity to bid upon or retain future timber sales of the county for a period of two (2) years from the date of the default. Rantala stated that the two timber sales from Graap Logging are being returned. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to take back timber sales #1014-08 and #1120-10 for resale and to retain the full performance bonds from these sales. All ayes. Motion carried

Motion by Bina, seconded by Solin to accept the staff recommendations regarding the 2013 expired timber sales. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Review 2013 timber Sale Harvest Volumes and Revenue - Rantala reviewed the 2013 wood volume harvests with the committee.

Rantala stated that it was a very good year in 2013. He handed out a summary of the wood harvests for the past 14 years. In 2013, there were 41,668 total cords cut. There were 19,032 cords of hardwood pulp cut. The hardwood logs were up 325,070 board feet at 1,684,290 board feet for 2013, which is the highest total ever. Rantala reported that the timber sale scale charges, which are the total value of material cut, scaled, and actually removed off the County Forest, is at \$2,205,854 for 2013. In 2012, the timber sale scale charges were at \$2,008,972.

The actual timber sale revenue for 2013 is \$2,421,128 compared to \$2,354,878 for 2012. 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.

9. One Year Performance Evaluation – The committee stated that they were very pleased with Rantala’s performance as forest administrator and that he was doing an excellent job. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to state that a very positive review was given for Rantala’s one year performance evaluation. All ayes. Motion carried.

Rick Bina was excused at 10:30 a.m.

10. Discuss Resolution from Eau Claire County regarding Senate Bill 278 – At the December 4, 2013 meeting, Senate Bill 278 was discussed and a motion was made to wait until the final product and then take action as there were ongoing amendments. Senate Bill 278 was drafted by Bill Grothman and Tom Tiffany allowing restricted access to MFL land near the mine and closing more acres than currently allowed under the MFL program. Assembly Bill 504 was sponsored by Mary Czaja. Rantala informed the committee that Senate Bill 278 was passed on December 13, 2013 as Wisconsin Act 81.
11. DNR Liaison Report – Rantala reported for Ave’lallemand as he was unable to attend as he was attending the Statewide Forestry Conference in Appleton. Ave’lallemand provided the following information on Douglas County’s reaction to the Emerald Ash Borer. 1) For all timber sales within 15 miles of Superior, all ash greater than 12” DBH are designated for removal. Emphasis is on leaving younger ash with smooth bark as

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deeply furrowed ash are the most susceptible. 2) Outside 15 miles, similar to LCFL with discrimination against ash over 20" DBH. 3) Firewood may not leave this quarantined county unless it is certified as kiln-dried. The expected problem is transfer of the insect larvae throughout the county as people whose ash trees die will cut them up for firewood and haul the wood to their deer camps, etc. Spread within the county will be enhanced via that vector. 4) Wood over 4 feet in length (pulpwood and logs) may be cut and hauled anywhere between October 1 and March 31. The caveat is that the mill receiving any wood from Douglas County MUST sign an agreement with DATCP and USDA that they will process all of this wood by April 30. This will likely be a major issue since most of their black ash jobs are breakup jobs and the mills might get flooded with more wood than they can actually process in one month. 5) Any mixed hardwood hauled between April 1 and September 30 must be debarked AND ½ inch of wood removed. Basically unenforceable and mill will not be accepting this. 6) Initial attack plan was to cut all ash within a 5-mile radius of Superior as the normal rate of spread from a known infection site is ½ mile per year. Recent studies, however, show that the Emerald Ash Borer will simply fly to that 5-mile point and begin their infestation there. Once infested, the spread is ½ mile per year but they will travel to find ash. How far is still an unknown.

12. Review Payment of Paid Bills – The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills.
13. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through December 31, 2013.
14. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, **February 12, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
15. Adjournment – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Klimoski to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary