

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

January 20, 2011

1:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Ronald Nye, Tom Schultz, Richard Olsen, Dave Solin, George Bornemann, and Brennan Henricks

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Steve Jackson, Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Ted Ave'lallemant, Tammy Kubiaczyk, Terry Poltrock, Travis Yates, Chris Berry, and Ali Lindner

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Minutes – A motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Schultz, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2010, meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discuss Partnering with Elcho School Shop Class for Project at Veteran's Memorial Park – Lazars informed the committee that he has been in discussions with Travis Yates, the Elcho High School shop teacher, regarding building a sleeping cabin per year at Veteran's Memorial Park. The cabins would be rustic, 16' x 20', with a sleeping area, table and counter. There would be a propane fireplace. The cabins would be available May 1 – December 1. Lazars suggested a rental rate of \$50/night. The first cabins would be built within 400' range of the showers/bathroom facility. The first cabin would be built during the 2012-2013 school season, if approved by Langlade County and the Elcho school board. Only one cabin would be built per year. The cabins would have solar panels and would cost approximately \$10,000 per cabin to build. Funding would be provided by Langlade County through the recreation fund. The cabins would be built at the school and transported to Veteran's Memorial Park. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to preliminary proceed with plans for the cabins and to forward to the Elcho school board for their approval. All ayes. Motion carried.

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4. Discuss Repairs Needed on Hand Pump at Otter Lake Wayside - Lazars informed the committee that it would cost approximately \$2,000 to repair the hand pump at Otter Lake. It also costs approximately \$40 to have the water tested each year. After discussion, motion by Solin, seconded by Olsen to repair the hand pump at Otter Lake Wayside. All ayes. Motion carried.
  
5. Discuss Update to Dumping Station at Veteran's Memorial Park – Jackson and Lazars informed the committee that last summer after Labor Day weekend the dumping station at Veteran's Memorial Park failed. The dumping station at Veteran's Memorial Park is free except for donations. Also, before the station failed, it was being used by anyone not just the registered campers. A new system was installed in 1998. It was suggested to install 2 – 2,500 gallon tanks to work in conjunction with the current 1,600 gallon tank at a cost of \$7,000; and to have it pumped for \$100 on a bi-weekly basis, if needed. It was also agreed to allow only registered campers to use the dumping station. After discussion, motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to bid out the upgrade to the dumping station at Veteran's Memorial Park and to forward to the finance committee for approval of the use of monies from the recreation fund for this project. All ayes. Motion carried.  
  
Motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to charge \$5.00 upfront costs for use of the pumping station and to limit the use of the dumping station to registered campers only. All ayes. Motion carried.
  
6. Update on Cross Country Ski Trails at Veteran's Memorial Park – Lazars updated the committee on the state of the cross country ski trails at Veteran's Memorial Park. There had mostly been a dry snow this winter season. Lazars expressed concern to the committee that after a late afternoon or evening snowfall that x-c skiers expect the trail to be perfectly groomed by the next morning. Lazars also wanted the committee to know that before Christmas we received fresh snow; but that it was not a good quality snow, and efforts to groom the trail only made it worse. Conditions of the trail are currently excellent. Kettlebowl is groomed every Friday. At Veteran's Memorial Park, the trail is double groomed 3 times per week and more often if a significant snowfall of more than 4" is received. The trail is 20 miles long and take approximately 8 hours to groom. The initial snowfall needs to be packed to establish a base. It was also discussed to cross train an employee to operate the Pisten Bully in the event that Lazars was unavailable to groom the cross country ski trails. Chris Berry discussed with the committee possible events that could be held at the Veteran's Memorial Park cross country ski trail to promote the trail and make it a destination. Also discussed for the 2012 season was to offer a button that could be purchased for \$20 in lieu of ongoing donations during the cross country ski season.
  
7. Discuss User Fee Program – Jackson stated that Chairman Nye had requested that this agenda item be discussed. In the past, it was discussed that if a user fee program was implemented it would be for Post Lake, Summit Lake, Jack Lake, and the bow and gun range. The concerns that are always brought up are enforcement and the additional expense to institute such a program. Also taxpayers would be vocal regarding have to

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pay a fee to picnic at the various parks. A user fee would provide approximately \$20,000 in increased revenues. Currently the expenses at the range for the gatekeeper alone are approximately \$7,000; but we only take in \$700-\$800 in donations annually. The range is open to the public 365 days/year, sun up to sundown. The committee felt that as currently we can meet our levy limits that it is not necessary to implement a user fee.

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

Jackson 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 - 2010**

<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 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Road frozen down.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2011.
1036-08	Tim Jacobs	12/10	Augustyn Springs- Not started.	Assess 5% increase on stumpage for 2011.
647-01	Marshall Logging	12/05	Ackley-3/4 done. In sale now, will finish in month.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2011.
846-05	Marshall Logging	12/06	Ackley – Not started. Roads frozen down. Will finish this winter.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2011.
957-07	Marshall Logging	12/10	Hayes Road-Not started. Roads frozen down.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2011.
1049-08	Ken Milhalko & Sons Logging	12/09	Ventor Lake - Not started. Road frozen down. Plans on moving in next month.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2011.

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<u>Job No.</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Expired</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
1072-09	Randy McKee	12/10	Dynamite Lake- 3/4 done.	Give until September 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, close out and keep bond, if necessary.
990-08	NewPage Corporation	12/10	Parrish – ¾ done. Road frozen down. Will finish this winter.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 5% increase in stumpage for 2011.
998-08	NewPage Corporation	12/10	Hwy. T – Not started.	Assess 5% increase for 2011.
1004-08	NewPage Corporation	12/09	Ackley-Cell Tower. 1/3 done. Will finish in February.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 5% for 2011.
1007-08	NewPage Corporation	12/10	Sherry Road-Not started. Will cut this winter.	Assess 5% increase for 2011.
1012-08	NewPage Corporation	12/10	Lost Lake Road. Road frozen down. Started sale.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 5% for 2011.
1032-08	NewPage Corporation	12/10	Fiedler Lane. Road frozen down. Not started.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 5% for 2011.
987-07	Bob Schmidt	12/09	County Line Road. Not started. Plans on moving in this month.	Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase in stumpage for 2011.
947-07	Whitetail Logging	12/09	West Ackley-Oxbow Road. Road frozen down.	Assess 5% increase now. Give until April 1, 2011 to finish. If not done, assess 10% increase for stumpage.

9. Review 2010 timber Sale Harvest Volumes and Revenue - Jackson reviewed the 2010 wood volume harvests with the committee.

Jackson stated that it was a very good year in 2010. He handed out a summary of the wood harvests for the past 20 years. In 2010, there were 46,091 total cords cut. There were 21,708 cords of hardwood pulp cut, which is 4,000 more cords than in 2009. The hardwood logs were up 528,200 board feet at 1,259,000 board feet for 2010. Jackson

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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 \$2,198,058.00 for 2010. In 2009, the timber sale scale charges were at \$1,527,676.00.

The actual timber sale revenue for 2010 is \$1,789,715.00 compared to \$1,248,805.00 for 2009. 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.

10. Discuss Carrying Forward Excess Timber Sale Revenue to Replenish Recreation Fund – Jackson stated that several years ago a recreation fund was created from excess timber sale revenue to fund recreation projects on the county forest and the fund was capped at \$100,000. Last year due to the difficult timber sale markets, we were unable to replenish the recreation fund. Due to the very good year we had in 2010, we are asking to replenish the recreation fund to \$100,000, which would be \$71,235.26. The current balance in the recreation fund is \$28,764.74. After discussion, motion by Schultz, seconded by Olsen to replenish the recreation fund to \$100,000 and to forward this request to the Finance Committee and also to discuss increasing the cap beyond \$100,000. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Review Payment of Paid Bills - A motion was made by Schultz, seconded by Solin, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
12. Review Budget Summary Report - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through December 31, 2010. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Solin, to accept the budget summary. All ayes. Motion carried.
13. Comp Time Balances - Jackson reviewed the comp time balances of all the Forestry and Recreation Department employees with the committee. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Solin to accept the comp time balances. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant informed the committee that Cathy Stepp is the new DNR secretary, but Paul DeLong has retained his position as State Forester.
15. Arboretum Visitor's Guide – Ali Lindner, a casual employee at Veteran's Memorial Park, gave the committee a PowerPoint presentation on updates that she has made to the Arboretum's visitor guide over the last three weeks. She also went through and inventoried all the plants in the arboretum. We will continue to develop the arboretum to make it more user friendly.
16. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., in the Forestry Office Conference Room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.

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17. Adjournment - A motion was made by Solin, seconded by Schultz, to adjourn at 2:35 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary