

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

July 18, 2013

8:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, David Solin, Rick Bina, and Richard Olsen

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Tammy Kubiacyk, Robin Stowe, Joe Hermolin, Renate Bromberg, Attorney Mark Seidl, William Belongia, Tracy Cousins, Elmer & Sally Mulhollan, Anne Duffek, Drew Kelly, Terry Poltrock, and Dave Peterson

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Solin, to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2013 and June 6, 2013 meetings. All ayes. Motion carried.

Other Matters – Tammy Kubiacyk, recreation coordinator, showed the committee one of the signs that been purchased using grant funds from the Lumberjack RC & D. Solin informed the committee that the Lumberjack RC& D will be making a presentation at the October county board meeting.

3. Update on Veteran's Memorial Park Projects – Rantala informed the committee that Langlade County was awarded an RTA (Recreational Trails Aids) grant of \$45,000 for the restroom project at Veteran's Memorial Park. The grant paperwork, which will state the date when work can begin, will be received this fall. Rantala also updated the committee regarding the restroom on the beach at Veteran's Memorial Park. That restroom also has a crack in the vault. It was built the same year as the restroom that is being replaced in the campground. Haakenson, Rantala, and Lazars met regarding the restroom on the beach, which is in the CIP plan for replacement in 2016, and suggested that this restroom be moved up to 2015. Klimoski questions if the crack could be patched to get through next summer. Lazars will investigate. Lazars stated that the cabin should be completed by the end of the summer. The frame is up and materials

**Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Department Minutes – July 18, 2013**

are now on site. Lazars stated that replacing the underground storage tanks has been in the CIP plan for a few years, but when prices were received several years ago that they came in higher than the budgeted amount. Additional funding was added to the CIP project. These underground tanks were installed in 1992. Lazars received the following quotes to remove the underground tanks and replace them with two, 300-gallon above-ground tanks:

Walts Petroleum -	\$24,904.22
Northwest Petroleum -	\$25,394.73

There is \$25,000 budgeted for this project. The above quotes cover all aspects of the project except if there is sludge found in the bottom of the tanks. Klimoski will contact the company that provided tanks for his gas station as the cost was much less and will see if they would be willing to quote the Veteran’s Memorial Park project.

Lazars also stated that the Splash and Dash was this past Saturday at the park and it went very well. There were 60 participants. Rantala stated that Michelle Koss would like to address the committee regarding this event at their next meeting.

4. Discuss Request for Easement and Exchange of Land – A brief history of the request for an easement and exchange of land by Mr. William Belongia was given. In February 2007, Mr. Belongia requested an access permit to get to his property in Section 25; T33N-R11E (Township of East Upham), which was granted. In December 2011, Mr. Belongia offered the initial land trade, which was turned down, but a new access permit was offered. Mr. Belongia never signed that access permit. In February, 2012, the land trade was agreed to; but in March, 2012, Joe Hermolin/Renate Bromberg contacted Steve Jackson reminding him that one year ago they had discussed this property with him and he had stated that if Langlade County was ever interested in a land exchange that they would be contacted. The committee then decided to continue with the status quo and again offer Mr. Belongia an access permit. Rantala stated that in discussions with the DNR that they would not approve an easement across that is enrolled in the public forest management program under Chapter 28 of Wisconsin Statutes. Also, Langlade County shares 400 miles of line boundaries with neighbors; and this land trade would be opening up the door for Langlade County’s neighbors to do the same and request a land exchanges or land acquisition in order to resolve encroachment and access issues. Attorney Mark Seidl stated that by not agreeing to the land trade that possibly Mr. Belongia would have difficulty selling his property especially since the access permit is non-transferable. Also, even though back in March 2012, Mr. Belongia was not interested in agreeing to the Hermolin/Bromberg suggestion to split the 1.3 acre triangle that he was now open to exchanging his 6.7 acres for the 1.3 acres and giving the Hermolin/Brombergs .18 acres of the triangle as a buffer. Joe Hermolin stated that they would still be interested in splitting the 1.3 acre triangle; but would not be interested in receiving only .18 acres, and support the status quo. Stowe explained after considering all the available options, the Forestry Committee clearly stated its position back in June of 2012. And that position was that the County will continue to address encroachments upon County forest land and access to private property by offering its neighbors permits. That any action to sell or transfer an interest in County forest land will be initiated by the County upon the Forestry Department and Committee reviewing its property

**Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Department Minutes – July 18, 2013**

management portfolio on an annual basis. That should the Committee recommend transferring the County's interest in any particular parcel of land, the offer (for sale or exchange) would be open to the public and not designed for the benefit of a particular property owner. That Langlade County does from time to time offer properties for sale; and if this 1.3 acre parcel would become available for purchase both Mr. Belongia and Hermolin/Bromberg would be contacted. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to continue with the action that was taken in June, 2012. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Discuss Land for Sale in the Town of Ackley - Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by a local realtor regarding 240 acres of land for sale in the Township of East Ackley (Section 33; T31N-R10E). The property is located adjacent to county forest, and the asking price is \$288,000. The roads are good, and there are 30 acres of hardwood. The property was cut by Kretz Lumber Company 15 years ago. Due to the proposed Plum Creek Land purchase, Rantala is not advocating pursuing this purchase at this time. Information only.
6. Update Plum Creek Land Purchase – Rantala informed the committee that he was recently contacted by Plum Creek regarding additional properties that they would like to offer Langlade County as part of the original Piela Block land that was applied for Stewardship funding. The original purchase was approximately 2,158 acres. These additional properties would equal 194 acres and would provide legal access to the property. These additional acres could be added to the original grant request. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Olsen to approve the additional 194 acres to go along with the original 2,158 acres and formally add to the grant and to forward a resolution to county board so stating. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to approve changing the county forest boundaries to include the new properties as per DNR regulations and to forward a resolution to county board. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Finalize Plans for Steve Jackson Memorial – Rantala stated that he is looking to purchase a memorial stone, which would be 4' x 8' and to adhere a bronze plaque to the stone, which would state:

*Jackson Memorial Forest*

*In memory of  
Steve Jackson*

*County Forest 1988-2012*

*In Recognition of his Dedicated Stewardship  
of the Langlade County Forest*

A 20" x 16" x 5/16" plaque would be \$1,053.00 or a 22" x 18" x 5/16" plaque would be \$1,420.00. Rantala would like to have an informal dedication in late August or early September. Motion by Solin, seconded by Klimoski to proceed with the memorial for Steve Jackson at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Department Minutes – July 18, 2013**

8. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant provided a written report on bear population trends. The bear population goal has been to slightly reduce the total number of bears. Overall, this goal is believed to have been reached on a statewide basis. 2013 permit levels have been reduced statewide from 9,015 permits in 2012 to 8,560 permits in 2013. Permit applications have increased 30% statewide from 80,000 to 104,000 applicants from 2007-2012. Permit applicants in Zone B have decreased 23%. Zone B continues to be the longest wait for a tag, 10 years, vs. Zone C at 5 years.
9. Review Payment of Paid Bills – The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for June.
10. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through June 30, 2013.
11. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 8:00 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
12. At approximately 8:45 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1)(c), Wisconsin Statutes, considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, six month performance evaluation – Motion by Olsen, seconded by Klimoski to go into closed session at 9:25 a.m. Roll call vote: Bina – aye, Klimoski – aye, Solin – aye, Olsen – aye, and Nye – aye. Motion carried.
13. At approximately 9:00 a.m., return to open session with possible action on any matters discussed in closed session – Motion by Bina, seconded by Solin to return to open session at 9:30 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.  
  
Motion by Bina, seconded by Solin to state that a very positive review was given and another review will be given in six months, one year from hire date. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Adjournment – Motion by Solin, seconded by Bina to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary

