

Forestry and Recreation Committee

June 18, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, Sam Hardin, and Donald Scupien

Members Absent: Joe Novak

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Nathan Gilbert, Dave Solin, Robin Stowe, Chris Arrowood, Mike Lietz, Duane Haakenson, Beth Castaldi, Steve Wilcenski, Ray Rine, Brigid Hanke, Andy Kostelny, Dave Peterson, 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. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to excuse Novak. 4 ayes, 1 absent.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2015 meeting. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
3. Discuss Invasive Species on the County Forest – Chris Arrowood of Timberland Invasives Partnership gave a presentation to the committee regarding invasive species in Langlade County and methods being used to control them. Arrowood provided a map of where the various invasive species could be found in Langlade County. Garlic mustard gets into maple forests and stunts the plant growth. Leafy Spurge blisters horse's mouths and the root system can be 15' deep. It is rare in Langlade County. Wild Parsnip causes burns on the skin and has been found on the Wolf River State Trail, County Road D, near Gartzke Flowage and near Pleasant View School. Honeysuckle is found along the right-of-way and its density is a problem. Buckthorn stunts growth of other plants and its density is a problem. Spotted Knapweed can cause an allergic reaction, and it enhances erosion and is found on sandy soils. Timberland Invasives Partnership is a collaborative group of county, state and federal agencies, tribes, nonprofit and community organizations, and individuals who have come together to share information and resources, educate the public, and cooperatively take action against invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries. Their partners are Lumberjack RC & D, Langlade County, Menominee County, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oconto County, Shawano County, Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and United States Forest Service.

Rantala informed the committee the Forestry Department has been dealing with garlic mustard for approximately seven years. In the stands and roads where it was first found, progress is being made to control those populations. Annually Forestry Department staff, DNR, contracted crews and volunteers have helped control garlic mustard in these areas. Forestry Department staff have been finding more of it on the County Forest. Garlic

Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – June 18, 2015

mustard is also known to be located on private and Federal lands within Langlade County. Rantala is concerned about hardwood regeneration, recreational trails, and hunter walking trails. Right now, garlic mustard is the largest threat to the forest. The best way to deal with this is to continue control efforts, educate user groups, signage at trailheads, washing stations, seasonal restrictions for timber sales, and individual road closures for areas that have major infestations. Rantala stated that we have had procedures in place to deal with garlic mustard, but feels we need to be more aggressive in our efforts going forward. Langlade County SFI certification is an important factor in the loggers' ability to market forest products from County timber sales, and we cannot jeopardize that certification. Secondary or temporary roads for logging and hunting that have garlic mustard may need to be closed to control the spread. ATV trail maintenance of invasive species can be charged back to the grant. Rantala has been working on a comprehensive policy in regard to stopping/slowing the spread of invasive species on the county forest and adjacent property owners. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien for the forestry committee to support initiatives of the forestry department regarding the control of invasive species on county forest land and adjacent property owners. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

4. Discuss Sled Dog Trail and Parking Lot Along Langlade-Price Road – Steve Wilcenski informed the committee that two years ago the practice area for the sled dogs was moved closer to Kettlebowl (a winter only trail subject to frozen ground and snow cover) as in the previous area the sled dog trails crossed snowmobile trails. Over the past two years, the sled dog club has doubled and the parking area is too small and congested. An area was found along Langlade-Price Road that would work nicely due to the expansion of the club. Wilcenski also stated that in his job he is certified to work with invasive species and has done so along the sled dog trail. Rantala stated that we would work cooperatively with the DNR on this parking lot so there would be no cost to Langlade County. Rantala also stated that he would amend the recreational use agreement with the sled dog club to include the additional legal description and control of invasive species. Motion by Klimoski, seconded Hardin to allow Rantala to work with the sled dog club regarding amendments of the recreational use agreement in regard to the legal description of the trail and parking lot and control of invasive species. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
5. Discuss Encroachment in Perch Lake Area – Rantala informed the committee that in setting up a timber sale in the Town of Elcho that an encroachment was found in the Perch Lake area. Nathan Gilbert, assistant forest administrator, contacted Dave Tlusty to do a survey and the garage on the property is approximately 6' onto county property. The garage has been there approximately 30 years. Rantala contacted the landowner regarding issuing a land use agreement for the encroachment, which states that there can be no further encroachments and if the garage was destroyed, it could not be rebuilt in the same place. The landowner contacted Rantala to state that he would look into moving the building, if possible. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to table the issue until the next meeting. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
6. DNR Report – Mike Lietz, NR region team supervisor for the DNR, stated that the DNR is close to meeting time standards for the fiscal year. Regarding the State budget, Forestry will lose nine positions, five from greenhouse positions and four from regions. The DNR

Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – June 18, 2015

will be filling the liaison position once the budget is finalized. A biologist position in this area will not be filled.

7. Administrator Report – Rantala stated that regarding the State budget that there will be \$5 million annually for land acquisition from the Stewardship program for counties. Monies for the forest administrator grant and WCFA dues will be available. Aerial photos were flown, and should take delivery in November. The WRST gates have been reset, and hikers and bikers are using the non-motorized end of the trail. The forestry staff has been spraying for invasive species all spring in cooperation with the Menominee tribe interns, Lumberjack RC&D, and DNR. Jack Lake has been very busy and the cabins are reserved through September. Timber sales started out very active in early spring, but the wet weather has slowed things down dramatically. ATV trail maintenance is being done. Also a trail was rerouted in the Town of Price that on was on Kretz Lumber property due to garlic mustard.

There was some concern this past weekend at Jack Lake regarding the new restroom/shelter building as the foundation was to be poured this past Friday and there was not enough cement so the job was completed on Saturday. This was not a load bearing wall as it was the fireplace wall and there was rebar in the footing and frost walls. Heuss contacted a structural engineer and they found no reason to repour the foundation. Tradewell Construction was contacted regarding the bid specs not being followed. Heuss, Rantala, and Stowe will meet to discuss the best remedy to the situation.

8. Review Payment of Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for May.
9. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through May 31, 2015.
10. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2015, at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo. The regularly scheduled meetings of the forestry committee will be the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
11. Adjournment – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary