

Forestry and Recreation Committee

June 23, 2016

8:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Josh Waukau, DNR liaison; Janet Brehm, DNR Wildlife Biologist; Chris Arrowood, TIP; Crystal Wells, Joe Jopek, Dave Doucette, Pat Zelazoski, Daniel and Bonnie Baginski, Joe Zabransky, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Hardin, seconded by Leaver, to approve the minutes of the May 12 and May 20, 2016 meetings. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – Request to consider reduced fees for disabled veterans at Veteran’s Memorial Park.
4. Discuss Camping Fees at Veteran’s Memorial Park – Rantala reminded the committee that at the October 22 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting the following action was taken: Rantala had stated that currently the rate to camp at Veteran’s Memorial Park is \$20/night. The rate has not been changed since 2008. Rantala and Lazars recommended raising the rate to \$25/night. After discussion, the committee voted to increase the rate for camping at Veteran’s Memorial Park to \$30/night plus the \$5.00 fee for the dump station. Pat Zelazoski, Dave Doucette, Daniel and Bonnie Baginski, Joe Zabransky, and Crystal Wells expressed their concerns regarding the increase in rates to the committee. After much discussion, motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to review

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the rates at a future meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. The committee requested that Rantala review usage at Veteran's Memorial Park between last year and this year.

5. Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2017-2021 - Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission reviewed the 2016 Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey Results. NCWRPC mailed survey notices to each town, the Village of White Lake, and the City of Antigo; each library, and e-mailed or mailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by the Forestry Department. They received 221 responses. About 60% of respondents live or have a summer home in Langlade County. More than half of the respondents were male (61% male, 39% female) and they were from a variety of age groups, but mainly over 45 years old. The top recreational activities, in order, from respondents are: 1) boating, canoeing, kayaking – 68%; 2) walking/hiking – 66%; 3) fishing – 47%; 4) ATV/UTV riding – 47%; and 5) bicycling – 47%. Respondents were mostly satisfied (91%) with the condition of Langlade County managed facilities. Two equally big themes to the comments were: 1) increase ATV/UTV trails and 2) increase bicycle trails. In August, 2016, NCWRPC will find out if WisDOT has awarded a whole county planning grant to Langlade County to have NCWRPC create a Bike & Pedestrian Plan. Also, the development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation. These goals and objectives will provide general direction to the Forestry and Recreation Department for outdoor recreation purposes over the next five years. Heider suggested that the committee at their next meeting again review the survey results and the goals and objectives. Heider will also be working with Rantala regarding capital improvements projects anticipated over the next five years. Once this has been completed, a draft plan will be provided for review by the committee and public, and a date for a public hearing for comments on the plan will be set.
6. Discuss Resolution to Support Timberland Invasives Partnership – Chris Arrowood of TIP explained to the committee that they are requesting a resolution to support Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP). As financial support for invasive species projects and programs is limited in amount and highly competitive, this resolution would allow re-direction of funds to assist TIP by authorizing the use of staff time, equipment, supplies, and budgeted funds for use by the Timberland Invasives Partnership as available and appropriate. Arrowood also informed the committee that they are working with Lumberjack RC&D to make the coordinator position full-time with benefits. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to support resolution to support Timberland Invasives Partnership and to forward to county board. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. DNR Liaison Report – Josh Waukau, DNR liaison, discussed time standards and also introduced Janet Brehm, wildlife biologist for Lincoln/Langlade Counties. Brehm reviewed her background with the committee and discussed bear hunting zones and how the number of permits per zone is arrived at. She also discussed how they attempt to determine the number of bears in an area. She also discussed the wolf situation.

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8. Discuss Camp Lyle Property – Rantala provided the committee with a County Park Plan, as requested, for Camp Lyle, which included current land use/condition, timber types, future land use, operational needs/costs, revenue projections, and funding for acquisition. Rantala summarized that the Camp Lyle property is unique with the water resources present and nearly all upland shoreline around the lakes. This would provide excellent opportunities for access to the lake for fishing, sightseeing, bird watching, hiking and possibly biking. While this property will not receive a return on investment in the near future, County ownership would ensure the public's access to utilize this property for recreational purposes for generations to come. Gary Olsen, finance director, also provided information on how best to fund the county portion of this purchase, if the county did receive a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant. After discussion, motion by Leaver, seconded by Hardin to forward a resolution to county board to support applying for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant and to also discuss the impact of this purchase at the Joint Executive/Finance Committee meeting on July 8. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Discuss Forest Road Closures due to the Presence of Invasives Species – Rantala informed the committee that motorized traffic is spreading invasives in an explosive manner. A majority of the invasives are found on roads that are open to motorized traffic, including major forest roads, permanent secondary roads, and temporary roads. Limiting access to some permanent secondary and temporary roads that have invasives present or roads that are considered high risk for future populations to become established will drastically limit the risk of spread/introduction. Rantala stated that the department would like to improve some of the permanent primary and major forest roads to improve access into large blocks of county land. Secondary and temporary roads off the main roads may then be subject to closure to reduce the spread of invasives, particularly garlic mustard. Gates have been purchased and will be installed as well as berms placed to close these roads. The department will continue to treat these roads to reduce the garlic mustard populations. Foot traffic is welcome on all roads. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to authorize the forestry department to close roads as warranted to stop the spread of invasive species and to maintain the integrity of permanent and permanent, secondary roads. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to excuse Hardin at 10:55 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Consider a Casual Employee for 2017 for Invasive Control - Rantala stated that the department has budgeted \$15,000 annually to contract for the spraying of invasive species. Contracted out, this cost equates to \$67/acre. Rantala feels that this could be done more economically if casual employees were hired to spray for \$15.00/hr. Rantala will investigate if the casual employee would need to have a pesticide applicator's license. Motion by Novak, seconded to Leaver to approve a casual employee position for 2017 for invasive control and to forward the request to Executive and Personnel Committees and then on to county board for approval. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

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11. Consider Increasing Casual Employee Hours for Summer Help at Veteran’s Memorial Park – Rantala explained that currently 2,950 hours are available for casual employees for Veteran’s Memorial Park and the waysides. Rantala stated that currently they do not have enough help at Veteran’s Memorial Park. Rantala is requesting up to an additional 600 hours for an assistant position at Veteran’s Memorial Park to be in the office to assist with registration, etc., contingent on funds being available in the budget. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Nye to increase casual employee hours for 2017 to 3,550 hours contingent on funds being available in the department budget and to report this information to the Personnel Committee and HR. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
12. Approve Flannery access permit in the Town of Elcho – Rantala informed the committee that Todd Flannery is requesting an access permit to his property in the N1/2 NW1/4 of Section 2; T34N-R10E (Township of West Elcho). There would need to be approximately 100 yards of road construction, which would be supervised by forestry department staff and some wood would need to be cut, which would become the property of Langlade County. There is also a \$100.00 permit fee. Motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to approve an access permit for Todd Flannery to cross county land to his property in the N1/2 NW1/4 of Section 2; T34N-R10E (Township of West Elcho). 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
13. Administrator Report – Rantala reported that timber sales have been slowed a bit. Markets are not good and many mills have put the loggers on quota. Rantala attended the ORV Council pre-funding meeting two weeks ago. The purpose of this meeting is to clarify grant applications prior to the funding meeting in August. Our projects did not raise any questions at this point. Rantala and Gilbert attended the WCFA Summer Tour in Forest County last week. They put on a nice tour with some interesting stops including their campground and numerous industries in the area. Foresters have put in many days mapping, pulling and spraying for garlic mustard. Our mapping has come a long way this year as well as inventory of many of our roads. Our staff is doing a really good job documenting and planning. We have been finding many scattered patches of garlic mustard, sometimes in very isolated pockets. We are treating these first in most cases and hope to eradicate in these areas. ATV trail work and road work continues on the forest as weather permits. We have had a wet start to summer, and some projects are taking longer to complete because of the weather.
14. Review Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for May and June.
15. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through May 31, 2016.
16. Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 14 at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, fairgrounds, Antigo.

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17. Adjournment - Motion by Novak, seconded by Scupien to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary

DRAFT