

Forestry and Recreation Committee

March 10, 2016

8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, Sam Hardin, and Joe Novak

Members Absent: Donald Scupien

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Dave Solin, Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Josh Waukau, DNR liaison; Gary Olsen, RJ Weitz, Joe Jopek, Dave Peterson, Adeline Hess, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Novak, seconded by Hardin to excuse Scupien. 3 ayes, 1 nay.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – None.
4. Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2017-2021 – Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, explained to the committee that in the past paper surveys were sent to all outdoor recreation groups, all towns, City of Antigo, and Village of White Lake asking for input as well as to update a list of their facilities and plans for the next five years. This time around a poster will be sent to these groups informing them of the online survey through SurveyMonkey. Other counties that have used SurveyMonkey have had a much better response than with paper surveys. The survey will be open to the public until April 30 and until May 31 for towns, the City of Antigo, and Village of White Lake. Heider will get back to the committee in June or July with the survey results and then a public hearing will be held to go over the

Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – March 10, 2016

comments and receive input. After a draft of the outdoor recreation plan is completed, a second public hearing will be held.

5. Discuss Camp Susan Caretaker Position – Rantala stated that Camp Susan has an existing lease with the County of approximately 960 acres and the forestry department manages the land and the road. 4-H takes care of the buildings. Rantala explained that Lazars had been contacted by Adeline Hess regarding the caretaker position at Camp Susan. Adeline Hess explained that the current caretaker has left and the State no longer wants 4-H Leaders Associations to hire people and provide W-2s. The 4-H Leaders Association would like the County to hire someone to be caretaker (average 9 hrs/week) from mid-May through mid-September and the 4-H Leaders Association would reimburse the County for wages and fringes. RJ Weitz, Langlade County Human Resources Director, explained that because the County owns the buildings that the County needs to employ this person. Gary Olsen, finance director, stated that the finance department could track the wages and fringes and bill the 4-H Leaders Association. The finance department would also track the hours as a casual employee cannot work more than 1,200 hours in a rolling calendar year or this employee must be added to the Wisconsin retirement system. Lazars explained that he would like his daughter, Emily, to take on this responsibility as she is a current casual employee and is going to school for this type of work. Rantala also explained that Emily already is a 40 hour/week casual employee at Veteran's Memorial Park and that Veteran's Memorial Park must be the priority. After discussion, motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to approve Emily Lazars taking on these additional duties as caretaker at Camp Susan on a one-year probationary basis, which will be re-evaluated by the committee after this season with direct supervision provided by Rantala. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to refer an inspection of the buildings at Camp Susan to the Public Property Committee for their next meeting. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
6. Discuss Augustyn Trailhead Project - Rantala explained to the committee that most of the invasive cases have been found along recreation trails, including the ATV trails. Every effort should be taken to prevent the invasives from overtaking the Langlade County forest land and protect the environment and its natural resources. Rantala would like to apply for an ATV development grant for a wash station with a pump house. The cost would be approximately \$70,000 due to the high cost of bringing electricity from Hwy. S. Rantala explained that if the grant is not approved by the ORV Council that the project would not be done. Motion by Novak, seconded by Nye to approve Rantala applying for a grant to build a wash station and pump house at the Augustyn Springs trailhead. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.
7. Discuss Invasives Control Project and Solicitation of Quotes – Rantala informed the committee that the department is soliciting for quotes for the application of herbicide/chemical treatment of Garlic Mustard. An ad will be in the newspaper this Saturday and next Friday soliciting quotes. The quotes will be due by 4 p.m. on April 1. This project was budgeted for in the Capital Improvement Program with a budget of \$15,000. Rantala would like approval from the committee to review the quotes and to

Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – March 10, 2016

have one committee member present when the quote is awarded. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Novak to allow Rantala to review the quotes. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

8. DNR Liaison Report – Josh Waukau, DNR Liaison, reported on the “Go Wild” system, panfish regulations, walleye bag limits, trolling changes, and DNR time standard hours met to date.
9. Closed Session – At approximately 9:00 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons required a closed session, land purchase. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to go into closed session at 9:20 a.m. Roll call vote: Klimoski – aye, Hardin – aye, Nye – aye, and Novak - aye. Motion carried.

Klimoski was excused at 9:50 a.m.

10. Open Session – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to return to open session at 10:15 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to send resolution to county board to apply for grant to purchase Grogan property. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to allow Rantala to continue to investigate other properties discussed in closed session. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

11. Administrator Report – Rantala reported that weight limits are on, still a few jobs going on non-posted roads. Winter jobs wrapped up quickly, some did not get finished because of roads breaking up. February was a very good month - billed out over ½ million dollars to loggers. Timber sale set-up – Nearly 1,600 acres are set up for 2016. We will be in position to get a start on fall sales early as some of these 1,600 acres will be on the fall sale. Snowmobile trails closed – northern and eastern part of the county was open 51 days and the entire county (including Antigo area) was open 28 days, which is below the 34 year average of 76 and 58. Rantala will be attending the Spring WCFA County Forest Administrator meeting next week in Marshfield. ATV and snowmobile grants for maintenance and development are due by April 15.
12. Review Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for February.
13. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through February 29, 2016.

Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee Minutes – March 10, 2016

14. Set Next Meeting Date and Date for Spring Timber Sale Opening – The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, fairgrounds, Antigo. The spring timber sale opening will be Thursday, May 12 at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, fairgrounds, Antigo.
15. Adjournment - Motion by Novak, seconded by Hardin to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary