

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

May 17, 2012

8:30 a.m.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Steve Jackson, Erik Rantala, Tammy Kubiacyk, Terry Poltrock, Mike Leitz, Tom Lazars, Robin Stowe, Dave Peterson, John Koutnik, Stanley Koss, David Meyer, Larry Schisel, Tony Ramer, Sally Mulhollon, Andy Kostelny, Pat Girtz, and Interested Loggers

**Location:** Clover Room, Multi-Purpose Building, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Introductions – Nye welcomed all the interested loggers to the bid opening and introduced the forestry department staff and forestry and recreation committee. Jackson explained the process of the timber sale bid opening.
3. Opening of Timber Sale Bids – The bids for the 2012 Spring Timber Sale were all received by the Forestry and Recreation Department at the Forestry Office and in the Clover Room of the Multi-Purpose Building. All bids were received by 8:30 a.m. as advertised. The bids were all opened by the committee and the Forestry and Recreation Department staff, and the total was read aloud by Steve Jackson.

A motion was made by Bina, seconded by Klimoski to award the bids to the apparent high bidders on all of the spring timber sale jobs contingent on all bid values being correct. All ayes. Motion carried.

There were 25 of 25 sales sold. A total of 196 bids were received from 29 bidders. The grand total of the winning bids was \$994,139.81.

4. Minutes – A motion was made by Solin, seconded by Klimoski, to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2012 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Committee Re-organization – Vice-chairman – Solin nominated Klimoski. Motion by Solin, seconded by Bina to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Klimoski as vice-chairman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary – Solin nominated Bina. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bina as secretary. All ayes. Motion carried.

Snowmobile Delegate – Solin nominated Bina. Motion by Solin, seconded by Klimoski to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bina as snowmobile delegate. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Open Bids for Langlade Property - Jackson informed the committee that that there is a small, (approximately 5 acres) landlocked section of county land in Section 35 of North Langlade. He had been contacted by an adjacent landowner regarding purchasing that property. The committee at the March 29 meeting recommended sending a letter to all three landowners stating that Langlade County will be accepting bids for this parcel. The minimum bid would be \$5,000, and the bids will be opened at the spring timber sale meeting. Jackson informed the committee that there were no bids for the parcel. Motion by Solin, seconded by Klimoski to again contact the adjacent landowners requesting their best offer for the property. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Request for ATV Trail between Hill Road and Hwy. S – Jackson informed the committee that he was contacted by Connie Koutnik, owner of Buckshots in Bryant (formerly Checkpoint) regarding an ATV trail. The trail would lead north from Buckshots traveling on Hill Road to the end of the road then eventually heading east using county forest roads to access the Augustyn Springs ATV trail. The trail would be four miles on town road and 3.5 miles on an existing logging road until it met up with the existing funded ATV trail. Under the new maintenance system for ATVs as of July 1, 2012, counties can receive \$600/mile for maintenance. If counties allow pick-ups on the trails, only \$250/mile for maintenance is allowed. Currently, the State is not accepting grant applications for trails/routes (TROUTS) that accept pick-ups on the trails. Koutnik will be meeting on May 27 with the town board for possible route approval. Chairman Nye suggested committee members ride down Hill Road as safety would be a concern due to sharp curves. Dave Meyer, who lives along Hill Road, stated that when that area was used as a snowmobile trail there were many accidents. The snowmobile trail has since been relocated. Solin had a concern about the spread of invasive species. Motion by Solin, seconded by Olsen to deny the request for an ATV trail due to concerns about safety and spread of invasive species. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Discuss Support of Continuing UTV Program in Langlade County - Jackson reminded the committee that Langlade County had opted in to the UTV pilot program two years ago. As of July 1, 2012, UTV can be registered through the DNR as part of the ATV program; and counties in the program will receive an extra \$100/mile for trail maintenance. Langlade County may opt out of the program at any times if there are concerns about the program in the future. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Bina for Langlade County to continue to support the UTV program. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Discuss Letter from Deputy Secretary Matt Moroney – Jackson stated that he had sent a letter to Secretary Stepp on January 27, 2012 requesting clarification of the DNR’s stand on motorized travel on the Wolf River State Trail especially from Hwy. 64 to Lily, which the MOU states must be non-motorized. Jackson received a response from Deputy Secretary Matt Moroney on April 16, 2012, which leaves the door open for interpretation of the DNR’s viewpoint regarding this section of the Wolf River State Trail. Jackson did inform the committee that Langlade County has applied for a grant to develop a biking/hiking trail from Hwy. 64 to Lily. Jackson will contact the DNR requesting a more definitive response regarding the position of the DNR regarding the Wolf River State Trail and motorized vs. non-motorized travel. Information only.
10. Discuss Use of Office/Conference Room during the Fair – Jackson informed the committee that he spoken with Rhonda Klement, fair coordinator, regarding the use of forestry’s conference room and the concerns regarding traffic in the room especially due to the new meeting room table. Jackson believes this concern can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. Klement will speak with the fair board to update them regarding changes to the conference room.
11. Approve Casual Employees for 2013 - Jackson requested of the committee for 2013, one seasonal casual employee position encompassing 2,950 hours, which is the number approved for 2012. Four casual employees work at Veteran’s Memorial Park, one at the waysides, and one at Summit Lake Park. Jackson informed the committee that we were requesting the same number of casual employees. Motion by Solin, seconded by Bina to approve hiring one seasonal casual employee position for 2,950 hours for the 2013 summer season. All ayes. Motion carried.
12. Discuss/Approve Additional Funding for Sleeping Cabins at Veteran’s Memorial Park - Lazars reviewed with the committee the collaborative project with the Elcho School District (12-14 students) to building sleeping cabins for Veteran’s Memorial Park. The class began to build the cabin in September, 2011 and it was worked on throughout the class year and moved to Veteran’s Memorial Park this past week. In 2011, \$9,900 was budgeted for the 16’ x 20’ sleeping cabin. The plan is to build three additional cabins, which are geared for families without camping equipment. Lazars informed the committee that the DOT waived the fee for the moving permit, Todd Visser from Builders’ Service donated his time to assist in moving the cabin and George Bornemann of City Gas Company donated three employees to assist with

the water line to the cabins. Some costs that had not been anticipated were: cost of moving the cabin, a concrete slab with porch, some of the lumber warped, additional lumber needed for the roof, materials to build furniture, a fire pit, mattresses, solar system, and exterior stain. Upon further investigation, \$10,500 has been budgeted in the capital improvement plan for a cabin in 2012, as the 2011 cabin will be over budget by approximately \$3,000, it is recommended to use \$3,000 from the 2012 cabin to complete the 2011 cabin and to use funding from the 2012 cabin for the foundation for the 2013 cabin as the Elcho School District will not begin building the next cabin until January, 2013. The funding for the cabins in the capital improvement plan is from the recreation fund. Lazars explained that he hopes to begin renting the cabin as of July 1 with a rental fee of \$50-75/day. Lazars will also possibly investigate heating for the cabins so they can be rented longer into the season. Motion by Bina, seconded by Solin to approve funding from the 2012 capital improvement plan for the sleeping cabins be used to fund the 2011 and 2013 cabins. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. Review 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Projects and Rank 2013 Projects - Jackson reviewed with the committee the six projects planned for 2013, which are pick-up truck replacement, construct sleeping cabins at Veteran's Memorial Park, remove underground storage tanks at Veteran's Memorial Park, purchase lawn mower, WRST Lily Trailhead, and WRST Section B. The committee ranked the six projects. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to forward the results to the finance director and the finance committee. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Discuss Land Issue with Ackley Property - Stowe updated the committee on this situation. In 2011, the County took the tax deed to parcel #002-0914.0002 in the Town of Ackley. Recently, an individual who believed that he owned this tax deed parcel was advised that this land was taken for delinquent taxes. This was discovered when the individual applied for a building permit on this parcel. The County does not know what happened with the previous conveyance of this property – but for whatever reason, this parcel was not included within the sale of land to the individual in question. The County did not do anything wrong – the County correctly followed all statutory procedures to acquire this property for unpaid real estate taxes. The property was transferred to the Forestry Department. The Land Sales Committee at their May 7, 2012 meeting made a motion requesting that the Forestry Committee transfer parcel #002-0914.002 in the Town of Ackley back to the Land Sales Committee so they can set the price of the property at the cost for the taxes, interest, and penalties that would be otherwise be required for redemption by the former owner. After re-advertising this property for sale, the Committee can accept the bid even if it is lower than the highest bid. Motion by Bina, seconded by Klimoski to transfer parcel #002-0914.0002 back to the Land Sales Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.
15. Review Budget Summary Report - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through April 30, 2012.

16. Approve Payment of Paid Bills - A motion was made by Solin, seconded by Klimoski, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
17. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be Thursday, June 21, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., which will include a tour of the Plum Creek property and Veteran's Memorial Park with lunch to follow.
18. Discuss Personnel Matters – After discussion, it was decided that the office manager position will be transitioned from a position having dual responsibilities or both the forestry and maintenance departments to a position that is dedicated to the forestry department.
19. Adjournment - A motion was made by Bina, seconded by Nye, to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary