

Forestry and Recreation Committee

October 16, 2014

8:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Ted Ave'lallemant, Terry Poltrock, and Dave Peterson

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2014 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discuss/Approve Applying for Sustainable Forestry Grant to Fund Swamp Creek Firelane Road Project - Rantala stated that back in August the committee approved his negotiating with the Mole Lake Tribe to fund up to \$5,000 to improve the Swamp Creek Firelane culverts, located on County Forest property, with a bridge or new culverts. The tribe will be applying for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant for this project. Construction would be planned for 2015. Upon reviewing the firelane further, Rantala stated that the road needs work approximately 1½ miles from Hwy. K so that it could sustain heavy equipment. There is red pine in the area that needs to be harvested in the next few years. Rantala met with the Highway Department, and it would cost approximately \$12,000 for culvert replacement, etc. Rantala would like committee approval to apply for a Sustainable Forestry Grant to fund this project. A Sustainable Forestry Grant funds the project 100%. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to allow Rantala to apply for a Sustainable Forestry Grant to fund the Swamp Creek Firelane Road project. All ayes. Motion carried.

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4. Emerald Ash Borer Update – Rantala stated that the committee had probably heard that the Emerald Ash Borer was found in the City of Rhinelander in a trap. Oneida County will be quarantined in the next month. When the Emerald Ash Borer is found, management recommendations are more aggressive within a 15 mile radius of the confirmed location. This would include the northern portion of the Township of Parrish and the far northwest portion of the Township of West Elcho. The beetle travels only ½ mile per year on its own, but is known to travel on firewood. This has been considered mostly an urban problem in the past, but with the recent detection in Douglas and Oneida Counties, it is spreading to areas with large forest lands. There is concern how the black ash resource will be affected, as well as the white ash component within the northern hardwood stands. Rantala will keep the committee updated on this issue.
5. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant reported that buckthorn retains its leaves until the snow flies. If anyone finds buckthorn on their property, it should be sprayed. Next week is marking camp with approximately 20 participants and hope to mark 450+ acres, if the weather cooperates.
6. Review Payment of Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for September.
7. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through September 30, 2014.
8. At approximately 9:00 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, to review applications for recreation coordinator/forest technician position – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Hardin to go into closed session at 9:03 a.m. Roll call vote: Klimoski – aye, Hardin – aye, Scupien – aye, Novak – aye, and Nye – aye. Motion carried.

Sam Hardin was excused at 10:30 a.m. Mike Klimoski was excused at 11:00 a.m.
9. At approximately 10:30 a.m., return to open session with possible action on any matters discussed in closed session – Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to return to open session at 11:28 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to interview applicants #6, #10, #15, #20, #21, #27, #28, #29, #31, and #33. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.
10. Set Date for Meeting to Interview Candidates for Recreation Coordinator/Forest Technician Position – The meeting will be Friday, October 31, 2014 with the meeting to begin at 7:45 a.m. and interviews to begin at 8:30 a.m. with 20 minutes allotted for each interview.

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11. Adjournment – Motion by Scupien, seconded by Nye to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. 3 ayes, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary