

Forestry and Recreation Committee

October 27, 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, Robin Stowe, Josh Waukau, DNR liaison; Janet Brehm, DNR Wildlife Biologist; Joe Jopek, Kari Lazars, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Novak, seconded by Leaver, to approve the minutes of the September 8 and October 12, 2016 meetings. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Closed Session – At approximately 8:35 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, to review the terms of a potential land exchange involving 1.3 acres of County Forest Land in the Town of Upham. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to go into closed session at 8:34 a.m. Roll call vote: Hardin – aye, Novak – aye, Leaver – aye, Scupien – aye, and Nye - aye. Motion carried.
4. Open Session – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Leaver to return to open session at 9:15 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Leaver to approve Rantala to take action as discussed in closed session. All ayes. Motion carried.

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5. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – Chairman Nye requested that fees at Veteran’s Memorial Park be discussed at a future meeting, and Sam Hardin requested that possible Christmas tree permits be discussed.

6. Discuss Disabled Access Permits – Rantala explained that as of 2011, the new rules regarding the use of power-driven mobility devices took effect. Under the new rules, power-driven mobility devices (PDMDs) must be allowed on trails unless they cannot be reasonably accommodated. Also, you are not allowed to inquire about the disability; but you can inquire about the need for a PDMD, if there is prior evidence that one should not be needed. The rules now must allow all uses. Rantala would like to update the permit as follows:
 - i) The Permittee agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Langlade County, its officials, officers, representative, employees, and authorized agents from and against any and all penalties, liabilities, or losses resulting from claims or court actions, whether civil, criminal or inequity, which arise directly or indirectly out of the acts of the Permittee, its agents, servants, employees, guests, or visitors under this Permit, or by reason by any act or omission of such person(s), and/or arising out of duties or obligations under this Permit.
 - j) All gates must be closed and locked immediately after passing through them. A gate key permit and deposit (\$50) must be signed and on file at the Langlade County Forestry office.
 - k) This permit is limited to a specific entry point and area described on the permit.

One of the reasons a permit may be denied would be whether access would harm the environment; such as, the spread of invasives. If conditions of the permit are violated, the permit will be revoked and the deposit will not be returned. Motion by Leaver, seconded by Scupien to approve changes to the PDMD permit with suggested recommendations. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Discuss/Approve Veteran’s Memorial Park Policies - Kari Lazars reviewed with the committee several policy changes that they would like the committee to consider for Veteran’s Memorial Park.
 - a. Implementing an additional care fee (3+ vehicles) of \$2.00-\$5.00/car. Current policy allows 2 vehicles/site. Could do a day pass/camping pass. Free if park in overflow area.
 - b. Implementing a pet fee for any additional pets (over 1-2 pets) - \$2.00-\$5.00/pet. No current number set on pets.
 - c. Discuss current firewood policy: No outside firewood allowed.
 - d. Designate 8 more sites as reservable (5, 6, 7, 28, 29, 39, 40, and 41). Currently there are 8 sites reservable.
 - e. Raise rates by \$5.00 on a rotational basis:
 1. Cabins: raise to \$65.00/night for 2017
 2. Group/Primitive Sites: raise to \$25.00/night for 2018

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3. Shelters/Lodge: raise to \$55.00/day (Lodge - \$105.00/day) for 2019
4. Individual Campsite: raise to \$35.00/night in 2020.
- f. Implement new invoices to collect payments from reservations.

These policy recommendations are to be reviewed by the committee with a decision to be made at the December committee meeting.

8. Discuss/approve Country-Cross Ski Race at Jack Lake Ski Trails – Rantala was contacted by Jeremy Stensberg of Elcho about holding a race at Jack Lake this winter (a Saturday in February). The entire ski trail would not be used and he will work with Tom Lazars. He would like to start small and hopefully this could turn into an annual event. He proposes to donate proceeds of the race to a school district to go towards the promotion of silent sports programs in the schools. Motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to approve the cross-country ski race at Jack Lake subject to hearing more details about his plans for the race. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Consider State Lands Offered for Sale to Langlade County – In September, Rantala identified four properties that might be of interest to Langlade County. The first is in the Township of East Upham (Hwy. T) – 21.8 acres for \$18,500; the second in the Township of Evergreen – 80 acres for \$40,000; the third is in the Township of North Ainsworth (Hwy. U) – 86.6 acres for \$66,000; and the fourth is in the Township of East Elcho (Rice Bed Lane) – 102 acres for \$72,000. If the lands are not purchased by Langlade County, they will not be sold as stated by DNR real estate. After discussion, motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to have Rantala contact the DNR regarding the purchase of the lands in Evergreen, Hwy. T, and Rice Bed Lane with funds to come from the land buy account. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hardin, seconded by Leaver to have Rantala negotiate with the DNR the purchase of the Hwy. U property over the next 1-2 years. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Consider Options for Cabin Located on County Forest In Town of Upham - Rantala updated the committee on the cabin found on county forest land by Cody Brauner and Josh Waukau when they were setting up a timber sale. Upon investigation, it seems that the cabin has been on county property for 40-50 years. It is in a very secluded area, which is very difficult to get to. The cabin was posted and an ad put in the Antigo Daily Journal to contact our office regarding the cabin. No one had contacted the office. Rantala will check with the corporation counsel regarding how to deal with this property and the county's liability and report back at the December meeting.

Motion by Novak, seconded by Leaver to excuse Hardin at 10:38 a.m. All ayes.
Motion carried.

11. DNR Liaison Report - Josh Waukau, DNR liaison, and Janet Brehm, DNR Wildlife Biologist, provided reports to the committee.

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12. Update on Augustyn Springs/Bass Lake Trail – Rantala met with DNR Water Regulations staff to look at this project. Wetland fill would be needed or might need to build a boardwalk over the wetland. A stormwater discharge permit would also be needed for this project. Rantala informed the committee that no additional funds had been budgeted for this project. Another option might be to contact the Highway Department to request an additional ½ mile of Hwy. J for this trail. Rantala will report back to the committee.

13. Update Resolution for County Conservation Aid Program Grant - Rantala informed the committee that CCFA funds are State Aid for fish and game projects. In the past, we have used this grant for Langlade County's beaver control program and some projects at the bow and gun range. Rantala stated that the DNR needs an annually updated resolution authorizing himself to apply for these grants and to file the proper paperwork. Rantala also stated that these are 50/50 grants, and the grant applied for is usually less than \$5,000. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Leaver to approve an updated resolution which authorizes Rantala to apply for CCFA grants for Langlade County's beaver control program, etc., and to forward the resolution to the county board. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

14. Approve 2017 Langlade County Forest Work Plan - Rantala explained that the annual work plan functions as a planning guidance tool and further defines and supplements the county's fifteen-year comprehensive land use plan. This work plan also fulfills the DNR requirement to meet with Langlade County annually and evaluate whether both parties have met their partnership obligations. The plan covers timber harvest, reforestation, forest protection, wildlife management, other forest uses, land purchases/sales/exchanges, recreation, time standards, forest certification, special projects, grants, funding and partners. Some changes to previous plans include planning for treatment of invasive species, a cut in wildlife management funding, and changes to forest certification regarding green tree retention. Having the Langlade County Board of Supervisors approve the annual work plan is a requirement of eligibility to apply for the forest administrator grant, which reimburses Langlade County for wages and fringe benefits of the forest administrator of over \$45,000 annually. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to approve the 2017 Langlade County Work Plan and forward a resolution to county board for approval. 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

15. Administrator Report – Rantala reported that marking wrapped up this week and foresters are cruising sales and working on paperwork and maps. Sales will be going out in the mail in the next couple of weeks. We had two suspected oak wilt sites on the County Forest. Requested DNR forest health specialist to look at, and he determined it was the Two-Lined Chestnut Borer. We will continue to monitor. Hired contractor to spray garlic mustard in the Town of Langlade. Staff have also been finding it and treating. TIP is just about finishing up the work that we contracted with for the year. Road/trail projects are wrapping up. This year we had a lot of culvert replacements due to high precipitation. We received no proposals for construction of a pit toilet at Jack Lake ski trails. We will solicit proposals again in the spring. Pit toilets will be rented for this winter. Staff assisted with education program on the School Forest with the DNR,

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Economic Development and some industry representatives. There will be a new reporting system for the snowmobile program that will be implemented this year. There will be training for the county coordinators in November. There is a group of individuals forming who have an interest in helping maintain the cross-country ski trails at Jack Lake. They include mountain bikers, horseback riders and skiers who are interested in using and maintain the trails on a year round basis.

16. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through October 26, 2016.
17. Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, fairgrounds, Antigo, which will be the timber sale bid opening. If a meeting is needed in November, Rantala will contact the committee regarding setting a date.
18. Adjournment - Motion by Novak, seconded by Scupien to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary