

Forestry and Recreation Committee

October 30, 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, Tammy Kubiaczyk, Ted Ave'Lallemant, Tom Lazars, Terry Poltrock, Dave Peterson, Elmer Mulhollan, Harlan and Pat Girtz, Andy Kostelny, and Tim Rusch

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. There was a moment of silence for those affected by Hurricane Sandy.
2. Minutes – A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Solin, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2012, meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discuss DNR Letter Regarding Master Plan and Wolf River State Trail - The Wolf River State Trail is owned by the State of Wisconsin and Langlade County had not received anything in writing to refute the information that was received in early 2005 and upon which the Master Plan was written. The rail grade from Crandon to White Lake is owned by the department and developed, managed, and maintained by the counties. The decision to allow ATVs on the segment from Lily north but not Lily south was based on several factors:
 - The grade from Lily south runs through the Wolf River State Fishery Area. The primary use of this area is stream fishing, and it has an established user group with a significant presence. In some areas, the river is 200 feet from the trail surface.
 - Steep slopes in this area pose a concern for user safety and resource protection. Erosion of the steep slopes due to off-trail ATV use (based on experience on other department-owned ATV trails) is a significant concern.

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A letter dated October 10, 2012 was received from John Gozdziwski, Wisconsin DNR Northern Region Director, stating *“In considering my response, I obtained information from staff experts and learned many more specifics about the natural resources present in this landscape and about potential impacts of summer motorized use on some of the more sensitive resources. I also consulted with our legal counsel, and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Based on all this combined, we have determined that the DNR would not be able to approve a master plan change that would allow for summer motorized-use on the section of the Wolf River State Trail (WRST) between Hwy. 64 and Lily. Another factor that played into our decision is our continued concern that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) could rule that allowing summer ATV use on this stretch of the trail would be contrary to federal regulations. The Upper Wolf River Fishery Area (UWRFA) was purchased in part, and is managed with Sport Fish Restoration dollars granted to us by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DNR is prohibited from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State acquired, developed, or is managing the land. Although DNR determines what recreational activities allow, the USFWS retains oversight responsibility. If the DNR were to approve summer ATV use on this stretch of the trail, there could be serious ramifications that might leave the State open to loss of federal funding or the responsibility of finding replacement lands of at least equal value and fishery benefits.”*

Jackson stated that based on the findings of the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that this matter should finally be put to rest as these letters corroborate the information that was provided to Langlade County in 2005 when the master plan was created. Chairman Nye stated that Jackson and the forestry department have been very consistent in the information that they have provided to the public and ATV clubs regarding the section of the Wolf River State Trail between Hwy. 64 and Lily.

Jackson also informed the committee that after the letter was received Langlade County did accept a Recreational Trail Act Grant of \$99,500.00 to develop that section of the trail for hiking and biking. The committee requested that Kubiacyk get quotes for limestone, gravel and rotten granite for this trail development.

4. Discuss Having Reservable Camping Sites at Veteran’s Memorial Park – Lazars informed the committee that he has heard comments that people from outside Langlade County are not coming to Veteran’s Memorial Park because they do not like to travel to Jack Lake and find that all the sites are full and then they have to try and find somewhere else to camp or go home. Lazars suggested making a few sites reservable. Currently, only the group sites are reservable. Also, they would be non-refundable reservations. After discussion, motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to approve making six sites at Veteran’s Memorial Park reservable sites. All ayes. Motion carried.

Nye mentioned that signage should be added at High Lake stating that there is no overnight camping allowed at the boat landing.

5. Update on Veteran’s Memorial Park Restroom Project - Lazars stated that Nate Heuss, county architect, stated that he felt the project would cost approximately \$80,000 based on square footage, but that he would not have time to work on the project until winter and

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provide building plans. It was stated that the tanks should be removed and the site cleared this fall so the project can begin next spring. Lazars was not able to get a more definitive price without having plans for the project. As Langlade County is currently in violation, a new restroom needs to be in place for next camping season. After discussion, motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin to hire someone to remove the tanks and concrete and if Heuss does not have time to draw up the plans, to hire another architect. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Discuss Plum Creek Land for Sale – Jackson informed the committee that Plum Creek Land Company again has land for sale in the Sections of 20, 21, 29, and 31; Township of North Langlade and he had been contacted by their realtor. The area is approximately 2,000 acres and their asking price is approximately \$3.4 million. Jackson stated that purchasing Section 31 would be beneficial to Langlade County as there is productive hardwood in that section and the County currently uses a Plum Creek road to access County land. The cost for Section 31 would be approximately \$546,000. Jackson reminded the committee that stewardship dollars would again be available. Jackson was requested to investigate further regarding the entire parcel for sale.
7. Update on Ordinance Violations – Jackson informed the committee that he does write citations for violations of the Forests and Parks Ordinance. During the month of October, three citations were given. One for mud running in the Ackley area and two for illegally cutting firewood. Jackson stated that several years ago the committee approved giving a \$25 reward (Fleet Farm gift card) to anyone who provide tips regarding ordinance violations resulting in a citation being written.
8. Approve Filling Forester Position – Jackson informed the committee that Dale Carlson will be retiring by the end of the year. The wages and fringes for the position would be approximately \$60,000. Jackson stated that the position can pay for itself by establishment of timber sales. Ave'lallemant stated that Langlade County would not be able to meet its allowable cut with one less forester position. Also, this position would no longer do recreation as those duties were shifted to the recreation coordinator position. The position would be 100% forestry. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Bina to approve filling the forester position and to forward to the Personnel and Executive Committees and county board. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Approve 2013 Langlade County Forest Work Plan - Jackson 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 \$48,000

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annually. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Olsen to approve the 2013 Langlade County Work Plan and forward a resolution to county board for approval. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant stated that 38 wolves have been harvested so far and 28 of them were trapped. The quota could be reached by the end of November. Also, the DNR has found that there is a loophole in the MFL plan language, and it is being looked into. Also, invasive species are being spread in the county forest and everyone needs to be aware.
11. Review Payment of Paid Bills - A motion was made by Solin, seconded by Bina, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
12. Review Budget Summary Report - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through September 30, 2012. Motion by Solin, seconded by Olsen to accept the budget summary as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
13. Set Next Meeting Date – Fall Timber Sale Opening - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., in the Clover Room, Multi-purpose Building, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
14. Adjournment – Motion by Solin, seconded by Klimoski to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary