

## Forestry and Recreation Committee

September 15, 2014

8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, and Don Scupien

**Members Absent:** Sam Hardin and Joe Novak

**Others Present:** Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Ted Ave'lallemant, Beth Castaldi, Steve Wilcenski, 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 August 7, 2014 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Langlade County Sled Dog Club Update – Beth Castaldi stated that the Langlade County Sled Dog Club very much appreciates the use of the county forest for both practice and sled dog events. The International Sled Dog Race Club presents medals at the end of the season and Langlade County mushers earned ¼ of the medals. Castaldi informed the committee that the Langlade County Sled Dog Club would like to stage a Fun Race at the end of the season in 2015. They asked the committee if they could charge an entry fee to cover expenses or prize money. Castaldi also discussed trail safety near the Fraley trailhead. They want to know if the Swamp Trailhead (2 ½ - 3 miles) could be re-opened to eliminate head-on passing. The Swamp Trail is popular with 4-wheelers and has become quite rutted. They would request to have the DNR level the trail. The club would be willing to pay for a gate and the installation to keep the trail in good condition if it is repaired. Rantala will check with the corporation counsel regarding charging a fee on county property and review the trail question and get back to the club.
4. Discuss Range Reclamation Funds – Rantala informed the committee that the project is completed and the ground has been leveled and reseeded. Rantala is projecting that the funds from the project should be approximately \$15,000. The Trap Club is requesting

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that the funds from the lead reclamation be put back into the range. Langlade County also received a grant of \$9,000 for improvements to the range. Rantala would like to use the funding to alter the drainage, possibly make repairs to the building at the range, and add a short range for pistols.

5. Discuss Range Road – Rantala stated that there continue to be concerns regarding Range Road as the entry to Range Road is located on private property. Rantala questioned if the committee would be interested in purchasing that small piece of property to alleviate this issue. The committee stated that Rantala should write a letter to the landowners to see if they would be interested in selling the portion of property in question and their asking price and then report back to the committee.
6. Discuss Jack Lake Beach Restroom Project – In March, Lazars provided the committee with a preliminary plan for the restroom that needs to be replaced on the beach as the vault is failing. It would be a restroom with a three-season shelter and patio area. It would be enclosed with perhaps large windows or doors, which could be opened if the weather and insects allowed. It would be very rustic, so to not be high maintenance, and would not be insulated so it would be shut down for the winter. Planned construction would be in 2015 with a preliminary cost of \$200,000-\$250,000. The current restroom will be demolished in the next two weeks. Rantala informed the committee that Langlade County will not be receiving a grant for this project. The committee requested that preliminary drawings and costs be brought to the committee in December so that the project can be bid out in early 2015.
7. Update on Budget – Rantala informed the committee that at the August Finance Committee meeting the committee made a motion to raise the timber sales revenue budget to \$1,830,000 with an offset of \$250,000 to be earmarked to the general fund at year end for the land purchase. The five year of timber sale revenue is \$1.8 million and the seven year average is \$1,780,000. Rantala had questioned if the department would be considered over budget if it was not a good revenue year and \$250,000 could not go back to the general fund for the land purchase, and Olsen had stated no. Rantala stated that it is a priority of the department to reimburse the general fund for the land purchase as quickly as possible.
8. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant stated that a mountain lion had been sighted in Lincoln County and was sighted in the Hollister area last week. Ave'lallemant updated the committee on deer management advisory committees. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 24, 7-9 p.m., at the Antigo High School. As stated last month, a deer management advisory committee will be established in each county in 2014 that will hold “herd status” meetings to evaluate local data regarding the deer herd. The committee will begin making recommendations to the Department for the 2015 deer seasons. Rantala is a forestry representative for the Langlade County advisory committee.
9. Review Payment of Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for August.

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10. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through August 31, 2014.
11. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
12. Adjournment – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Scupien to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary