

Forestry and Recreation Committee

September 8, 2016

8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Sam Hardin, Donald, Scupien, Joe Novak, and Duff Leaver

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Nathan Gilbert, Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Don Peterson, Renewable Resource Solutions; Josh Waukau, DNR liaison; Heather Berklund, DNR Woodruff Area Leader; Joe Jopek, Dave Peterson, and Terry Poltrock

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Hardin, seconded by Novak, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2016 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Consideration of Requests for Items to be Added to Future Meeting Agendas – None.
4. Present Draft Langlade County Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan – Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, reviewed the draft Langlade County Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2017-2021 that the committee had received and stated that the Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Committee has in the past conducted a public meeting on recreation needs for Langlade County. Heider explained that this requirement is no longer necessary due to the survey done through Survey Monkey, but Langlade County has always had an excellent response to the public hearing. The purpose of the meeting is to review a draft of the plan and gather citizen input concerning countywide recreational needs for the next five years.

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This plan will assess the existing recreation system in Langlade County, identify recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating outdoor recreation improvements, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years. Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids. Non-profit groups, foundations and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities. The committee set a date of Wednesday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m., Clover Room, Multi-purpose Building, Fairgrounds to hold the public hearing on the Five Year Recreation Plan.

Duff Leaver arrived at 8:20 a.m.

5. Discuss Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification - Don Peterson reiterated to the committee what he is looking for, which is a resolution in support of Langlade County being FSC certified, which is Forest Stewardship Council, a third party certification. FSC is global and some companies, such as McDonalds, are specifically requesting FSC-certified products. In Wisconsin, many counties are dual certified (17), SFI and FSC. Rantala stated that some of the concerns he has are: green tree retention, amending the 15 Year Plan, high conservation value forests, and safety language regarding wood cutting and bough cutting permits. Nathan Gilbert, assistant forest administrator, told the committee that in his talks with local loggers, none had felt that being a part of FSC would make much difference due to the current markets. Rantala will continue to investigate and report back at a future meeting.
6. Discuss Selling Non-county Forest Properties - Rantala had informed the committee that there would be approximately 200+ acres that are available for sale that are not in the county forest boundary. Also, there are four additional property that might be available for sale, which are currently being title searched. As of this date, Rantala has been unable to turn in the grant application for the Camp Lyle property as a letter from the owner is needed to complete the grant application. Also, we still do not know if Langlade County will be successful in being awarded a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant. The committee stated that Rantala should continue to investigate these properties and possible avenues available to appraise/sell the property and to report back at a future committee meeting.
7. Discuss DNR Parcels Offered to Langlade County - Rantala informed the committee that he has received information on the DNR parcels offered to Langlade County as part of the acreage that the DNR plans to sell by June 30, 2017. Rantala identified four properties that might be of interest to Langlade County in order of interest. The first is in the Township of East Upham – 21.8 acres for \$18,500; the second in the Township of Evergreen for \$40,000; the third is in the Township of North Ainsworth – 86.6 acres for \$66,000; and the fourth is in the Township of East Elcho – 102 acres for \$72,000. A decision is needed by the DNR in 120 days. Information only.

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8. Approve Breivogel Access Permit in the Town of Parrish – Rantala was contacted by Michael Breivogel regarding his property in the SW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 15 in the Township of Parrish. Mr. Breivogel has concerns about access to his property and is requesting an access permit to build a new road (70-100') for access to his property off of county land. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Novak to approve access permit for Michael Breivogel in the Town of Parrish. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. DNR Liaison Report – Josh Waukau, DNR liaison, introduced Heather Berklund, DNR Woodruff Area Leader, to the committee and also gave a report.
10. Administrator Report – Rantala reported on the following items: Good Neighbor Authority – there are approximately 83 acres in western Oconto County that Langlade County was selected to mark and cruise. Rantala is working on finalizing a contract with the DNR. Anticipate marking those later this year or next spring. Langlade County was awarded all of the grants that we submitted for work to be done on ATV and snowmobile trails. They total nearly \$144,000. Langlade County/City of Antigo was awarded up to \$40,000 for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Alternative Transportation plan. Loggers have been paid for the wood they delivered to Verso last winter when Verso went through bankruptcy. Fair Labor Standards Act changes affected the threshold for workers to be considered salaried. The office manager and park manager positions were affected by this change. The office manager position will be an hourly position effective December 1, and the park manager position will be raised above the threshold allowing that position to remain salaried. We are currently soliciting proposals for a restroom at the Jack Lake cross country ski parking lot. Proposals are due by September 15. Rantala has been receiving calls regarding gates that have been put up due to the presence of garlic mustard.
11. Review Paid Bills - The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for August.
12. Review Budget Summary - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through August 31, 2016.
13. Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at 8:00 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, fairgrounds, Antigo. A public hearing for comment on the Langlade County Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m., in the Clover Room, Multi-purpose Building.
18. Adjournment - Motion by Scupien, seconded by Novak to adjourn at 9:35 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary

