

## **FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Douglas County Board of Supervisors

Monday, February 22, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Board Room, Second Floor, Government Center  
1316 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Mark Liebaert, Steve Long (remote), Joseph Moen, Nick Baker (remote), Mary Lou Bergman (remote). Others present – Jake Engelman, Al Makela (remote), Matt Holter, Brian Conley, Candy Anderson, Jon Harris, Clint Meyer, Craig Golembiewski, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

### **Department Reports:**

**Budget:** Anderson reviewed the budget ending December 31, 2020.

**Forest Management Operations:** Golembiewski reported 15 active timber sales; 4 hauling. All 3 remaining straight county land sales are on schedule for possible spring completion. Timber sale prospectus is out now for the March auction. Reforestation – sending out bids for hand planting 300 acres. Application period closed for the LTE summer positions; will be hiring 2 to start in May. Birch stem theft in the forest occurring in high numbers and is a concern.

**Parks and Recreation:** Meyer reported working on club trail reroute projects; ski trail reports; dam emergency action updates and 2021 park improvement projects. Parks and Recreation seasonal summer positions are currently being advertised.

### **ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:**

**Winter Trail Bridge Relocation and Trail Reroute Request (Drift Dodgers Snowmobile Club):** Club (Brian Conley present) requesting relocating existing trail 4-41 and Erickson Creek bridge crossing approximately 3000 feet south (map included in packet). Current trail and bridge are located in a large wetland requiring significant annual freeze down work to prepare it for wintertime trail use. Relocation would move it to existing forest roads located on more upland type ground. Club to apply for WDNR trail aides grant for bridge relocation (if denied, club to assume costs). Meyer to explore payment options for the stream crossing permit application.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve request from Drift Dodgers Snowmobile Club for trail reroute and bridge relocation. Motion carried.

**Winter Trail Reroute Request (Cozy Corner Trails Club):** Club (Matt Holter present) requesting rerouting Cozy Corner Trails Trail 5 to avoid a 3.8 mile segment of the Crotte Brook Town Road in the Towns of Wascott and Gordon (map included in packet). Current trail is located on Crotte Brook Town Road that is plowed during the winter. Relocation would reduce user conflict getting trail users off the town road and address public safety concerns. Total reroute is approximately 6.2 miles in length.

**ACTION:** Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve request from Cozy Corners Trail Club for trail reroute. Motion carried.

**Warming Shack and Privy Land Use Agreement Renewal Request (Brule Rivers Riders Snowmobile Club):** Club (Al Makela present remotely) requesting approval to renew existing 2010 land use agreement, adding language for previously approved privy.

**ACTION:** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve renewal of warming shack and privy land use agreement for a 5 year term by the Brule Rivers Riders Snowmobile Club. Motion carried.

**Release of Capital Reserve Funding (Dam Structure Funding):** Requesting release of \$4,000 to cover cost of dam maintenance (2021 Stateline Dam inspection).

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve release of capital reserve dam structure funding, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**2020 Budget:**

**Carryovers/Reserves:** Harris reviewed – 2020 reserves \$856,189.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve carryovers/reserves as presented, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPEND THE RULES:** Motion by Liebeart, second Moen, to take up item 4.e.3. Motion carried.

**Release of Reserve and Capital Reserve Funding:** Harris reviewed list.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve release of reserve and capital reserve funding as presented, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**Year-end Transfers of Excess Revenues to the General Fund:** Harris reviewed.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve the transfer of \$940,000 to the General Fund, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES/REPORTS:**

**2020 Annual Department Law Enforcement Report (Sheriff's Department):** Engelman reported on 2020 law enforcement summary. Citations (44) issued totaling revenue of \$11,462.

**Granting of Easement Exchange:** Harris reported all necessary signatures have been received to execute the easement, and situation has been resolved.

**Withdrawal and Sale of Property in the Town of Lakeside:** Received high bid for the parcel of \$42,200; proceeds to be designated for future county forest land acquisition. Currently in the process of withdrawing the parcel from county forest law, and finalizing sale.

**Extended Timber Sale Contracts:** Contract list reviewed.

**2020 Public Land Timber Sale Report:** Reviewed. Figures based off WDNR reporting method. Douglas County completed 41 timber sales with total revenue of \$3,596,414.01.

**2020 Timber Sale Revenue Record:** Reviewed. Figures based off county reporting method. Total wood cut value was \$4,751,396.39.

**2020 Town Severance Payment Record:** Reviewed. Severance and acreage share payments totaled \$558,561.60.

**2021 Spring Logger's Discussion Forum:** No event planned due to COVID restrictions.

**March 9, 2021, Timber Sale Reminder:** Reminder of March 9, 2021, timber sale meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Solon Springs Community Center.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Long, second Bergman, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk