

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 26, 2018, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, John Robinson, Mary Lou Bergman, Terry White. Others present – Justin Holmes, Judy O’Brien, Christine Ostern, Mark Schroeder, Steve Olson, Dan Corbin, Jon Harris, Terry Asleson, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2017, meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Included with members’ meeting packet. O’Brien reviewed budget for the period ending January 31, 2018.

Forest Management Operations: Holmes reported 21 active sales; 4 hauling. Good winter harvesting season.

Parks and Recreation: Schroeder reported grant writing activities in progress, and snowmobile clubs are busy with trail maintenance and area club events.

SUSPEND THE RULES:

ACTION: Motion by Robinson, second White, to take up item 5a. Motion carried.

2017 Annual Department Law Enforcement Report: Report included in packet – reviewed by Officer Olson.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

2018 US Endowment for Forestry and Communities Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program Support Participation (Land Conservation): Christine Ostern, Land Conservation, provided background for request. Harris and Liebaert are in favor of supporting the proposed initiative by providing forest management expertise and leveraging County Forest land located in the Lake Superior Basin portion of Douglas County for this protection initiative. Any leveraged lands shall not preclude such lands from normal management and allowable public uses under Section 28.11 Wis. Stats.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second White, to support participation in the 2018 US Endowment for Forestry and Communities Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program contingent on the department’s ability to continue normal management of said leveraged lands as working County Forest lands under Section 28.11 Wis. Stats., including timber harvesting and outdoor recreational activities. Motion carried.

Timber Sale Contract Revision: Revisions to contract included in meeting packet; reviewed.

ACTION: Motion by Robinson, second White, to approve proposed revisions to the Timber Sale Contract as presented, effective for March 7, 2018 timber sale. Motion carried.

2018 Federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant Program Participation: Committee approval required prior to grant application. Project is for Wild Rivers Trail erosion control and protection measures within WisDOT Highway 53 right-of-way.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve 2018 Federal Recreational Trail Program Grant Program participation, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2018 Amendment: Above-mentioned project is required to be included in the current five year Outdoor Recreation Plan prior to grant application/participation.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second White, to approve Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2018 Amendment as presented, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 WDNR Municipal Dam Grant Program Participation: Grant program recently revised to reward dam owners who have an admirable record of dam maintenance and/or repair with additional ranking credit for submitted applications, including applications related to small, low hazard structures. Historically, Douglas County dam projects did not rank and compete well.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve 2018 WDNR Municipal Dam Grant Program participation, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

2017 Budget:

Carryovers/Reserves: O'Brien reviewed carryovers/reserves summary.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second White, to approve the carryovers/reserves as presented in the amount of \$1,298,593.00, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Year-end Transfer of Excess Revenues to the General Fund: O'Brien reviewed summary sheet; offering \$1,270,000.00 transfer to the General Fund. Harris distributed historical transfer record.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Robinson, to approve transfer of \$1,270,000.00 to the General Fund, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Release of Reserve Funding: Reviewed – operational and capital items included with agenda, totaling \$882,005.00.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second White, to release reserve funding as proposed, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Release of Capital Reserve Funding: Release of capital reserve funding requested.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Bergman, to release capital reserve funding as proposed, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Extended Timber Sale Contracts Update: Correspondence to logging contractors in packet reviewed. Harris distributed updated winter 2017/2018 urgent contract list (4th and 5th year contracts). All 5th year contracts should be completed prior to spring breakup.

2017 Wisconsin County Forest Certification Audit Report: Douglas County retains dual certification through both SFI and FSC. Findings from 2017 audit reviewed – minor nonconformities identified.

2017 Public Land Timber Sale Report: Revised reported distributed and reviewed. The Douglas County 2017 gross timber sale revenue figure of \$5,200,374.19 (WisFIRS report 37A) is the largest single year revenue figure ever achieved off of any of the 29 county and 11 state forests in Wisconsin. Very noteworthy achievement for the department. Harris offered special recognition to all department staff for the achievement.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second White, to extend the meeting beyond the two hour limit. Motion carried.

2017 Timber Sale Revenue Record: Reviewed.

2017 Town Severance Payment Record: Reviewed; total severance was \$540,917.71, largest ever on record. Including acreage share payments, the total funding provided to towns in 2017 was \$624,930.36.

2017 Spring Logger's Discussion Forum: Harris moving forward with forum this spring, similar format and timeframe to last year.

Department Staffing Update: Harris introduced Justin Holmes, new Forester, replacing Jason Jordan who took a position with the WDNR. Recruiting for new Forest Management Supervisor position and seasonal workers currently.

March 26, 2018 Committee Meeting: Next meeting date moved to April 2, 2018.

March 7, 2018 Timber Sale Reminder: Timber sale scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on (Wednesday) March 7, 2018.

Reports:

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Asleson reported Jason Jordan (former Douglas County Forester) to be transferring into WDNR position on the Brule team.

Future Agenda Items: Spring logger's discussion forum.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bergman, second White, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk