

## FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, March 28, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters  
9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Mark Liebaert, Nick Baker, Mary Lou Bergman, Joseph Moen. Absent – Steve Long. Others present – Paul LaLiberte, Jim Latvala, Candy Holm-Anderson, Sig Degitz, Craig Golembiewski, Jake Engelman, Greg Kessler, Clint Meyer, Jon Harris, Shelley Nelson (remote), Cathy Khalar (remote), Sara Kendall, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2022 regular, and March 8, 2022, timber sale meetings. Motion carried.

### **Department Reports:**

**Budget:** Anderson reviewed the budget ending February 28, 2022.

**Forest Management Operations:** Golembiewski reported 4 active sales (3 hardwood and 1 pine), markets remain strong; good timber sale results from March offering; two straight county sales being worked on – county surveyor assisting; hand planting bids to be opened tomorrow; and four LTE foresters starting last week of May.

**Parks and Recreation:** Meyer reported winter trails officially closed; Lucius Woods shower house and lower restroom project bid opening last week, starting construction in fall; interviews this Thursday for seasonal park staff; getting recreation trail grants ready for April deadline; and campground advanced reservation software has gone fairly smooth, with approximately \$14,000 in fees already received.

**ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS: 2022 Capital Improvement Project Requests:** Reviewed – total \$600,000; prioritized as follows:

Lucius Woods County Park Paving Project \$150,000  
County Forest Road Improvement Project \$225,000  
Equipment Storage Shed Project \$125,000  
Gordon Dam County Park Paving Project \$100,000

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve 2022 capital improvement projects as presented, and refer to County Administrator, Administration/Executive Committees, and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Mooney Dam County Park Campground Expansion:** Potential expansion ideas reviewed with designs for 19 and 31 site options (maps distributed). Todd Gibbon, Long Island Engineering, provided conceptual expansion schematics. Recreational vehicle (ATV/UTV) accessibility discussed. Traffic safety concerns expressed with pedestrians walking across Fowlers Circle Road and vehicular access off East Mail Road or Fowlers Circle Road. Many options exist to control traffic.

**ACTON:** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to conceptually approve continued evaluation of Option #2, providing full hookup service drive through sites, possible ATV/UTV accessibility, and researching alternative road crossing options. Motion carried.

**Wildlife Update (WDNR Wildlife Biologist):** Kessler reported on wildlife area – distributed map and provided updates. Attending the Douglas County Fish and Game Sports Show at Wessman Arena this weekend; County

Deer Advisory Council meeting to be held this Wednesday night. Distributed handouts on grouse, bear and deer numbers and deer management program.

**Moose River Dog Club Annual Report:** 2022 is 15<sup>th</sup> year of the courses' official existence on Douglas County Forest land, originally approved in 2008. Sig Degitz reported GPS tracks were completed for all the courses, and communication with county staff has been working well. Two 2021 events held, one in the spring and one in the fall. Two similar events scheduled for 2022.

**Friends of the Bird Sanctuary Annual Report:** Handout distributed – annual report (reviewed).

**Straight Arrow Enduro Riders Annual Report:** 2022 is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the trails' official existence on Douglas County Forest land, originally approved in 2009. Ken Fastner reported trails stable; good dry year. Successful Enduro event last year. Small amount of rerouting completed, worked with Meyer. Only 1 event scheduled for 2022 (August Enduro), so should have extra time to do a lot of trail improvement work.

**Campground Campsite Advance Reservation System Update:** Meyer reported going well, with a few minor issues.

**Forest Carbon Program Update:** Meeting this week with two project developers.

**Extended Timber Sale Contracts Update:** Updated handout distributed.

**Department Staffing Update:** Inventory Forester/GIS Specialist, Sara Kendall introduced.

**WDNR County Forest Liaison:** Latvala reported working on WDNR assigned timber sales and recon projects, assisting county foresters with timber sale establishments; at about 85% of annual commitment to county forest standard time, with June 22<sup>nd</sup> as end of year. Tomorrow training annual fire season refresher with county forestry staff.

**Future Agenda Items:** Forest carbon program; Mooney Dam expansion.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Baker, second Moen, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk