

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

Douglas County Board of Supervisors

Monday, March 29, 2021, 9:34 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, Mary Lou Bergman (left 11:10 a.m.), Steve Long (remote), Joseph Moen, Nick Baker (remote). Others present – Candy Anderson, Mick Salmen, Carl Wahl, Muree Ahlberg (remote), Jon Harris, Greg Kessler (remote), Clint Meyer, Brian Finstad, Ken Fastner, Sigmund Degitz, Craig Golembiewski, Matt Holter, Carl Lentz, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2021, regular, and March 9, 2021, timber sale meetings. Motion carried.

### **Department Reports:**

**Budget:** Anderson reviewed the budget ending February 28, 2021.

**Forest Management Operations:** Golembiewski reported 2 active sales; limited hauling due to spring road weight restrictions, other sales on deck ready to go once road postings are removed. Crews are busy preparing for the June timber sale; hand planting bids due today; 200 acres of Jackpine seed aerial broadcasted utilizing WDNR aircraft; and two LT foresters starting on April 19, 2021.

**Parks and Recreation:** Meyer reported the winter trail season ended March 5, 2021; currently hiring new seasonal Parks and Recreation staff; finalizing contracts for park improvement projects; completed after winter dam checks. The summer camping season is scheduled to open two Friday's before Memorial Day (May 21<sup>st</sup>).

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

**Lucius Woods Park Reduced Facility Rental Fee Request (School District of Solon Springs):** School District of Solon Springs (Joanne Zosel) requesting reduced rental fee for use of sound shell/pavilion for the class of 2021 graduation (over 100 people) scheduled for May 29, 2021. Outside park location would allow for a socially distanced graduation. Standard department rental fee for a group over 100 attendees is \$350. School District requesting a reduced fee of \$175. Concerns expressed about setting a precedent by changing fees for a particular group on a case-by-case basis. Long volunteered to personally cover rental fee at full amount of \$350.

**Outdoor Musical Instruments Installation at Lucius Woods County Park Request (Lucius Woods Performing Arts Center):** LWPAC requesting to install an outdoor musical instrument known as the Swirl that also serves as play equipment (images in agenda packet). Carl Wahl, LWPAC, noted this falls into their mission to further arts and music in Lucius Woods County Park and is a natural fit. LWPAC to pay for the instrument and installation, with plans to do so prior to 2021 concert series. Wahl consulted with Meyer and identified an area near the existing playground as the preferred location. Long-term, would like to see purchase and installation of additional instruments and plan to start a fundraising campaign in the near future. Current request is for one instrument that would be purchased by a private donor. LWPAC may wish to place a placard nearby recognizing the donor.

**ACTION:** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve installation of one outdoor musical instrument at Lucius Woods County Park on a trial basis, at no cost to Douglas County, location and installation work to be approved by department staff, LWPAC responsible for all purchasing, installation, and future

maintenance costs. Motion carried. Future committee approval necessary for any additional instrument installations and/or placard additions.

**Winter Trail Reroute Request (Cozy Corner Trails Club):** Cozy Corner Trails Club (Matt Holter present) request to reroute 2 segments of Cozy Corner Trails Trail 5 to avoid a 1.75 mile segment of the Crotte Brook Town Road in the Towns of Dairyland and Wascott (Request #1) and a 1.35 mile segment of the Crotte Brook Town Road and West Mail Road in the Town of Gordon (Request #2). Maps included in agenda packet. Current trail is located on town roads that are plowed during the winter. Relocation would reduce user conflict getting trail users off the town roads and address public safety concerns. Total reroute is approximately 3.0 miles in length. Both reroutes would connect with the rerouted trail approved at last month's meeting. Department to apply for WDNR trail aide new development grant funding for the project on the club's behalf.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve request from Cozy Corner Trails Club for trail reroute, as presented. Motion carried.

**2021 Capital Improvement Project Requests:** Distributed at meeting-project requests total \$445,000. Prioritizing completion of both the upper and lower restroom projects at Lucius Woods County Park suggested.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve 2021 capital improvement project requests fully funding the Lucius Woods County Park upper and lower restrooms projects, and refer to County Administrator, Administration/Executive Committees, and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Wildlife (WDNR Wildlife Biologist):** Kessler provided updates in meeting packet. Preliminary deer season structure and antlerless tag recommendations are identical to last year; spring hearing is online this year from April 12-15 (rule making process); and the bear season zone structure was changed to redirect hunters to deal with nuisance activity.

**Straight Arrow Enduro Riders:** 2021 is the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the trails official existence on Douglas County Forest land, originally approved in 2009. Ken Fastner reported on off-highway motorcycle trail system. Last year's Enduro event was very challenging due to COVID concerns; trail work went well, added some new signage.

**Moose River Dog Club:** 2021 is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the courses official existence on Douglas County Forest land, originally approved in 2008. Sig Degitz reported no trial events held last spring due to COVID concerns, but they did have a fall event that went well. There are currently six courses and club is requesting assistance to GPS the course locations if possible. Club also requesting more communication to avoid course conflicts with timber harvests.

**Friends of the Bird Sanctuary:** Brian Finstad reported a lot of activities did not happen due to COVID concerns. Focused on several grants - \$2,000 from WI Humanities Council creating an auto-route for self-guided tour with community engagement sessions in the fall; \$2,000 from WDNR for bird sanctuary property road signage.

**Extended Timber Sale Contracts:** Reviewed.

**Timber Producers Cooperative (TPC):** WCFA letter outlines TPC petitioning members regarding investment opportunity interest in the Consolidated Cooperative pursuing acquisition of the Verso paper

mill in Wisconsin Rapids and the Park Falls Mill Cooperative pursuing acquisition of Park Falls Pulp and Paper mill in Park Falls. Liebaert to contact Corporation Counsel about legality of request.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Moen, second Baker, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk