

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 2, 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 - Jane Severt, Alex Rowe, Dan Corbin, Greg Kessler, Jane Anklam, Terry Asleson, Mark Schroeder, Mike Luedeke, Brian Finstad, Sigmund Degitz, Ken Fastner, Judy O'Brien, Cathy Khalar, Acting Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2018, regular meeting, and March 7, 2018, timber sale.

Department Reports:

Budget: Included with members' packet. O'Brien reviewed budget for the two month period ending February 28, 2018.

Forest Management Operations: Rowe reported 1 active sale; 2 hauling.

Parks and Recreation: Temporary seasonal park staff recruitment in progress; and State Line Flowage water control structure replacement will occur this summer.

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second White, to take up informational items/correspondence before action items. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Wildlife Update Report: WDNR Wildlife Biologist, Greg Kessler reported on upcoming Douglas County Council on Deer Advisory Committee public input opportunities. Discussed spring 2018 Douglas County Wildlife Area proposed burns. Provided updates on deer and bear harvests records and permit levels, wildlife opening program, public land manager deer nuisance permit program, learn to hunt turkey program, Bayfield County deer farm, and the WDNR alignment.

Straight Arrow Enduro Riders Annual Report; Ken Fastner provided update on activities: trails were wetter than average for most of the 2017 summer riding season due to increased rain, trails received average usage throughout the year, timber sale in and around the trail system was successful and department staff communicated well with the club to avoid user conflicts, and 2018 Enduro event scheduled for August.

Moose River Dog Club Annual Report: Sig Degitz provided updates on activities: early winter weather in fall 2017 resulted in event cancellation, issue with a local landowner seems to have been resolved, participation in field dog trials in declining nationwide, and additional coursework is planned to be completed soon. 2018 spring event is scheduled for late April and may need to be cancelled due to winter weather.

Friends of the Bird Sanctuary Annual Report: 2017 report handed out. Brian Finstad provided overview.

Invasive Species Control in Lucius Woods County Park Report: Report given by Jane Anklam to summarize efficacy and economics of goat versus herbicide treatments in Lucius Woods County Park.

Information is preliminary at this time and more information will be known after the 2018 spring flush season.

Extended Timber Sale Contracts Update: Updated winter 2017/18 urgent contract list reviewed (28 sales). All 11 of the 5th year contracts have been completed along with 5 of the 4th year contracts. 5th year extensions on remaining 4th year contracts will be offered according to department policy with possible bidding restrictions.

April 11, 2018, Spring Forest Industry Gathering: Harris advised the gathering will start an hour earlier than last year, breaking for lunch at noon, leaving the rest of the time unstructured for attendee interaction.

Recognition for Service (John Robinson): Jane Severt and Mike Leudeke of the Wisconsin County Forest Association recognized John Robinson for 15 years of service as a member of the Board of Directors, representing Douglas County on behalf of the WCFA.

Reports:

Wisconsin County Forest Association: Robinson advised that recently Wisconsin DATCP revised the individual County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantines and placed the entire state of Wisconsin under statewide EAB quarantine.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Asleson reported the WDNR provided Forestry staff with a fire fighting refresher class.

ACTION ITEMS/REFFERALS:

2016 Wisconsin Act 170 (WDNR Off-Highway Motorcycle Program): Schroeder provided information in response to October 23, 2017, committee request. In order to allow Off Highway Motorcycle (OHM) use on existing funded snowmobile and/or ATV trails that cross lands under other ownership, those landowners would need to approve OHM use and all landowner trail agreements and easements would require updating. Currently, funded trails cross 344 parcels of non-county land owned by 122 unique individual landowners presenting a very significant and complex challenge. Additional dilemmas remain with the department Access Management Plan signing scheme and how OHM use would be incorporated. WDNR is still working on establishing a funding mechanism for OHM registration program. Refer to a future agenda once WDNR has funding mechanism established.

County Forest Law Entry Re-Designation (Regular Lands to Special Use Lands): Property Acquisition (Reconfirmation): 2009 acquisition of 140 acres and 2017 acquisition of 238 acres of lands encumbered by an easement granted to the United States of America for purposes of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway were originally proposed for regular entry of County Forest Land. Recent discussions with WDNR concluded that lands are better fit for special use entry due to terms of the easement. Re-designation of said lands from regular entry to special use requested.

ACTION: Motion by Robinson, second White to approve re-designating these regular lands to special use lands as proposed. Motion carried.

Upper St. Croix Forest Land Conservation Project (The Conservation Fund):

Property Acquisition: (Reconfirmation) Project originally approved in 2016 through Resolutions #21-16 and #22-16. Phase 1, acquiring 120 acres was completed. A 40 acre parcel with title issues was removed from the total package leaving 1,324 acres for Phase 2. Phase 2 remains uncompleted as a result of unsuccessful \$400,000 grant applications in 2016 and 2017 for the USFS Community Forest and Open Space Grant Program. WDNR Stewardship program grant application has been submitted and is on hold.

Alternative funding sources and options have been explored. Additional County owned match lands are available to offset a portion of the \$400,000 with the remaining balance, estimated at \$360,000, proposed to come from the department's land acquisition reserve fund and a 2018 capital improvement project request.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to re-confirm moving forward with property acquisition as previously approved with recent revisions, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Release of Capital Reserve Funding (Land Acquisition): Release of capital reserve funding for land acquisition in an amount not to exceed \$360,000.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve release of up to \$360,000 from funding reserves and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried.

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

2018 Capital Improvement Project Requests: Distributed - reviewed.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Robinson, second White to prioritize items on the 2018 capital improvement project as follows; #1 Upper St. Croix Forest land acquisition project, #1 off-site data backup and storage project, #2 Lucius Woods County Park upper restroom/shower building replacement, #2 Lucius Woods County Park lower restroom building replacement, #3 Lucius Woods County Park paving project, #3 County Forest Road improvement project, totaling \$655,000, and refer to County Administrator and Administration/Executive Committees. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Robinson, second Bergman, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cathy Khalar, Acting Secretary