

**FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Douglas County Board of Supervisors**  
**Monday, May 21, 2018, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters**  
**Solon Springs, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Mark Liebaert, Mary Lou Bergman, Terry White. Others present – Tom Feiden, Brian Finstad, Jon Harris, Craig Golembiewski, Shelley Nelson, Terry Asleson, Judy O’Brien, Mark Schroeder, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Bergman, second White, to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2018, meeting. Motion carried.

**Department Reports:**

**Budget:** Included with members’ packet. O’Brien reviewed the budget for the time period ending April 30, 2018.

**Forest Management Operations:** Golembieski reported 2 active sales; road bans lifted today.

**Parks and Recreation:** Schroeder reported fully staffed as of today with seasonal park workers; parks and summer ATV trails all open for the season.

**ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:**

**Withdrawal and Sale of Property (Friends of the Bird Sanctuary, Inc.):** Brian Finstad, Friends of the Bird Sanctuary, Inc., interested in preserving and acquiring ownership of the WDNR Gordon Fire Tower after proposed decommission and removal by the state. Tower is located on County Forest land with site easement. Land exchange with adjacent landowners initially considered but determined to be non-feasible. Land sale from Douglas County to Friends group recommended as best option. An appraised value of \$1,500/acre for the land has been identified for the 1.41 acre parcel. An offer of \$4,230 has been made based off a 2x factor to ensure protection of public interests. The Friends group plans to repurpose the tower for a camping site. Tower is located on special use county forest land that has limited management potential. WDNR is in favor of this project.

**ACTION (RESOLUTION):** Motion by White, second Bergman, to approve sale of the 1.41 acre property containing the tower to Friends of the Bird Sanctuary, Inc., for the amount of \$4,230.00, with customary shared closing costs, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION (RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second White, to approve withdrawal of Parcel #GO-012-01663-00 from County Forest Law and all land sale proceeds be designated in the department’s Land Acquisition Reserve Account for future County Forest land acquisition, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**Withdrawal and Sale of Property:** Correspondence in packet. Three encroachments from adjacent landowners identified on County Forest Land in the Town of Dairyland. Encroachment #1: Borchardt property – moving road entirely onto county land will resolve issue. Encroachment #2: Hatch property – cabin, outbuildings, and maintained yard area currently located on County Forest land. Land sale recommended as best option under the circumstances to resolve the issue. An appraised value of \$1,500 has been established for the 0.45 acre parcel based of a \$500 base value and 3x factor for the protection of public interests. Encroachment #3: Ruffedt property – driveway to be relocated and owner to discontinue mowing lawn on county land. Survey maps and photos provided with agenda.

**ACTION (RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second White, to approve withdrawal of Part of Parcel #DA-010-00195-00 from County Forest Law, subsequent sale to adjacent landowners Roger and Jill Hatch for a total of \$6,190, that includes \$1,500 for the land and full reimbursement for staff time, surveying costs, and closing costs; with proceeds designated in the department’s Land Acquisition Reserve Account for future County Forest land acquisition, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**Department Fee Schedule:** Reviewed. Proposed revisions: \$18/night for electric and \$15/night for non-electric sites at Mooney Dam County Park Campground; \$5/bundle for camping firewood; and \$6.00 each for plat-book mailing postage.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by White, second Bergman, to approve department fee schedule with proposed changes, and forward to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Extended Timber Sale Contracts Update:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year contract list reviewed – 15 of 28 contracts completed; 5 of 28 contracts goal to be completed prior to current expiration date; 1 of 28 contracts forfeited back to county; and 7 of 28 will not be completed and will require 5<sup>th</sup> year extension (4 of the 7 have already been extended).

**Upper St. Croix Forest Land Conservation Project Update (The Conservation Fund):** Revised stewardship application submitted to WDNR last week; awaiting new letter of intent from seller and final match property appraisal; next step is Joint Finance Committee review; will keep committee updated.

**Stateline Flowage Dam Repair Project Update:** Schroeder advised 8 bids received for project (low bid from Udeen Trucking at \$71,786.12); to be completed by September.

**2018 Spring Forest Industry Gathering Review:** Harris reported roads were the hot topic; well attended.

**Department Staffing Update:** Craig Golembiewski introduced as “new” Forest Management Supervisor member of the Forestry staff.

**Reports:**

**WDNR County Forest Liaison:** Asleson reported on prescribed burns in the area; fire season in full swing.

**Future Agenda Items:** Mooney Dam County Park; Lower Eau Claire Lake boat landing bench placement by the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club; department introduction; Wisconsin County Forest Association introduction; and invasive species control in Lucius Woods County Park update report.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Bergman, second White, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk