

## FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors

Monday, July 29, 2019, 9:37 a.m., Forestry Headquarters  
9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Mark Liebaert, Joseph Moen, Steve Long. Absent – Mary Lou Bergman, Nick Baker. Others present – Clint Meyer, Brett Cortlett, Richard Allen, Carl Wahl, Shelley Nelson, Candy Holm-Anderson, Jim Latvala, Craig Golembiewski, Jon Harris, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Liebaert, second Moen, to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2019, meeting. Motion carried.

### Department Reports:

**Budget:** Anderson reviewed the budget for the time period ending June 30, 2019.

**Forest Management Operations:** Golembieski reported 5 active timber sales; with 5 hauling. Staff members attended a very informative Oak Wilt training at the Spooner Golf Course recently; foresters busy preparing timber sales for October auction; and site prepping for next year's spring plantings. County forest roads in pretty good shape, with grading in progress, while getting ready for certification audit next week.

**Parks and Recreation:** Meyer reported back to full crew now; Bird Sanctuary Clubhouse rear porch rebuilt; Wild Rivers Trail gravel surfacing project starting this fall; out for proposals for Anna Gene Park pavilion project 2018; 2018 FEMA claim finalization in progress; Gordon Dam electrical and water service expansion project planned for this fall; Northwest Trails Association FY2020 trail maintenance contract getting finalized; FY2019 claims being submitted to WDNR; and compiling recreation program budget items for 2020.

### ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

**Park Creek Pond Signage Request:** Carl Wahl, Village of Solon Springs citizen present, requesting signage be placed at the pond noticing that it is open to all ages, to increase its utilization and accommodate senior citizen use. Current signage states "Youth Fishing Area". No standing ordinance or regulation in place saying that an adult cannot fish in the pond. WDNR has a process to request officially designating the water body as an Urban Fishing Water, limiting fishing access to only juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled persons for fishing all or part of the year. Process is lengthy and requires a change in State Administrative Code.

**ACTION:** Motion by Liebaert, second Long, to approve new signage change to reflect reality of the current fishing access regulations of the pond, which allows fishing by all ages, not just youth. Sign language to include replacing "Youth Fishing Area" with "Public Fishing Access" (exact language and timing of new sign placement to be determined by department staff). Motion carried.

**New Recreational Winter Trail Establishment (Get-er-Done Club of Gordon);** Club is requesting partial use of Douglas County Forest Land to build, use, and maintain a winter only snowmobile ATV/UTV trail of approximately 5.5 miles to connect two existing trail systems in the Town of Gordon (map enclosed). No state trail-aid funding is being requested at this time. Once established, new mile funding will be requested in the future, which will help maintain the trail going forward. If no new miles funding is available, the club will continue to maintain the trail. Permission received from Brule River, LLC, to cross their property. Department staff already approved the route location. Liability insurance certificate provided to Forestry Department. Club to be responsible for all maintenance and signage coordinating with department staff.

**ACTION:** Motion by Long, second Moen, to approve establishment of the new recreational winter trail by the Get-er-Done Club of Gordon. Motion carried.

**Town of Wascott Property Acquisition:**

**Property Acquisition:** Map in packet identifying parcels for potential acquisition. Landowner interested in selling these 280 acres to Douglas County. Department has acquired nearby lands from this same landowner in recent years. Property is encompassed with a scenic riverway easement granted to the United States of America for purposes of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Easement restricts use and development of the property. National Park Service has been previously consulted and approved County Forest entry of the property being consistent with easement objectives. \$135,856 in project funding was approved and released as part of a 2019 capital improvement project request. Requesting release of an additional \$10,000 for the project. Total acquisition cost not to exceed \$140,000, not including miscellaneous closing costs. Additional parcels may be available from the landowner in the future.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Long, second Moen, to approve acquisition of 280 acres located in the Town of Wascott at a cost not to exceed \$140,000, not including miscellaneous closing costs, release of capital reserve funding (land acquisition) in an amount of \$10,000, application for special use County Forest Law Entry, and forward to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**7.2 Land Recreation Ordinance Amendment:** No action taken.

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

**Friends of the Bird Sanctuary Annual Report – Presentation:** Refer.

**Park Creek Pond Dam Improvement Project:** Project is on schedule and working round the clock; to be completed this fall.

**WDNR FY 2019 Time Standards Report:** Reviewed.

**2019 County Forest Certification Audit:** Audit is scheduled for August 7, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**WDNR County Forest Liaison:** Latvala reported status quo from last meeting. One local WDNR vacancy, Gordon Ranger, being recruited and in September should be fully staffed.

**Future Agenda Items:** Budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Moen, second Long, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk