

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors

Monday, August 26, 2019, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
9182 Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, Mary Lou Bergman, Nick Baker, Joseph Moen (left at 11:00 a.m.). Absent – Steve Long. Others present – Clem Larson, Al Horvath, Shelley Nelson, Dan Corbin, Lynn Zimek, Clint Meyer, Craig Golembiewski, Candy-Holm Anderson, Terry Asleson, Jon Harris, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Moen, second Liebaert, to approve the minutes from the July 29, 2019, meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Distributed. Anderson reviewed the budget for the time period ending July 31, 2019.

Forest Management Operations: Golembiewski reported 5 timber sales harvesting; 1 hauling; 10 sales closed since last committee meeting. Foresters getting ready for October timber sale; inventory work and regeneration checks to occur this fall; WDNR site prepping for spring planting; and Oak Wilt identified at the southern county line – to be addressed.

Parks and Recreation: Meyer reported campgrounds to be open two more weekends; seasonal staff numbers reducing; painting in parks; attended various meetings recently signed NW Trails Association contract; and both Saunders Grade and Gandy Dancer Trails repaired and expected to be open for the winter snowmobile season if not sooner.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Hosting 2019 Log-a-Load for Kids Charity Event on County Forest Land request (Great Lakes Timber Professional Association): This request for Douglas County to host educational event showcasing the forestry and logging industry on October 4th and 5th, 2019, to which area county 4th and 5th graders will be invited to attend and for offering a small timber sale at bargain prices to maximize GLTPA charity donation (map in packet identifying location with easy bus access). Douglas County previously hosted event in 2006 and 2011.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve request for Douglas County to host the 2019 Log-a-Load for Kids Charity Event on County Forest Land by the Great Lakes Timber Professional Association and offer a bargain timber sale for the event. Motion carried.

2020 budget:

2020 Budget Review: Distributed. Summary of budget increases and decreases reviewed. Overall 3.25% increase, with 24% of that total increase due to increased reforestation expenses. Other increase to note for 2020 was personnel expenses. Wage increase for seasonal staff proposed and converting one park laborer position into a park lead position requested. Capital improvements reviewed (totaling \$376,500).

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, for department staff to develop an annual reforestation program funding policy wherein a percentage of annual gross timber sale receipts is reserved in the department's non-lapsing reforestation reserve fund and present to committee at future meeting. Motion carried.

Non-Profit Funding Requests:

Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee: Request in meeting packet. Clem Larson present.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve funding request from Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee for \$500 (organization and purpose of request meets non-profit funding request criteria). Motion carried.

Tri-County Recreational Corridor Commission: Request distributed. Dan Corbin present.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Liebaert, to approve funding request from Tri-County Recreational Corridor Commission for \$6,000 (organization and purpose of request meets non-profit funding request criteria). Motion carried.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates: Request in meeting packet. Al Horvath present.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve funding request from Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegation for \$2,500 (organization and purpose of request meets non-profit funding request criteria). Motion carried.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve 2020 budget as presented and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES/REPORTS:

Friends of the Bird Sanctuary Annual Report – Presentation: Report distributed. Lynn Zimek gave overview.

Active Timber Sale Contract Record Update: Reviewed – total active contracts value and number of active contracts trended in report.

Park Creek Pond Dam Improvement Project Update: Water is flowing through new structure; with project completion right on schedule. Substantial completion by end of August.

2019 County Forest Certification Audit: Full recertification audit completed August 7, 2019 in Douglas County. Bayfield, Ashland and Barron Counties also participated during the same week. Preliminary reports came back with no noted corrective actions (major or minor), opportunities for improvement, or observations (first time for the Wisconsin County Forest program since becoming certified in 2005). Department has received much recent positive feedback and recognition from other county forest programs, WCFA, industry partners, and the WDNR for audit efforts. Final reports forthcoming.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Asleson (filling in for Latvala) reported working on timber sale road access improvements with WDNR heavy equipment and other related timber sale establishment work for the October auction.

Future Agenda Items: Establishment of department reforestation program funding policy.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl L. Westman, Committee Clerk