

## FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors

Monday, August 31, 2020, 9:32 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, Steve Long (remote), Mary Lou Bergman (remote). Absent – Joseph Moen, Nick Baker. Others present – Clem Larson (remote), Shelley Nelson, Craig Golembiewski, Candy Anderson, Clint Meyer, Jeff Anderson, Al Horvath, Jon Harris, Dan Corbin, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Bergman, second Long, to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2020, regular meeting, and March 10, 2020, and June 9, 2020, timber sale meetings. Motion carried.

### Department Reports:

**Budget:** Anderson reviewed budget ending July 31, 2020.

**Forest Management Operations:** Golembiewski reported six active sales, one hauling; October timber auction preparations in progress; recon program work on task, utilizing help from LTE staff; reforestation: completed 34 acres of hand planting and 700 acres of aerial seeding. Highlights of other ongoing activities provided.

**Parks and Recreation:** Meyer reported Cranberry Creek dam removal project in progress utilizing WDNR grant money (fully funded); Anna Gene Park playground equipment, two new storage sheds and new boat ramp extensions installed; Lucius Woods campground received new fire rings, and working with the WDNR to improve Wild Rivers Trail along Highway 53.

### ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

**Lucius Woods Park Building Use Request (School District of Solon Springs):** School District of Solon Springs requesting use of Lucius Woods Park and pavilion facility, bird sanctuary and clubhouse facility, and Park Creek Pond Park for the month of September for outdoor learning opportunities due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. School staff to be responsible for all daily setup and cleanup, and garbage collection and removal, certificate of liability insurance provided; facility usage/rental fees waived. Reserved public rental dates to have priority over school district usage. Department staff to monitor temperatures and shut down water systems if necessary and coordinate all scheduling and usage details with the school district.

**ACTION:** Motion by Liebaert, second Bergman, to approve request. Motion carried.

**Campground End of Season Closing Date and Off-Season Camping Policy:** Current policy reviewed. Meyer recommended extending the 2020 season in all 3 campgrounds (Lucius Woods, Gordon Dam, and Mooney Dam) on a one-year trial basis with a new closure date of the last Monday during the month of September (September 28, 2020). Off-season camping policy to remain unchanged, only being offered in Gordon Dam Campground.

**ACTION:** Motion by Long, second Bergman, to approve proposed closure date policy change on a one-year trial basis in all 3 campgrounds for 2020 camping season. Motion carried.

### Village of Solon Springs Property Acquisition:

**Property Acquisition:** County interested in purchasing property at 11427S Business 53, in the Village of Solon Springs (across Hughes Avenue from Forestry Department office headquarters). A Union 76 gas station was formerly located on that lot resulting in contaminated soil from underground storage tanks. In

1990, the WDNR opened an environmental remediation case for the site requiring further investigation and remediation measures. Recently, a Final Case Closure Notice with Continuing Obligations was issued by the WDNR for the site. MSA Professional Services has been consulted with to clarify any potential liability concerns and continuing obligation requirements. Proposed purpose of the acquisition would be for future parking area development to serve the department office facility. Continuing obligation requirements include annual cap inspection along with managing any contaminated soil encountered during building demolition and/or parking area construction. Project is proposed in the 2021 department budget.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Long, second Bergman, to approve property acquisition in the Village of Solon Springs, located at 11427S Business Highway 53. Motion carried unanimously.

**Release of Capital Reserve Funding (Land Acquisition):** Release in the amount of up to \$15,000 requested (\$12,000 for the property acquisition and up to \$3,000 for related closing expenses).

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second Long, to approve release of capital reserve funding not to exceed \$15,000, for land purchase and related closing costs, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPEND THE RULES:** Motion by Liebaert, second Long, to take up item 4.d.2. Motion carried.

**Non-Profit Funding Requests:**

**Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee:** Dan Corbin provided overview for the request of \$500. Clem Larson attended remotely.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Long, 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:** Corbin provided overview for the request of \$6,000.

**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:** Al Horvath provided overview for the request of \$2,500.

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

**2021 Budget:**

**2021 Budget Review:** Distributed. Harris provided overview of budget increases and decreases. Overall 4.00% increase, with majority of increase in personnel and reforestation costs.

**ACTION (REFERRAL):** Motion by Bergman, second Long, to approve the 2021 budget as presented and forward to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

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

**Verso Corporation Mills Shutdown:** Harris reported Verso Corporation mills in Duluth and Wisconsin Rapids shut down unexpectedly, and discussed impact to Douglas County and the forestry industry.

**Discontinuance of Bates Road (Village of Lake Nebagamon):** Chairman sent letter to the village expressing opposition to Bates Road closure, severely limiting public access to that area.

**Town of Summit Encroachment:** Harris advised probable significant encroachment. Survey is being conducted and will keep committee updated.

**Granting of Easement Exchange:** Harris in touch with three other involved landowners trying to reach an agreement of an easement exchange; most communication is at a standstill at this point. County legal options may be explored.

**ACTION:** Motion by Liebaert, second Bergman, to extend the meeting beyond the two hour time limit. Motion carried.

**Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035:** Harris working on new plan - updates coming soon.

**2020 County Forest Certification Audit:** No findings again in the 2020 audit. Douglas County is not scheduled for the 2021 audit.

**Establishment of 30<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin County Forest (Adams County):** Adams County has formally established the state's 30<sup>th</sup> county forest.

**Department Staffing Update:** Harris reported two new staff members hired since meeting in February, replacing retirements.

**WDNR FY2020 Time Standards Report:** WDNR successfully met the required 4,051 hours (equivalent to two full-time staff) in FY2020.

**WDNR County Forest Liaison:** Golembiewski reported the WDNR assisted with 19 timber sales in 2020 and will be assisting with many more in 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Bergman, second Liebaert, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl L Westman, Committee Clerk