

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, August 31, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
9182 E Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, Mary Lou Bergman, Joseph Moen, Nick Baker, and Steve Long. Others present – Jon Harris, Dan Corbin, Sarah Kendell, Bill Whiteside, Clem Larson, Shelley Nelson, Ashley Vande Voort, John McCormick, Craig Golembiewski, Jim Latvala, Cathy Khalar, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Whiteside reviewed the budget ending July 31, 2022. Timber sale revenue currently under budget.

Forest Management Operations: Golembiewski reported 10 sales actively harvesting, and 3 hauling. Reforestation roller chopping site prep in progress. Timber market is currently strong with many mills enacting recent delivery bonuses. 1 LTE has gone back to school with 2 more leaving this week, 1 will be remaining. Recent oak wilt findings discussed.

Parks and Recreation: Harris reported Lucius Woods will close September 12th for upper shower house and lower restroom building replacement projects. Mooney Dam Campground will remain open for the Extended Season as weather and staffing allow. Gordon Dam Campground will remain open for the Extended Season as weather and staffing allow, and then will go to Off-Season until snow restricts access. 3 of the 8 seasonal park staff will be gone by the end of this week, 5 will be remaining. Seasonal Equipment Operator position was recently hired. Park use should start to slow down for the season with many area schools being back in session. Field dog trial events scheduled for this fall in the bird sanctuary. ATV/UTV trails remain busy.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

All-Terrain Vehicle and Utility Terrain Vehicle Routes and Operation Ordinance #5.04 exception request (County Highway Y West): County Forest Land Recreation Ordinance #7.2 currently prohibits operation of motorized recreational vehicles in developed recreational areas (parks and campgrounds). According to official WisDOT information, County Highway Y (west) officially transects and ends in Gordon Dam Campground. Therefore, as prescribed by the County's ATV/UTV Routes and Operation Ordinance #5.04, this section of road would be open to motorized recreational vehicle operation through the park which is in direct conflict with Land Recreation Ordinance #7.2. After consulting with both the Highway Department and Sheriff's Department, the Forestry Department would like to request that the section of Highway Y (west) starting at the westernmost driveway access to Chief Kabemabe Scenic Overlook to that point the County Highway officially ends inside Gordon Dam Park (map enclosed), be closed to all motorized recreational vehicle operation. Highway Department will install necessary signage.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Moen, second Bergman, to align the ATV/UTV Routes and Operation Ordinance #5.04 with Land Recreation Ordinance #7.2 and approve an exception to close that section of Highway Y (west) starting at the westernmost driveway access to Chief Kabemabe Scenic Overlook to that point the County Highway officially ends inside Gordon Dam Park to all motorized

recreational vehicle operation, and refer to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Motion carried.

Reclamation Plan for Non-Metallic Mine on Douglas County Forest Land Tree-Vegetation Standards Policy: Proposed new language enclosed. New language to be used by Land Conservation as standard language for all new and renewed reclamation plans for gravel pits located on County Forest land.

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second Bergman, to approve use of new standard language as proposed in all new and renewed reclamation plans for non-metallic mines located on County Forest land and to include additional language into the new standard language regarding preferred tree species to be planted and at a density of 900 trees per acre. Motion carried unanimously.

Withdrawal and Sale of Property in the Town of Gordon: Encroachment from adjacent landowner identified on County Forest land in the Town of Gordon. Part of garage structure, part of a driveway, and part of a maintained yard area all located on County Forest land (photos enclosed). Land sale recommended as best option for resolution. Land valuation to include a multiplier to best protect public interests and partial reimbursement of surveying costs, real estate closing costs, and/or staff time. All proceeds to be designated in the Department's land acquisition reserve for future County Forest land acquisition.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve withdrawal and sale of County Forest land to landowner to resolve the encroachment with proceeds designated for future County Forest land acquisition; and to authorize Liebaert and Harris to negotiate acceptable terms of the land sale with landowner, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

H.R. 7266 – Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Amendment: Bill 7266 has been introduced in the United State House of Representatives. Bill amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to prohibit local regulations relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide or device subject to regulation by a state or the Environmental Protection Agency under FIFRA.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Baker second by Bergman to oppose H.R. Bill 7266 and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 Budget:

Review: Summary budget provided by Harris and Whiteside. Budget increases and decreases reviewed. 1.91% personnel budget increase, 2.44% operational budget increase, and 78.05% reforestation budget increase. Capital outlay reviewed. Discussion on use of Reforestation Reserve, Timber Sales Revenue Reserve, and projected decreased timber sale revenue in CY2022 and CY2023.

Non-Profit Funding Requests:

Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee: Clem Larson provided overview of request for \$500 (letter enclosed). Dan Corbin is citizen representative.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve 2023 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: Dan Corbin provided overview of request for \$6,000 (letter enclosed).

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve 2023 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: No representative present. Request for \$3,500, increase of \$1,000 over 2022 request (letter enclosed).

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to refer request to next meeting. Motion carried.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve 2023 budget as presented and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES/REPORTS:

2022 County Forest Certification Audit Update: Florence, Forest, Marinette, and Oconto participated in this year's audit. Findings reviewed.

Department Staffing Update: John McCormick introduced as the new Forestry and Parks Technician. Department is currently fully staffed with fulltime positions.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Latvala reported 21.29% of FY2023 time standards hours goal have been met and are on track for the year thus far. WDNR vacancies discussed.

Future Agenda Items: Non-Profit Funding Requests (Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates).

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Long, second Baker, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cathy Khalar, Committee Clerk