

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Douglas County Forestry
9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, WI 54873
Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present – Mark Liebaert, Mary Lou Bergman, Joseph Moen, Nick Baker. Absent - Steve Long. Others present – Jon Harris, Craig Golembiewski, Logan Jones, Sarah Kendall, Jim Latvala, Brett Corlett, Josh Butterfield, Cory Groholski, Max Ericson, Brian Conley and Cheryl Larson, Acting Secretary.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve minutes from August 28, 2023. Correction to amend minutes on page 3, total offered return to \$5,600 (\$4,000 land value and \$1,600 surveying expense reimbursement). Motion carried.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Harris announced that tract numbers were drawn randomly and will be opened and read in the order they were drawn. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to opening any bids for that individual tract.

4. OPEN AND READ TIMBER BIDS:

Bids were opened and read aloud.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to accept high bids most advantageous to Douglas County after they are checked for accuracy and qualifications. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS

a. St. Croix Flowage Comprehensive Management Plan Grant Application Letter of Support: Letter included in packet. Douglas County Land and Water Conservation District is requesting a letter of support for Forestry Department staff to support a grant funded project to develop a comprehensive management plan for the St. Croix Flowage, including exploring options for treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to offer a letter of support for Forestry Department staff to support the grant funded project to develop a comprehensive management plan for the St. Croix Flowage. Motion carried.

- b. Groomer Storage at Mooney Dam Park Request (Get-er-done club of Gordon):** Letter included in packet. Get-Er-Done Club of Gordon is requesting permission to utilize Mooney Dam County Park to stage/park a groomer during the winter months while the winter snowmobile/ATV trails are open. Request includes installing an electrical circuit to the existing wellhouse building and utilizing the circuit to plug-in the groomer's block heater. Club would pay for circuit installation and all electrical usage. All work would be under the direction of department staff. County would be excluded from any and all liabilities.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve staging/parking a groomer at Mooney Dam County Park during the winter months while the winter snowmobile/ATV trails are open, including installation and use of an electrical circuit, all work under the direction of Department staff, and Club responsible for all associated expenses. Motion carried.

- c. WDNR County Conservation Aids Grant Program Participation Resolution:** Approval required by state for WDNR Fish and Wildlife Grant Program participation.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve participation in the WDNR County Conservation Aids Grant Program, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. WDNR Sustainable Forestry Grant Application:** Harris to apply for up to \$30,000 in grant funding for the purpose of contracting regeneration treatment work in response to the snow loading timber stand damage resulting from the December 14, 2022, winter storm.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve WDNR Sustainable Forestry Grant application up to \$30,000 for contracting regeneration treatment work. Motion carried.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES/REPORTS

- a. Mooney Dam Campground Play Area Fence Project:** Photos included in packet. Fence was installed this summer.
- b. Black River Forest Land Conservation Project:** Project recently presented to the Town of Superior Town Board requesting a resolution of support. Request was unsuccessful.
- c. Forest Carbon Project:** Project developer recently awarded the contract for the field collection of inventory data phase of the project to Steigerwaldt Land Services with an anticipated completion date of spring 2024.

d. Department Staffing: 1 Forester and Forestry and Parks Technician positions recently vacated; both positions to be rehired.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Public road use issues and concerns regarding permitting, regulations, and road maintenance to be discussed at the Department's 2024 Spring Forest Industry Gathering.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by:

Cheryl Larson, Acting Secretary