

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes
January 21, 2016; 5:00 p.m.
Clark County Courthouse, Auditorium

Call to order 5:00 p.m.

Supervisors Present: Jeff Kolzow, Tom Wilcox, Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, Dale Mitte (arrived at 5:09)

Supervisors Absent: None

Others present for all or some of the meeting: Rick Dailey – Forestry and Parks Administrator; John Wendorski – Forestry Manager; Sean O'Donnell – Parks & Program Manager, Jim Smagacz – Facilities Supervisor; Andy Sorenson – DNR Liaison; Chris Schmitz – DNR Forester; Don Zukowski – Mead Lake District

The Administrator presented the January 14, 2016 minutes. Motion by Joe Wachulis, seconded by Al Bower to accept the January 14, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the December 2015 financial report. The Administrator explained that this is not the year end 2015 financial report as there are several expenditures and revenues still to be applied. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the December 2015 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Jim Smagacz provided an update on the inmate labor crew for the past month. Crews are currently on their one day per week cycle. They are primarily shoveling and cleaning at Bruce Mound as well as cutting and splitting firewood. No action taken.

Sean O'Donnell updated the Committee on the Sherwood Lake dredging project. The letter of credit (for the contractor) has been approved by the bank. Work is scheduled to begin January 25, 2016. Sean hopes the project can be completed in about a month. No action taken.

Discussion on the Meteor Timber land acquisition project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant application is nearly complete. The appraisal for the Highway Department land in South Foster should be received by the end of the month. There has been no word from the DNR on their 2nd appraisal of the purchase property. No action taken.

Sean O'Donnell presented the WI DOT equipment rates as the official Forestry and Parks Department equipment rates. Sean explained that some of the rates are actually ORV rates instead of DOT rates to facilitate equipment reimbursement for trail related grants. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Al Bower to approve the WI DOT equipment rates as the official Forestry and Parks Department equipment rates as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented a Mead Lake fish habitat improvement project being proposed by the Mead Lake District. The District wishes to fell numerous trees into the lake at several locations to improve fish habitat. The exact number of trees and specific locations are yet to be determined, but a permit been granted from the DNR to proceed with the project. The Clark County Zoning Administrator has been contacted to determine if county permits are required. The Zoning Administrator would like to be contacted again when locations and number of trees have been selected to determine if a zoning permit is required. The District will be responsible for checking and maintaining the felled trees as they will need to be secured to their stump to prevent them from washing away. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the Mead Lake fish habitat improvement project as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented an amended withdrawal application for county forest lands in Section 3, Town of Mentor as authorized by resolution 38-8-15 for Committee approval. The amended application clarifies how the DNR will appraise the value of all properties involved in the land trade proposal. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the amended withdrawal application for county forest lands in Section 3, Town of Mentor as authorized by resolution 38-8-15 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Andy Sorenson informed the Committee that he has accepted a new position within the DNR and will be leaving his Liaison position in the next few weeks. He explained the DNR's plan to meet their time standards goal through July 1, 2016 and the timeline for potentially filling the vacant Liaison position in Neillsville. Until the position is filled, Chris Schmitz will be the interim Liaison. The Administrator and the Committee thanked Andy for all his years of service as both a county employee and the DNR Liaison and wished him well in his new position. No action taken.

The Administrator updated the Committee about the status of the vacant County Recreation Officer position in the Sheriff's Department. The officer assigned to recreation duties retired as of the first week in January. Dale Mitte reported that the Law Enforcement Committee is looking into creating a specific job description for this position. No action taken.

The Administrator informed the Committee that the 2016 WCFA Spring Administrators Meeting will be held in Marshfield on March 17-18. Committee members interested in attending at this time are Joe Waichulis, Al Bower, and Tom Wilcox. No action taken.

The Administrator discussed potential Forestry and Parks Committee meeting dates for February, March and April. The Committee tentatively set the following meeting dates: February 18, 2016 @ 5:00 pm; March 15, 2016, @ 5:00 pm; and April 21, 2016 @ 1:00 pm.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported that, to date, he has received 28 applications for the Parks and Program Manager position. The application deadline is January 22, 2016. The Administrator is planning to schedule interviews for February 9, 2016 with alternative dates being February 10th or 11th. Tom Wilcox will sit on the interview panel as the Committee representative. The part-time Office Assistant began work January 11th.

Under forest management updates, the Forestry Manager reported slow logging activity due to wet and non-frozen soil conditions. Clark County was unsuccessful in recent Sustainable Forestry Grant procurement efforts. Discussion held on recently discovered encroachments from adjacent landowners in Section 26, Town of Seif.

Under parks management updates, Sean O'Donnell reported that there is only one seasonal, lakeside site available at Russell Park and it should be filled soon. The Sherwood Shooting Range will be getting additional material added to the backstop to increase safety. The Administrator updated the Committee on the status of the Black River County Park LAWCON conversion application.

Under trails management updates, Sean O'Donnell reported that the 2nd and final meeting for the Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee is scheduled for February 11th. The plan should be ready for County Board approval shortly after the last meeting. Attendance at Levis Mound for cross-country skiing and fat tire bike riding has been very strong so far this winter. County maintained ATV/snowmobile trails are open and have been groomed. Club maintained trails throughout the rest of the county remain closed until we receive more snow. The new snowmobile bridge near County Highway N and Dickerson Avenue is complete. A licensed blaster from the USDA will be blowing beaver dams west of Abbott Ranch Forest Road to alleviate flooding on the horse trail in that area. Several other dams on the county forest will also be blown to alleviate flooding of timber and forest roads.

Under Fairgrounds management updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the new furnaces have been ordered. The new doors have been installed on the fine arts building. The new owner of

the horse auction met with Jim and the Administrator to discuss continuing events at the fairgrounds.

Under Bruce Mound management updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the tube hill opened December 30th, the beginner hill opened January 2nd, and the remaining runs were open by January 15th. Several new school groups have booked parties this year. Saturday night tube parties are booked for the remainder of the season. The new point of sale program is working well and should help with tracking revenues and attendance in the coming years. The Friends of Bruce Mound established a snow shoe course and were renting snow shoes without notifying the department. The Administrator will be looking into insuring this type of activity and has instructed the FOBM to refrain from renting equipment and any users of the course need to sign a waiver form until further notice.

Under dams management updates, the Administrator reported that the Sherwood Dam Municipal Dam Grant Application was received in Madison by the deadline. Award notification is expected in late March.

The Committee reviewed personnel wage rate changes.

December 2015 vouchers were reviewed. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Call for Public Comment – None received.

Next regular meeting date was set for February 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary