

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes  
February 18, 2016; 5:00 p.m.  
Clark County Courthouse, Auditorium

Call to order 5:00 p.m.

Supervisors Present: Jeff Kolzow, Tom Wilcox, Joe Waichulis, Dale Mitte (arrived at 5:39)

Supervisors Absent: Al Bower

Others present for all or some of the meeting: Rick Dailey – Forestry and Parks Administrator; John Wendorski – Forestry Manager; Jim Smagacz – Facilities Supervisor; Ian Remus – Forester; Chris Schmitz – DNR Forester; Harold Dillenbeck – Black River Bowman; Todd Schmidt – Clark County Press; Dean Zank – County Board Supervisor

The Administrator presented the January 21, 2016 minutes. Motion by Joe Wachulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to accept the January 21, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

No update for the December 2015 financial report. No action taken.

The Administrator presented the January 2016 financial report for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to accept the January 2016 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Harold Dillenbeck, representing the Black River Bowman, presented a request to hold a public archery shoot at Bruce Mound. The competition is a regional event that draws between 200-300 archers. The event could take place in August of 2016 or 2017. This event is in the early phases of planning. The committee discussed safety concerns and logistics and agreed that an archery shoot would be allowable. The Black River Bowman should continue planning and coordinating with this department. No action taken.

The Administrator presented an updated Bruce Mound chalet and grounds rental fee schedule for committee approval. Additions to the fee schedule included: ½ days, overnight and grounds rental rates. Motion by Tom Wilcox seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the amended Bruce Mound chalet and grounds rental fees as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Jim Smagacz provided an update on the inmate labor crew for the past month. Crews are primarily working at Bruce Mound and cutting and splitting firewood. No action taken.

The Administrator updated the committee on the Sherwood Lake Dredging Project. The dredging and hauling should be complete early next week. The habitat work is planned for completion several weeks after dredging is finished. No action taken.

The Administrator presented a letter from a concerned citizen regarding the Sherwood Lake Dam repairs. The individual felt that removing the auxiliary spillway instead of fixing it is a poor decision. Discussion held on the approved dam failure analysis by Tiry Engineering and DNR approvals that clearly show that the auxiliary spillway is not necessary as long as the earthen embankment is brought back to correct elevation and the water levels are properly maintained. The Administrator discussed the final plan for the Sherwood Lake Dam repair. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the Sherwood Lake Dam repair plan as presented. Voice vote, all ayes with Dale Mitte abstaining, motion carried.

John Wendorski reported that the appraisal for the Clark County Highway Department land in South Foster to be used as a match property for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship application was received. The property appraised at \$235,000. John also reported that the DNR intends to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> appraisal completed for the Meteor Timber property in Section 15 of Butler Township completed by March 3, 2016. The department received a tentative award letter for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant application submitted last month. No action taken.

Ian Remus presented timber stand improvement bids for committee approval. Bids were received from 5 different contractors. Two of the contractors did not submit proof of worker's compensation coverage and indicated that they would not meet this requirement. Discussion held on worker's compensation recommendations and language on the request for proposals. Ian presented option 2 which disqualifies contractors without worker's compensation and awards Tract #1-15, #4-16, and #6-16 totaling 69.5 acres to Endeavor Environmental Services, Inc and the remaining five tracts totaling 89.9 acres to Northwoods Forestry. The total bid value of option two is \$39,615.00. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to disqualify bidders not carrying worker's compensation coverage and award the timber stand improvement bids as presented for option two. 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 values of all the properties involved in the land trade proposal. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded 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.

The Administrator presented a proposal for placement of hazard buoys in Lake Arbutus by the Lake Association. The Administrator also presented a copy of 2015 Wisconsin Act 91 Exemption From Civil Liability for Placing Buoys for review. The Lake Association has obtained necessary permits from the DNR for this project pending approval from Jackson and Clark County. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve placement of hazard buoys in Lake Arbutus by the Lake Association as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented a National Wild Turkey Federation Grant proposal application for committee approval. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the National Wild Turkey Federation Grant proposal as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator handed out copies of the Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2021. He asked the committee review before approving the document at the March committee meeting. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented several options for interim contract revisions for timber sale contractor filing for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The contractor filing Chapter 11 Bankruptcy is Verso Corp. and holds one contract with Clark County. Clark County will require advance payment for the remainder of this sale as is allowed under current contract language. John also presented a policy revision being implemented by the State of Wisconsin that addresses timber sales where harvested wood was hauled to Verso mills and payment was not received from Verso Corp. between 1/10/16 through 1/25/16. John presented the following interim revisions for committee approval: Allow an additional 60 days to pay invoices from date of bankruptcy filing (1/26/16) for unpaid invoices for wood that was hauled to Verso between the dates 1/10/16 through 1/25/16, do not assess any late interest penalty for the extra 60 day period, unpaid balances beyond 90 days will incur a late interest penalty, and contractor's will not be put on advance pay only status for late payments on these invoices. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve interim contract revisions for timber sale contractor filing chapter 11 bankruptcy as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski reported that the most recent Highway 10 woodyard lease expired January 31, 2016 after 3 extensions. John informed the committee that he sent the contractor a one month extension ending March 31, 2016 and that a new one extension would be mailed every month until the contractor removes his property from the yard. John indicated that the county could have leased out the woodyard to another contractor had it been vacated as was agreed. The

Administrator presented a proposal to add county owned woodyards to the department fee schedule to expedite future lease agreements. The current rate is \$1,000.00 per year. The committee discussed rental rates. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve adding county owned woodyards to the department fee schedule at a rate of \$1,200.00 per year effective April 1, 2016 and allow the Administrator to negotiate and approve future lease agreement based on this amount. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Jim presented the State annual inspection reports for Bruce Mound and compliance requirements. There were only a few minor compliance requirements that need to be addressed. No action taken.

The Administrator reported that the March County Board meeting scheduled for 3/15/16 will be held at Bruce Mound. The facility will be available for tours beginning at 10:30 am. A lunch will be provided by the Friends of Bruce Mound at 11:45 am. County board is scheduled for 12:30 pm. The Administrator hopes to have a school group booked for the day. Jeff Kolzow suggested that grooming equipment be brought out for display. No action taken.

The Administrator flex schedule was presented for approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the Administrator flex schedule as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator updated the committee about IT issues that have been ongoing. Most of the problems are occurring on the virtual workstations. Two people were interviewed for the Parks and Programs Manager position. The position remains posted indefinitely to recruit more candidates. The Administrator reported that he recently attended a personnel committee meeting. He noticed a significant error on the class and comp documents that placed new part time employees in the wrong pay grade.

Under Forest Management Updates, discussion held on current logging activity and poor winter logging conditions, DNR Liaison Forester vacancy, forestry mill tax, and removal of beaver dams that included 5 that are negatively impacting the horse trail.

Under Parks Management Updates, the Administrator reported that all seasonal lake lots at Russell Park have been filled for the 2016 season. The manager and assistant manager positions at Russell Park are currently being advertised. The National Parks Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment needs to be completed for all properties involved in the Black River County Park LAWCON conversion project.

Under Trails Management Update, the Administrator reported that all Clark County and club trails will close on February 19<sup>th</sup> due to warm weather. Discussion held on a snowmobile trail grooming complaint. The department is working with the Sheriff's Department to develop a job description for the Recreation Officer position. Dale Mitte reported that the Law Enforcement Committee is making this position a priority to fill. The Administrator presented the 2015 Recreational and Parks Patrol bill from the Sheriff's Department. Due to the minimal amount of time spent doing recreational enforcement there is no balance due for 2015.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that Gross Motors held their annual indoor sales event at the fairgrounds. The new furnaces have been delivered and will be installed in the coming weeks.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that tube parties have become very popular this season with nearly every available weekend date booked.

Under Dams Management Update. No report.

The Committee reviewed personnel wage rate changes.

January 2016 vouchers were reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Call for Public Comment – None received.

Next regular meeting date was set for March 15, 2016 at Bruce Mound following the scheduled County Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

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Rick Dailey, Secretary