

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

March 15, 2016; 9:00 a.m.

Bruce Mound Chalet, N791 Bruce Mound Ave., Merrillan, WI

Call to order 9:00 a.m.

Supervisors Present: Jeff Kolzow, Tom Wilcox, Joe Waichulis, Dale Mitte, Al Bower

Supervisors Absent: None

Others present for all or some of the meeting: Rick Dailey – Forestry and Parks Administrator; John Wendorski – Forestry Manager; Jim Smagacz – Facilities Supervisor; Sean O’ Donnell – Parks and Program Manager; Luke Nigon – Forester; Chris Schmitz – DNR Forester; Jake Kunze; Daryn Horn – Maintenance Specialist and Randy Sebestsa – County Board Supervisor.

The Administrator presented the February 18, 2016 minutes. Motion by Joe Wachulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to accept the February 18, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Jim Smagacz provided an update on the inmate labor crew for the past month. Crews have been working on oak release projects. They will be transitioning to spring park cleanup in the coming weeks. No action taken.

John Wendorski updated the committee on the Meteor Timber land acquisition project. The DNR appraisal was completed on March 3rd. The DNR is reviewing both appraisals for approval. Negotiations with Meteor Timber to establish a purchase price will begin after the appraisals have been approved. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented the 2016 Clark County Town Road Grant applications for review and award. The committee reviewed the merits of all applications. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Joe Waichulis to award the Town of Hewett \$8,000, Town of Dewhurst \$5,000, and Town of Sherwood \$2,000 to complete the road projects they submitted for funding. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented mechanical site preparation bids for spring 2017 and 2018 tree planting for committee approval. Future Forest was the low bidder for the project. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Al Bower to award the 2016 mechanical site preparation contract for

spring 2017 and 2018 tree planting to Future Forest as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented 2016 timber sale contract extensions recommendations for committee approval. Due to consecutive poor winter logging conditions, volatile markets, and saturated soil conditions during non-frozen times of the year, the department proposed a plan to extend contracts for one year without a stumpage increase if they met certain criteria. This is meant to be a one-time only exception and not a change in policy. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the 2016 timber sale contract extensions as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Luke Nigon reported to the committee on program 1 year-end summaries. Luke reviewed timber revenues, stumpage payments by contractor, interest charges, wood products harvested, and overall logging conditions for 2015. No action taken.

Under Forest Management Updates, John Wendorski reported the spring road limits were posted on the Clark County highway system on March 7th and handed out the Spring WCFA Meeting agenda. Discussion on the 2016 summer tour dates. No action taken.

The Administrator presented the 2016 emergency fire warden list for committee approval. Motion by Dale Mite, seconded by Al Bower to approve the 2016 emergency fire warden list as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented and discussed the February 2016 financial report. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Joe Waichulis to accept the February 2016 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Tom Wilcox to recess at 10:30 am and reconvene after the scheduled County Board meeting. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to reconvene at 2:20 pm. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reviewed the proposed timeline for the Sherwood Dam repair project and new information related to the project. While completing a soil analysis to support the dam repair project, Tiry Engineering determined that bedrock may be closer to the soil surface than originally thought. If this is the case, repair of the existing spillway may be a realistic option. The

committee agreed to study this option and report back prior to the March 31st County Board meeting while still maintaining the project timeline. No action taken.

Discussion held on the draft Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan that was distributed for review last month. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve Resolution 9-3-16 ADOPT THE CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2016-2021 AS THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR CLARK COUNTY and forward to the County Board for consideration. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented a proposal for whole or partial hill rental rates at Bruce Mound. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve Bruce Mound whole or partial hill rental rates as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Sean O'Donnell provided an update of the Sherwood Lake dredging project. The project is complete, including habitat work. The contractor did a great job of completing the work just prior to breakup and is in the process of being paid.

Discussion held on an ongoing snowmobile trail grooming concern. The committee reviewed previous minutes and discussions along with current departmental operating practices and procedures related to this issue. The committee felt that no changes or modifications to the current operating practices were needed. No action taken.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported on the hiring of a new Parks and Program Manager, reviewed class and compensation plan concerns related to reclassifications and discussed the sales tax audit results.

Under Parks Management Updates, Sean O'Donnell discussed recruitment efforts for seasonal park positions and 2015 park and trail revenue trends. Discussion held on maintenance concerns at the Rock Dam Park rental house, request to solicit donations from campers at Russell Park for the fireworks, Mead Lake tree drop/fish habitat project completion, Mead Lake Park Manager responsibilities and efforts to contact a consultant to complete the Black River County Parks LAWCON conversion environmental analysis.

Under Trails Management Update, discussion held on ATV routes in the Town of Mead and Township concerns about ATV access to South Mead Lake Park.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz provided an update on upcoming and recent events held at the fairground and maintenance/improvement projects. Proposed rental dates for the next 10 years were provided to the new owner of the Central Wisconsin Horse

Auction and Ayrshire Cattle group in an effort to avoid future conflicts. The Administrator is still waiting on a response from the Ayrshire group.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, discussion held on the ongoing chairlift lawsuit and a brief 2015 -16 season recap that includes closing one week early. The Administrator read a thank you letter directed to Jim for his outstanding customer service.

Under Dams Management Update, the Administrator discussed preparations for the upcoming spring high water period. At least one Mead Lake Dam gate gasket appears to be in need of repair. We will look at and evaluate all of the gate gaskets and replace as needed. The Administrator suggested that it might be appropriate to invite the Mead Lake Dam Attendants to an upcoming meeting to recognize their efforts.

There were no personnel wage rate changes.

February 2016 vouchers were reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Call for Public Comment – None received.

Next regular meeting date was set for April 21, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 4:20 pm. by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary