

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

April 21, 2016; 1:00 p.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 1:00 p.m.

Supervisors Present: Al Bower, Tom Wilcox, Joe Waichulis, Dale Mitte, Dean Zank

Supervisors Absent: None

Others present for all or some of the meeting: Rick Dailey – Forestry and Parks Administrator; John Wendorski – Forestry Manager; Marcus Aumann – Parks & Programs Manager; Jim Smagacz – Facilities Supervisor; Ian Remus – Forester; Chris Schmitz – DNR Forester; Christine Hollar – UW – Extension

The Administrator presented the March 31, 2016 minutes. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to accept the March 31, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the March 2016 financial report for committee approval. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Dale Mitte to accept the March 2016 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 helped at the fairgrounds with set up and clean up for the horse auction. They also have been working on preparing the parks in for the upcoming camping season. No action taken.

The Administrator presented the invoice and voucher for payment for the completed Sherwood Lake dredging project. Discussion held on donated and county funds available for the project cost and how these funds were applied. Discussion held on Friends of Sherwood lake request to repair the beach, concerns about the steep drop off in front of the swimming area created by the dredging project, fish stocking and no wake restriction. The Administrator informed the committee that if they wanted to reshape this area the dredging plan would need to be amended. Marcus Aumann walked the lake bed and felt the drop off was far enough away from the beach and would likely not be a concern. Buoys were discussed as a viable option to mark the designated swim area. The Administrator reported that the department has started to look into upgrading the beach. No action taken.

John Wendorski and the Administrator discussed negotiations to purchase the Meteor Timber property in Butler Township. The department offered to pay \$456,000 for the 320 acres and that offer was agreed to by Meteor Timber. Corporation Council is reviewing the Purchase and Sale Agreement sent by Meteor Timber. The Stewardship Grant application is being reviewed by the State of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee and is anticipated to be approved in the coming weeks. Motion by Joe Waichulis, Seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the negotiated purchase price of \$456,000 to buy 320 acres in the Town of Butler from Meteor Timber pending Stewardship Grant approval. Voice vote, all ayes and 1 no by Tom Wilcox, motion carried.

John Wendorski and Ian Remus presented the County Forest access plan updates for review and approval. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the County Forest access plan updates as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Jim Smagacz presented lawn mower bids for committee review and approval. Jim requested bids for both a zero turn mower and a tractor style mower. Jim recommended the purchase of a tractor style mower that would be compatible with the County's leaf vacuum. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the low bid from Tractor Central for the tractor style mower as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under Forest Management Updates, Ian Remus presented photos to the committee of a recently completed oak TSI project. Discussion has held on the importance completing these projects to maintain oak on the landscape.

Marcus Aumann presented the Russell Park concessions lease for committee approval. The lessee agrees to make five payments of \$1,400 each for a total of \$7,000 for the Russell Park concession lease. There were no other changes to the terms of the lease from 2015. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the lease agreement for the Russell Park concessions as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented a written request for County Forest moss harvesting for committee approval. John and the Administrator gave a brief history of moss harvesting activities on the county forest. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the moss harvesting request with the following terms: harvest area to be identified and flagged on site by the requestor and a forestry employee, a volume estimate will be determined by the department with assistance from a third party that has mossaing experience, permit will be issued using the third party volume estimate at a price of \$1.00 per bail, and permit is to be paid lump sum prior to any harvesting activities. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented chemical site preparation bids for Spring 2017 tree planting for committee approval. Future Forest was the low bidder for the project. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to award the 2017 chemical site preparation contract for Spring 2017 tree planting to Future Forest as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented a letter from Chase Collins indicating that he is no longer interested in pursuing a land trade with the County in Section 3 of Mentor Township. John asked the committee to approve canceling the submitted County Forest withdrawal application that is being process by the DNR for this project. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to cancel the County Forest withdrawal request for land sale/trade in Section 3, Town of Mentor. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Christine Hollar with the UW-Extension office presented a request from the Micke family to donate two octagon style picnic tables to the fairgrounds that have a plaque in memory of a family member. The Micke Family also requested permission to donate and permanently hang a barn quilt on the sheep barn. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the donation of two octagon style picnic tables with memorial plaques as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to table the barn quilt request. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to rescind the motion to table the barn quilt request. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. The committee discussed alternatives to permanently attaching a barn quilt to one of the barns at the fairgrounds. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to allow the Micke family to display the barn quilt during the fair with approval of the fair board and remove it annually. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski and Chris Schmitz gave the committee an update on the County Deer Advisory Committee's final quota and permit recommendations to be approved by the Natural Resources Board. Discussion was held on the importance of balancing a healthy deer population for hunters with forest health and regeneration concerns. No action taken.

The Administrator reported to the committee that the Maintenance Technician position is currently vacant. The individual in this position left for a higher paying job. This is the 3rd employee who has left the position in the last 3 years. Discussion was held on how or when to advertise for this vacant position as it relates to the proposed classification and compensation study. No action taken.

The Administrator reviewed the County classification and compensation study with the committee. The Administrator reviewed how the department employees are currently ranked

in the proposed plan and reiterated flaws with external and internal comparables that were used for the department. The Administrator presented the packet and timeline for reclassification requests as well as a list of positions that the department would like to submit for reclassification. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the list of positions presented for reclassification and have the department complete the necessary paperwork and supporting documentation as the timeline was presented for review at the May committee meeting. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the WCFA summer tour dates to committee to consider for attendance. No action taken.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported that a part-time employee requested and was granted a switch to seasonal status. The part-time position was filled by an interested seasonal employee. The shop has started annual four 10 hour day scheduling. Sean is working for the department through the end of April to help complete some outstanding grant related work. The department does not plan on hiring the approved Recreation Intern due to recent staff changes, the administrator would like to allot those unused hours to the part-time office assistant. Department work load has limited the time available for employees to participate in tourism committee activities.

Under Forest Management Updates, discussion held on successful acquisition of a Wild Turkey Federation Grant and the DNR Liaison position.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the parks are nearly ready for the summer camping season and all campground managers and seasonal staff positions have been filled. A new, point of sale system has been installed at Russell Memorial and Rock Dam campgrounds similar to what was used this past year at Bruce Mound. Jim Smagacz reported that the rental house in Rock Dam is getting new siding, new windows, and a new furnace and the Russell Park boat landing parking lot was reconfigured.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the ATV trail system is being inspected for the anticipated May 15th opening. If trail conditions and weather allow, the department will open the trails earlier. The Administrator reported that a new Off-Highway motorcycle registration program has been implemented by the State of Wisconsin. In the near future, the committee will have to decide if they will accept state funding from this program or continue with its own fee structure for off-highway motorcycles.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the spring horse auction went very well with the new event organizers. Northern Fence will be starting work to move the south gates to the north entrance and widening the south entrance for larger trailers. Doors have been ordered for the Quonset building.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that post season maintenance has been completed. Quotes are being solicited to fix the black top this summer.

Under Dams Management Update, the Administrator reported that there were two project showings for the Sherwood Dam project. A total of four contractors attended the showings and eight project plans have been purchased. Bids for the project are due April 25th. Clark County also was approved for the Municipal Dam grant that was applied for this past winter. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant up to \$188,000.00 for the cost of repairing the Sherwood Dam. This will be a very large savings for Clark County.

The Committee reviewed personnel wage rate changes.

March 2016 vouchers were reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Call for Public Comment – None received.

Committee discussed future 2016 Forestry and Parks Committee meeting dates.

Next regular meeting date was set for April 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. by Dale Mitte, seconded by Joe Waichulis. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary