

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

June 22, 2016; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:00 a.m.

Supervisors Present: Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, and Dean Zank

Supervisors Absent: Dale Mitte and Tom Wilcox

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; Chris Schmitz – DNR Forester; Kelsey Egelhoff – DNR Liaison; Wayne Hendrickson – County Board Chairman; Todd Schmidt – Clark County Press; Mike Schuenke – Hatfield Resident

The Administrator presented the May 20, 2016 minutes. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to accept the May 20, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the May 2016 financial report for committee approval. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to accept the May 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 have been performing general maintenance and grounds keeping at the county campgrounds, parks, and fairgrounds. No action taken.

The Administrator reported two change orders (#1 & #2) for the Sherwood Lake Dam repair project that were approved to facilitate the construction timeline of the project. Change orders #1 and #2 resulted in an overall cost savings of \$3,000 for the project. Discussion held on the discovery that when the embankment was originally constructed, the existing top soil was not stripped. This creates a less than ideal situation that increases chances of dam failure. The cost to remove the embankment and strip the topsoil is estimated at \$200,000. The county's engineer and the DNR Dam Safety Engineer are in agreement that after 80 years of history with no embankment issues, it is reasonable to proceed as originally planned. The Administrator presented two additional change orders (#3 & #4) for committee consideration. Change order #3 would extend the "safety shelf" along the entire length of the embankment to help strengthen the embankment. Estimated cost for change order #3 is \$7,541. Change order #4 would fix erosion issues and install a culvert along Dyer Road with an estimated cost of \$6,450. Tiry Engineering recommends both work orders. Rick informed the committee that the Municipal Dam Grant has a 20% contingency and these costs would fall within the scope of the contingency and 50% of

these costs will be covered under the grant. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve change orders #3 & #4 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported that he was contacted by the Pittsville Fire Department about installing a dry hydrant on Sherwood Lake. The fire department would apply for a grant to cover the cost of installation and the dry hydrant and the only cost to the Clark County would be engineering oversight during construction. The committee asked for more information about long term maintenance and liability issues. They also asked about drafting an agreement between the Department and Pittsville Fire Department if the dry hydrant is approved. No action taken on this request.

The Administrator reported on the Sherwood Lake dredging project. The Administrator attended the Friends of Sherwood Lake (FOSL) picnic last month where a donor plaque was dedicated near the boat landing. FOSL continue to raise money for Sherwood Lake fish stocking. The dredge spoils are nearly leveled. The trail will be seeded as soon as conditions allow. No action taken.

The Administrator updated the committee on the Levis Mound Chalet. An official report from the Fire Marshal has not been received to date. Research verified that the Chalet was funded by a grant and built by county personnel and volunteers in 2002. Because the structure was grant funded the County will very likely have to rebuild with, at the very least, the original footprint. Portable bathroom facilities have been located on site. The Administrator asked the committee for approval to install a temporary water source with an estimated cost of \$1,500. The majority of costs are primarily county labor. Existing well and electricity would be used along with a used pressure tank. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve installation of a temporary water station at Levis Mound as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. The Administrator reported that shortly after the fire several private "Go Fund Me" accounts were created to raise money to rebuild the chalet. To date nearly \$8,000 has been raised by these sites or is anticipated through efforts of Neillsville Area Trail Association. There is interest in using these funds to add showers to the new chalet if approved. The committee questioned whether the current sanitary system could handle the addition of showers. No action taken on this item.

John Wendorski reported on the Meteor Timber land acquisition project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant was approved by Joint Finance and a grant contract has since been executed. The DNR requested that the County purchase owner's title insurance for the match property in the Town of Foster. The closing date for this project is set for June 30, 2016. No action taken.

The Administrator reported to the committee that he has been receiving complaints about private property being erected and maintained on the public access lot at Arnold Creek. In the past months a dock, floating deck, and walkway have been installed on the lot. Construction of the walkway along the shoreline included unauthorized removal of shoreline vegetation. This public access lot is intended as walk-in access to the creek for fishing and canoe launch or a spot to temporarily moor watercraft. No other uses are permitted. The Administrator recently posted signage on June 11th indicating that all private property must be removed immediately. Previous committee action gave the Administrator

authority to remove unauthorized property on the lot. The Administrator will monitor the lot in the coming weeks and take appropriate action. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented the 2nd spring 2016 timber sale bids for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the 2nd spring 2016 timber sale bids as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on a request by Jim Paschke to purchase regular county land located between Camp Road and his lot at Mead Lake. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to forward this request to the Public Property Committee. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported to the committee that the department was contact by the DNR to address two parcels of land (15 acres) that were sold in the early 2000s but never withdrawn from County Forest Law. The parcels of land are located north of North Lake Rd in the SENW of Section 28 in Mead Township. The DNR is requesting that these parcels be formerly withdrawn from CFL. The Administrator also discussed County Forest land north of South Lake Rd in Section 29 of Mead Township that was previously sold or has multiple driveways traversing the property to access private lots along the SW shoreline of Mead Lake. The Administrator suggested that it is likely in the best interest to withdraw all County Forest land north of S Lake Rd and west to the South Mead Lake County Park boundary in order to facilitate future land sales in this area. John Wendorski will be contacting the DNR in the coming weeks to discuss the best way to clear up all these issues in the most efficient way possible. No action taken.

The Administrator presented a request from a private land owner in Section 15 of North Foster Township who asked about leasing an access driveway across county property to access their lake lot. The Administrator informed the land owner that the County generally avoids lease agreements of this type and would rather sell the property outright. The Committee discussed the merits of the request and felt this individual request could be taken up and addressed by the Public Property Committee as no County Forest Land is involved. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to forward this request to the Public Property Committee. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Chris Schmitz reported that with the closure of the Griffith Nursery in Wisconsin Rapids, the DNR was no longer going to do maintenance on the tree planters. However, after discussions with the Administrator Chris said the local DNR staff in Neillsville will would be willing to continue maintenance of the tree planters if the County would allow them to use their facilities at the shop. The Administrator agreed that this would be a good compromise in lieu of county staff being tasked with maintenance. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to allow the DNR to use county facilities to perform annual tree planter maintenance. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann provided information on the Seasonal Camping policy and revenues and administrative costs associated with seasonal camping. Marcus asked the committee consider several policy changes and asked for feedback. Current administrative costs associated with seasonal camping are excessive

and inefficient. The committee discussed several items including: monthly camping, metered electric, rate changes, and electronic reservation options. Marcus indicated that he would continue to gather ideas and feedback for future committee discussions. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented a request for an access agreement in Section 6 of Butler Township. The owner of private property north of section 6 has no legal access to their property. The previous landowner did have an access agreement with the County, but their agreement was terminated when they sold the property to the current landowner. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the access agreement in Section 6 of Butler Township at the current, approved department fee structure and removal of the earthen berm to be completed by the requestor at their expense. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the timeline, starting wage, and job posting for the soon to be vacant Facilities Supervisor position for committee approval. The starting wage presented falls within the proposed class and compensation starting pay scale for this position. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the timeline, starting wage, and job posting for the Facilities Supervisor Position as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator discussed the many external committees staff are involved in and the importance and time commitments of those committees. The F & P committee did express some concern about time commitments to external committees but acknowledged the importance of department participation. The Administrator reminded the committee that 2017 budget preparations will begin very shortly. The Administrator reported that 10 applicants submitted resumes for the vacant Maintenance Technician position. Three applicants have been selected for interviews that will take place next week. The Administrator asked the committee if any of them were interested in sitting in on the interview panel. Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, and Dean Zank volunteered to take part in the interviews scheduled for June 29th for this position. Jim Smagacz reported to the committee that staff recently completed grounds maintenance at the cemetery located on County HWY C that was part of the former county run farm facility. County staff maintains the cemetery several times a summer.

Under Forest Management Updates, John Wendorski briefed the committee on the recent WCFA Summer tour in Forest County. The Administrator reported on the WCFA Legislative/Certification meeting he recently took part in. Highlights of that meeting included discussion on changes to motorcycle registration and trail funding options available to individual counties.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the new point of sale program is working very well in all the campground stores. Camping policies will be posted at several self-registration pay tubes where they have been found to be missing. A new Russell Park t-shirt logo was presented to the committee. T-shirt prices for Russell Park were quoted at \$6.80 - \$7.85 per shirt. The new firewood policy has been implemented and a copy of the new firewood range map was presented to the committee.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that there have been no new ATV trail closures so far this season in Clark County. Jackson County ATV trails have been closed for the past two weeks due to wet weather and flooded trails; this has increased traffic in Clark County. Marcus is working to close several ATV grants before the end of the month. Marcus met with the club responsible for maintaining the Knobby Ridge motorcycle trail and they have indicated they would like to add additional signage to trail system.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the new overhead doors have been installed on the Quonset building. The south gate modifications are nearly complete, waiting for blacktop installation. The new furnaces have been installed and only need to be wired. The Holstein show is setting up for an event this weekend. The annual mud races will be held on Saturday. County staff has been preparing for the fair as time allows.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, the Administrator reported that he was subpoenaed by an attorney seeking information related to the chair lift incident.

Under Dams Management Updates, the Administrator reported that there are several gaskets leaking on the Mead Lake Dam and Tiry Engineering is inspecting them to determine what needs to be done to fix the problem.

Wage rate changes were presented to committee for review. No action taken.

May 2016 vouchers were reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank 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 July 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary