

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

July 21, 2016; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:02 a.m.

Supervisors Present: Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, Dean Zank, Tom Wilcox (arrived at 9:05) and Dale Mitte (arrived at 4:55 pm).

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; Kelsey Egelhoff – DNR Liaison; Mary Olson-Back – Administrative Assistant; Dean Glaze; Carl Hendrickson and Dave Schmidt.

The Administrator presented the June 22, 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 June 29, 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.

Tom Wilcox arrived at 9:05

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

Call for public comment – Carl Hendrickson addressed the committee about the public access lot located on Maple Rd that provides access to Arnold Creek in the Town of Dewhurst. Mr. Hendrickson acknowledged that his family had maintained a dock of some sort on the lot for the past 50 years. He questioned the recent action of the department to no longer allow such use on the public property. He said the dock has been removed per department request, but asked if there were any legal avenues that could be pursued to continue placing a dock in this location. The committee suggested that Mr. Hendrickson research the original plat for the area, contact the zoning department about ordinances, and contact the DNR Waterway Specialist about state regulations. Mr. Hendrickson also brought up the idea of buying the property from the county. The committee informed Mr. Hendrickson that a formal request for use or purchase would have to be on a future agenda for committee action. No action taken.

Dave Schmidt, resident of Rock Dam, presented a request to purchase land in Section 14 in the Town of North Foster. The property in question is immediately adjacent to Mr. Schmidt's lot and is not enrolled in county forest law. Mr. Schmidt is interested in purchasing the property in order to expand a fire safe buffer around his buildings. Committee members asked the administrator to research the shoreland zoning regulations pertaining to lot size and building permits before they can make a decision. No action taken.

The Administrator presented the insurance findings for the Levis Mound Chalet. The Administrator explained how the funds would be distributed to the county from the insurance company. The replacement cost for the building came to \$192,170.82 and the county property lost in the fire totaled \$3,547.92. The Administrator presented drawings for replacing the chalet as would be covered by the insurance company. The Administrator reported that the Fire Marshal report has not been received to date. Dean Glaze, Levis Mound volunteer, presented the committee with a drawing and plan to add shower facilities to the new chalet. The foot print of the building would not change drastically and the extra expense to add the showers would be covered by fund raising efforts. The committee then suggested that Mr. Glaze look into finding a temporary shelter option for the upcoming winter season. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to bid out the Levis Mound Chalet replacement building with both plans presented to get an accurate cost for a shower addition and include the showers in the new building to be constructed in 2017 contingent upon funding from donations and club fund raising efforts. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reviewed the preliminary capital expenditure and budget items for the 2017 Forestry, Parks, and Fairgrounds budgets. No action taken.

Jim Smagacz provided an update on the inmate labor crew for the past month. Crews have been performing general maintenance and preparing the fairgrounds for the upcoming county fair. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented a Sustainable Forestry Grant application for committee approval. Motion Tom Wilcox, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the Sustainable Forestry Grant application as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported on the storm water runoff permit for the Sherwood Lake Dredging Project. The dredge material that was added to the woods road west of the park has been seeded and we are hopeful that the permit will be closed in the coming months. No action taken.

The Administrator reported that work order change #5 for the Sherwood Lake Dam repair was authorized by the department to prevent construction delays. The work order approved raising the entire earthen berm adjacent to the head wall 4" and installing a 4" angle iron for the base of the safety railing on the principal spillway. These changes were included after it was found that the original headwall was 4" shorter than plan specifications. The changes will increase the overall depth of the lake

by 4" and were approved by the DNR. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve work order #5 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann presented several letters he has received from residents that are concerned about the department's seasonal camping policy. Marcus also presented information that shows the department is not losing money for electric sites at Russell Memorial Campground. Mary Olson-Back joined the meeting and explained the capabilities of the current online reservation system and its inability to incorporate the current seasonal camping policy. The vendor of the department's current reservation program does have a new version with several upgrades including the ability to facilitate online extended stay camping reservations. The cost of the new program is approximately \$3,500 and would improve department efficiency. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to purchase the upgraded reservation software as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. The committee asked Marcus to bring back ideas for the department to transition into a seasonal camping policy that would allow for the use of the online registration system to improve efficiencies and that could correct the current congestion on the waiting list.

Marcus Aumann reviewed the campground storage policy with the committee. The current storage policy is not able to be administered within the county's current online reservation software. Marcus will research the issue and bring back a policy proposal for committee approval. No action taken.

John Wendorski reported on land acquisition in the Town of Butler. The property transaction was closed on June 30th and all deeds have been recorded. The newly acquired property and the match property will be enrolled in County Forest Law in the coming months. No action taken.

The Administrator presented a request to purchase county land adjacent to lot #67 of the Hay Creek Assessor's Plat in the Town of North Foster. The requestor wants to purchase a 26' X 40' piece of land that is currently being used as a garden. The committee discussed the ramifications and precedents that approving this request may have for other county property. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to deny the request to purchase county land adjacent to lot #61 of the Hay Creek Assessor's Plat in the Town of North Foster as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented a request to purchase county land adjacent to lot #61 of the Hay Creek Assessor's Plat in the Town of North Foster. The requestor wants to purchase a 25' strip along lot #67 in order to install a septic system. There is a shared drive that would be inside of the boundaries of the proposed request. The committee discussed the ramifications and precedents that approving this request may have for other county property. The committee asked the Administrator to get legal advice from Corporation Council as well as any zoning regulations that could affect the decision. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented a request to cancel three timber sale contracts. John informed the committee that the owner of B & M Logging, Benjamin Marquardt, is incapacitated for the foreseeable future and can no longer complete his contracts. B & M Logging has three timber sale contracts with

Clark County: #1579, #1626, & #1669. John presented a copy of the department's timber sale contract default policy for review and he discussed past committee actions for similar situations. Contracts #1626 and #1669 have not been started to date. The performance bonds for these sales total \$16,096.25. Contract #1579 has is about half complete and all stumps are paid to date. The performance bond for Contract #1579 is \$10,000. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to cancel Contract #1626 and #1669 and release the performance bonds in full and cancel Contract #1579 but retain \$2,000 of the \$10,000 performance bond to cover department expenses relating to resetting the timber sale. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported that the Pittsville Fire Department request to install a dry hydrant at Sherwood Lake has been withdrawn. No action taken.

Department Maintenance Vacancy – no report.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported that the new Maintenance Technician will begin work on July 26. The Administrator and committee discussed the frustrations of class and compensation process and the lack of transparency that seems to be occurring. Two applications were received for the soon to be vacant Facilities Supervisor position. Interviews are scheduled for July 26. Tom Wilcox, Joe Waichulis, and Dean Zank volunteered to be part of the interview panel.

Under Forest Management Updates, John Wendorski updated the committee on the resignation of an LTE Forester. Discussion also held on impending county forest withdrawals in the Mead Lake area.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that there has been some staff turnover at Rock Dam Campground, but all positions are filled at this time. There have been some management conflicts between Rock Dam and Mead Lake campgrounds; Marcus hopes to address these issues with a new management structure next season. The department is still attempting to retrieve keys from the former Russell Memorial Campground manger.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann met with the volunteers that maintain the Knobby Ridge motorcycle trails to set facility priorities for the near future. Marcus met with the horse trail volunteers to discuss bridge maintenance. The ATV trail between intersections #29 and #30 is temporarily closed for safety due to timber harvest operations. Tom Wilcox asked if the off-road motorcycle groups have shared any opinions about the upcoming registration program being implemented by the state. No feedback has been received.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the fairgrounds vision session was held last week with good attendance. A representative from the UW-Extension program attend the session and updated the group on changes occurring to the Extension program and how those changes will affect county fair organizations. Fifteen new banquet tables have been ordered for the fairgrounds to replace worn out tables currently being used.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that he is getting bids for crack sealing the pavement in the parking lot. The department has started working on the plan of operations for the 2016/2017 winter season.

Under Dams Management Updates, no report.

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

June 2016 vouchers were reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Committee discussed future 2016 Forestry and Parks Committee meeting dates.

Next regular meeting date was set for August 17, 2016 at noon in the Courthouse Auditorium.

The committee left the courthouse at 3:10 pm to tour Forest and Parks Facilities. The committee traveled to Sherwood County Park to inspect the park, the ongoing Sherwood Lake Dam repair project and completed dredging project. The committee then traveled to the Sherwood Shooting Range and Levis Mound trailhead to inspect facilities.

The committee returned to the courthouse at 4:55 pm and was joined by Dale Mitte.

Discussion held on progress of the Sherwood Lake Dam repair project and possible application of an epoxy/bonding agent to the face of the dam.

Motion to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary