

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

August 17, 2016; 12:00 pm

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 12:05 p.m.

Supervisors Present: Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, Dean Zank, and Tom Wilcox (Arrived at 3:30)

Supervisors Absent: Dale Mitte

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; Einar Fransen – Forest Technician; Jake Burnette – Corporation Counsel; Steve Edge – DNR Team Leader; Pete Wolter – DNR Real Estate Specialist; Bill Neville – County Board; Gerald Bizjak – Town of Butler Chair; Carl Hendrickson; Mike Schuenke; Gary and Suzanne Wulf

The Administrator presented the July 21, 2016 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to accept the July 21, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the July 26, 2016 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to accept the July 26, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The proposed 2017 Fairgrounds budget was reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the 2017 Fairgrounds budget as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reviewed the 2017 Forestry and Parks budget. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the 2017 Forestry and Parks budget as presented and increase the capital equipment budget by \$100,000.00 and increase the land purchase account by \$61,000.00 and make the appropriate adjustment to the fund balance draw. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion on transferring funds from the unreserved portion of the fund balance to the capital Infrastructure Fund. The committee decided to continue this discussion later in the meeting.

Discussion held on goals and progress towards meeting the goals of the accelerated harvest schedule. No action taken.

Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to recess the meeting at 2:35 pm. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to reconvene the meeting at 3:30 pm. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Pete Wolter, WI DNR, presented an offer from the State of Wisconsin for Clark County to acquire the Dickenson Creek Fishery Property (80 acres) in the Town of Butler. The State of Wisconsin does have a timber sale set on the property that is not currently under contract. Clark County is being offered two purchase prices for the property. Option 1, Clark County can purchase the property with all the standing timber, as is, for a price of \$102,000.00 (\$1,275/acre). Option 2, the DNR retains the right to and administers the timber sale currently set for harvest and Clark County can purchase the property for \$42,000.00 (\$525/acre). Current standing timber value for the property is conservatively estimated to be around \$160,000.00. The DNR timber sale is conservatively appraised for about \$60,000.00. The estimated value of standing timber post-DNR timber harvest is approximately \$100,000.00. John Wendorski estimated that the County could set several timber sales after a DNR harvest in the next 12 years totaling \$30,000-\$40,000.00. Al Bower yielded the floor to Gerald Bizjak. Mr. Bizjak stated that he feels the county owns enough property in Butler Township and felt that private ownership would be more beneficial to the Town as a whole and lead to better wildlife management on the property. Mr. Bizjak also acknowledged that he would be very interested in acquiring the property as he owns land immediately adjacent. The committee asked the Department to research the financial impacts to the Town using all three scenarios and bring this item back next month for a decision. No action taken.

Al Bower yielded the floor to Bill Neville for comment on the Arnold Creek public access lot. Mr. Neville was in support of finding a way to accommodate a privately owned and maintained pier on the public access lot. Al Bower yielded the floor to Carl Hendrickson to present any new proposals for the public access lot. Mr. Hendrickson suggested that residents living in that area could form a group, purchase a pier, give it to the county, and then maintain the pier for public use. Maintenance and liability issues of such an arrangement were discussed. Corporation Counsel Burnette indicated that this proposal would only be legally acceptable if it was guaranteed that all public would have access to the pier at all times. Al Bower yielded the floor to Mike Schuenke who owns land adjacent to the public access lot. Mr. Schuenke indicated that past practice on the previous pier was such that multiple craft owned by one family were moored for lengths at a time preventing or discouraging others from using the pier and this led to installation of additional unauthorized structures for personal use. The committee discussed the precedent that would be set if private property were allowed to be placed on public land. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded Dean Zank to deny the request to place or install a private pier on the Arnold Creek access lot and continue to manage the property as it is intended. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the July 2016 financial report. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to accept the July 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, setup, and tear down at the fairgrounds for the county fair. No action taken.

The Administrator reported on the Sherwood Lake Dam repairs. The project is entering the final stages. The Administrator reported that the contractor made an error while installing the stop log trolley that resulted in additional costs. The contractor asked the county to cover the expense. The Administrator said the plan drawings specifically stated that they were not to scale and the error was due to the contractor neglecting to make proper measurements and thus the county is not responsible to cover the expense. The Administrator reported that the Pittsville Fire Department request to install a dry hydrant at Sherwood Lake has been withdrawn. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented a revised camper storage policy for committee approval. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the revised camper storage policy as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann presented a revised seasonal camping policy for committee approval. Discussion was held on the current seasonal camping practices. Marcus Aumann then presented a new extended stay camping policy. Marcus stated that this new policy would remove a vast majority of staff oversight and would place the policy implementation on the online campground reservation software currently in use. It would also open up all current seasonal sites to an annual first come first serve system, allowing all those who wish to have an opportunity to reserve a site for the season the option to do so. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the changes to the current seasonal camping policy and operate under its direction until March 13th, 2017. Beginning March 13th, 2017, the department shall move to the extended stay camping policy and discontinue the use of past seasonal camping policies. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented Resolution 23-9-16 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY CONSERVATION AIDS PROGRAM/FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT for committee approval. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Dean Zank to approve Resolution 23-9-16 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY CONSERVATION AIDS PROGRAM/FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Jim Smagacz and Marcus Aumann presented the Bruce Mound 2016/2017 plan of operations. There were only minor changes from last season. The department was recently informed that the volunteer who organized Friday night activities may not be available this year. The department is considering several options if changes need to be made for the Friday night schedule. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the Bruce Mound 2016/2017 plan of operations as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported to the committee about discussions with Corporation Counsel in regards to county land sales not enrolled in county forest law. Corporation Counsel's opinion is that any requests to purchase county land not enrolled in county forest law should be reviewed and acted on by the Public Property Committee. The Administrator will be attending the upcoming Public Property Committee meeting to help facilitate the transition of these requests away from the Forestry and Parks Committee. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented a request from the current Russell Park Concessions lessee to reduce the payments due in September and October due to slow sales. The committee discussed the request and concluded that the total lease price is very reasonable considering past sales history and that the monthly payments were developed to avoid the lessee having to pay the entire lease payment up front as a lump sum. The committee agreed that it is not interested in reducing the price of the lease and will continue with the current payment terms as set. No action taken.

The Administrator reported to the committee that recent Land Conservation Committee agenda had the following item: Parks and Forestry possible interest in taking over Sportsman Lake. The committee did acknowledge the Forestry and Parks staff may have more expertise to manage certain aspects of the property but the committee questioned who had authority to delegate management responsibilities. The also had concerns about the Forestry and Parks Department ability to adequately manage the property as it is not in close proximity to any other department operations. No action taken.

John Wendorski informed the committee that the Annual WCFA fall meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2016 in Weston at 9:30. This is a one day conference. When the agenda is announced John will contact committee members to see if they are interested in attending. No action taken.

The Administrator presented a timeline, plan, and wage recommendation to fill the recently vacated Maintenance Specialist position. The Administrator recommended posting the position internally for one week and if a qualified candidate applies and is accepted, offer the position at the 6 month salary of \$21.17/hour. Personnel Committee will have to approve the revised starting rate because it is above the normal starting rate for the position. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the timeline, plan, and wage rate to fill the recently vacated Maintenance Specialist position as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Potential department maintenance vacancy – no report.

The Forestry and Parks Administrator flex schedule was presented for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the Forestry and Parks Administrator flex schedule. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under General Department Updates – The Administrator reported on results of the department class and compensation appeals.

Under Forest Management Updates, discussion held on equipment purchase, current logging activity and site prep work for spring 2017 tree planting.

Under Parks Management Updates, Sherwood Park disk golf course is being installed by a volunteer organization. In the coming weeks, inmates will be utilized to clear brush in the proposed disk golf course area. The boat launch ramp at Sherwood Lake is scheduled to be completed next week. A thank

you card from a volunteer group that recently completed some community service projects at Mead Lake Campground was read.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that department staff has started brushing ATV trails south of HWY 10. A bridge engineer recently met with Marcus to inspect several bridges. Marcus will be attending the ORV grant funding meeting next week in Wausau. The volunteers working to maintain Levis Mound have provided the department a list of personal property currently being stored in a shed near the trailhead as requested.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that there were no major maintenance issues during the fair. The grandstand events on Thursday and Friday had to be canceled due to rain. There were very few parking issues or complaints about the South entrance gate.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, the Administrator informed the committee that the chairlift lawsuit may be dropped after recent correspondences that were received by the department.

Under Dams Management Updates, the Administrator reported that the new gaskets for the Mead Lake Dam have arrived and the department will work with Tiry Engineering to properly install them. The Rock Dam Lake Association was given "Closed" signs to place at the boat launch in case of emergency.

Wage rate changes – none presented.

July 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.

The Administrator presented a recommendation for the Forestry and Parks Committee to transfer 1.1 million dollars into the reserved/undesignated capital infrastructure fund in 2017. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to recommend to Finance Committee the transfer of \$1.1 million into the reserved/undesignated capital infrastructure fund in 2017. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Next regular meeting date was set for September 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary