

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

October 14, 2016; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:00 a.m.

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

Supervisors Absent:

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; Daryn Horn – Facilities Supervisor; Kelsey Egelhoff – DNR Liaison; Dan Clough – Neillsville

The Administrator presented the September 16, 2016 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to accept the September 16, 2016 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Daryn Horn provided an update on the inmate labor crew for the past month. Crews have been clearing brush at Sherwood Park for the new disc golf course, helped sand bag around the dam at Sherwood Lake for resurfacing project, and started pre-season hill maintenance at Bruce Mound. Dale Mitte suggested that the inmate crew could pick garbage out of the Sherwood Lake bed before stop logs are installed. Daryn will try and schedule that in the next week or two. No action taken.

The Administrator presented the 2013 committee policy for the posting of area businesses and services at forest, park, and trail location for annual committee approval. Dan Clough representing the Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce reviewed the Chamber's roll of maintaining an update list of business for the poster. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the 2013 policy for the posting of area businesses and services at forest, park, and trail locations to be reviewed in 2017 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the September 2016 financial report for committee approval. 2016 YTD department revenues exceed expenditures by \$1.93 million. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Tom Wilcox to accept the September 2016 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under Sherwood Lake Dam repairs, Dale Mitte updated the committee on the progress of the concrete resurfacing project at Sherwood Lake Dam. The Administrator presented the amended and approved municipal dam grant for committee review. The amended municipal dam grant includes approximately \$57,000 of additional funding to help cover unexpected construction costs. To date the entire project expenses exceed budget projections by \$5,000. The Administrator also presented a letter from Tiry

Engineering that explains why engineering costs exceed original estimates. The Administrator reported that the department will install a stream elevation gauge on the new dam to better monitor lake levels in the future. No action taken.

The Administrator reported on the September 20 and 21, 2016 flood damage to department maintained facilities. Marcus Aumann and John Wendorski reported on flood damage to recreational trails and forest roads. The Administrator reported that the Governor signed and submitted a state disaster declaration for FEMA to review. FEMA's disaster declaration will be determined in the coming weeks. The Administrator reported that the Finance Committee approved allowing Forestry and Parks Department to exceed their 2016 expenditure budget to address flood damaged facilities and infrastructure pending approval by the Forestry and Parks Committee. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve exceeding the 2016 Forestry and Parks expenditure budget to repair flood damaged facilities and infrastructure. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported on embankment damage at Snyder Lake Dam resulting from the September 20 and 21 flood event. The embankment was severely scoured on the east side of the spillway. The WI DNR ordered a drawdown of Snyder Lake as a result of the damage. The drawdown is in effect until the structure is repaired. The Administrator has contracted with Flambeau Engineering to complete a hydraulic analysis and prepare a plan to reconstruct the embankment. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented the 2016 fall timber sale prospectus for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dale Mitte to approve the 2016 fall timber sale prospectus as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator updated the committee on the progress of Black River County Park LAWCON conversion application. The application is currently being reviewed by the National Park Service for approval. No action taken.

The Administrator and John Wendorski discussed the Town of Hewett Columbia Assessor's Plat being considered. The majority of county forest land located within the plat has already been surveyed. There will be very little benefit to county forest lands as a result of this plat. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann updated the committee on the progress of recruitment for the Construction Specialist/Carpenter vacancy. To date, 18 applications have been received for the position. Interviews will be scheduled for October 27th. Committee members volunteering to sit on the interview panel are Tom Wilcox, Joe Waichulis, and Dean Zank. No action taken.

Under General Department Updates – the Administrator reported that seasonal campground staff and part time employees are being laid off for the year

Under Forest Management Updates, discussion held on the September WCFA annual meeting, understory scarification for oak regeneration, WCFA press release to recognize national forest products week and delivery of recently purchased equipment.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the department received a request to place a memorial park bench at Russell Memorial Campground near the beach area. Committee had no issues with the suggested location as per department policy. Marcus informed the committee that the lone seasonal camp site at Mead Lake will have to be reviewed next month due to conflicts with the new reservation system. The committee discussed camping fees at Snyder Lake following the state ordered lake drawdown. It was agreed that Snyder Lake is a secondary attraction for the campground and there is no reason to set up a reduced fee schedule while the lake is drawn down. The Administrator reported that insurance will pay for water and bathroom facilities at Levis Mound through the end of August and the County insurance carrier denied the personal property claim submitted by the Levis Mound volunteers for loss of their property during the fire.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that he recently met with several of the horse clubs that volunteer to maintain the department's horse trails. Discussions included expectations, timelines, and trail infrastructure requests. Marcus reported the ORV Council & Snowmobile Council held money back for funding of trails damaged by recent floods in the northern part of the state and it may be possible for us to apply for some of that funding for our repairs.

Under Fairgrounds Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the fall horse auction went very well. On behalf of the Men's Club, Jim submitted a request to rebuild the cooler in the Men's Club building. The Men's Club would supply the labor if the County purchases the materials for the project in the amount of \$4,589.24. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to purchase the materials to rebuild the Men's Club cooler in 2016 with the Men's Club members to provide the labor for the project in 2017. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Jim reported that he is in the process of getting quotes for additional black top work this fall. Fall storage will take place at the fairgrounds on November 5, 2016.

Under Bruce Mound Management Updates, Jim Smagacz reported that the ski and tube hills are being mowed in preparation for the upcoming season. The facility has been rented several times in the last few weeks for weddings.

Under Dams Management Updates – no report

Wage Rate Changes – none presented

September 2016 vouchers were presented for committee approval. Motion by Dale Mitte, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Call for public comment – none received

The committee discussed meeting dates for 2017. The committee agreed to establish the second Tuesday of every month as the regularly scheduled meeting date in 2017. No action taken.

Next regular meeting date was set for November 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary