

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes
February 19, 2019; 2:30 p.m.
Courthouse RM 305, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 2:32 p.m.

Supervisors Present: Tom Wilcox, Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, and Allen Krause, Jr

Supervisors Absent: Dean Zank

Others present for all or some of the meeting: Rick Dailey – Forestry and Parks Administrator; John Wendorski – Forestry Manager; Marcus Aumann – Parks & Programs Manager; Daryn Horn – Facilities Supervisor; Mary Olson-Back – Office Business Manager; Einar Fransen – DNR Liaison

The Administrator presented the January 15, 2019 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Allen Krause to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the January 22, 2019 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the January 22, 2019 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator and Mary Olson-Back presented the December 2018 financial report for committee review. Discussion held on Munis Implementation. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to receive and file the December 2018 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

January 2019 Financial Report – No Report

Daryn Horn presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Inmate crews completed the Mead Lake Dam embankment clearing project, have been splitting firewood, and have been cleaning at Bruce Mound during non-business hours. Inclement weather has limited inmate crew availability the past month. No action taken.

Clark County Forest Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Process to Update – No Report

The Administrator reviewed the process that was used to withdrawal land from county forest law in Section 7, Town of Mead. The property was successfully withdrawn from County Forest Law in 2018 and because it is regular county land, it is now under the jurisdiction of the Public Property Committee. The Public Property Committee had a request to purchase some of the land and is working through the process. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented several options to the committee for the future replacement of the Piston Bully Snow Groomer that is used at Bruce Mound. The groomer is scheduled to be replaced in 2020, but the tiller needs to be fixed or replaced prior to the 2019/2020 skiing season. Committee will consider all of the options and asked the Department to get specific costs regarding repairs to the current tiller. No action taken.

The Administrator reviewed County Forest ordinances that the department in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department is revising. The Committee provided feedback to the revision suggestions and a final version of the ordinances will be drafted by Corporation Counsel and presented to the Committee for approval prior to County Board consideration. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented a proposal to host a non-motorized trail design class at Levis Mound this upcoming fall. The class has room to facilitate 16 participants, of which, 12 would be from volunteer groups that maintain trails for the Department. The department is eligible for a \$5,000.00 grant reimbursement through the WI DNR to help offset the total cost. Out of pocket cost to the Department would be about \$3,000.00. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the proposal to host a non-motorized trail design class as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Einar Fransen presented the 2019 emergency fire warden list for committee approval. Motion by Allen Krause, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the 2019 emergency fire warden list as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Turkey Stamp Grant Application – No Report

John Wendorski presented a National Wild Turkey Federation grant application for committee approval. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Al Bower to approve the National Wild Turkey Federation grant application as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the Forestry and Parks seasonal pay schedule with revision for committee approval. The revision clarifies that wage rate increases are not guaranteed and are at the discretion of the Forestry and Parks administrative staff. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the Forestry and Parks seasonal pay schedule with revision as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator updated the Committee on the status of the Fairgrounds revitalization project including fundraising efforts. No action taken.

John Wendorski reported that Ceres Timber LLC countered our offer of \$355,600.00 for the purchase of 280 acres in the Town of Sherwood with a price of \$400,000.00. Motion by Allen Krause, seconded by Tom Wilcox to have the Department contact the seller and inform them that the Department is staying with the original offer. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reviewed the class and compensation proposal that was recently distributed by the Personnel Committee. The Administrator indicated that the proposal structure has many improvements compared to the current plan and that most of the Department's concerns were addressed. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented the agenda for the WCFA 2019 spring County Forest administrators meeting for review. Joe Waichulis, Tom Wilcox, Allen Krause, and Al Bower all expressed interested in attending the meeting along with the Administrator, John Wendorski, and several other Department employees. No action taken.

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

Under General Department Updates – No report

Under Forest Management Update, discussion held on logging activity, invasive grant for Sportsman Lake property, new Forestry Tech start date, upcoming meeting with DNR fire control to discuss last year's arson fires and investigation, DNR time standards calculation, WCFA Executive Secretary retirement date, UWSP soil survey and DNR bear genetics study.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that he will begin the rehire process for seasonal parks staff in the coming weeks, the County IT Department has decided that they will host the new recreation software in-house, the Department is applying for a three year grant through Cummins Filtration to plant trees at several parks and the Fairgrounds, MSA has completed several plans for the Russell Park storm water runoff project that will be reviewed by the Department, and the Department was contacted by the Thorp FFA about organizing a spring cleanup weekend at one of the County campgrounds.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the winter ATV/Snowmobile trails are open County wide, Jackson County is banning the use of UTVs on their winter trail system effective immediately due to severe rutting damage on groomed trails and they will be considering a permanent ban on UTVs on winter trails to be decided before next season, and the Neillsville Area Trail Association volunteers that maintain the Levis Mound cross-country ski and fat bike trails are concerned about hikers walking on groomed trails even though that activity is not prohibited except on cross-country ski trails.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that new LED lights have been installed in the show arena and the cost is partly covered by a Focus on Energy grant, the Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce asked if they could use the fairgrounds as a shuttle pickup location this summer for a local dairy breakfast event. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Allen Krause to allow the Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce to use the Fairgrounds as a shuttle pickup location during an upcoming

dairy breakfast at no charge. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Daryn also reported that the message board has not been working properly for several months and the company that installed it is working to fix it at no cost to the County due to faulty equipment. Daryn asked the committee for approval to install coin operated showers at the Fairgrounds and charge the same rates as are charged at other County facilities. Motion by Allen Krause, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the installation of coin operated showers at the Fairgrounds and charge the same rates as are charged at other County facilities as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the past month's attendance numbers have been strong, a bearing went out on the rope tow but was fixed quickly and feedback for the new colored lights on the tube hill is positive. He presented a copy of the survey that will be used to gather feedback from users at Bruce Mound in the coming months. The recent State inspection of the facility found zero corrective actions needing to be addressed.

Under Dams Management Updates – The Administrator reported that a water show was again booked at Mead Lake for the upcoming summer.

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

Vouchers for January 2019 were presented for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve vouchers for January 2019 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Committee Chair opened the floor for public comment. No comments received.

Next meeting date was set for March 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 6:41 p.m. by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary