

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

May 8, 2018; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:00 a.m.

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

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; Daryn Horn – Facilities Supervisor; Mary Olson-Back – Office Business Manager; Justin Kapusta – DNR Liaison; Wayne Hendrickson - County Board Chairman

The Administrator presented the April 10, 2018 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Al Bower to approve the April 10, 2018 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the April 2018 financial report for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to accept the April 2018 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. John Wendorski and Marcus Aumann presented summaries of their respective programs for the newest committee member Allen Krause, Jr.

The Administrator presented the year end 2017 financial report for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to accept the year end 2017 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Daryn Horn presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Inmate crews have been picking up debris at Sherwood Lake Campground. Discussion held on allowing the inmates to work at Rock Dam Campground. The Committee did not support initiating discussions with local residents to use the inmate crew at Rock Dam Campground. No action taken.

John Wendorski presented quotes for the purchase of gravel for Horse Creek Forest Road. The low bid was submitted by John S. Olynick, Inc. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to award the Horse Creek Forest Road gravel bid to John S. Olynick, Inc. as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussions held on the 280 acre Sherwood Township land acquisition project and offer to purchase. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to make an offer to purchase 280 acres in sections 9

and 10 of Sherwood Township at the appraised value and contingent upon approval by the County Board and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funding. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented the May 3, 2018 timber sale bids for committee approval. The only bid for tract 38-17 did not include a mixed hardwood bolt price. John contacted the bidder and he indicated that he intended to bid \$15.00/ton for the mixed hardwood bolts. John explained that this tract received no bids in two previous bid lettings and only one bid was received on May 3rd. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the bid for tract 38-17 and include a price of \$15.00/ton for mixed hardwood bolts bringing the total bid to \$38,272.00. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Dean Zank to award the remaining timber sale bids to the high bidders. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented a revised lease agreement with the Clark County Agricultural Society with minor changes. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the lease agreement with the Clark County Agricultural Society as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator updated the committee on the Fairgrounds building project. The Administrator reported that the fairgrounds fundraising committee met for the first time on April 12, 2018. The committee reviewed the Fairgrounds strategic plan and discussed ideas to start promotional and fundraising efforts. The agenda and minutes from the first meeting were distributed. Daryn Horn discussed possible styles, size, and overall design of a new building. The committee directed Daryn to continue contacting engineers. No action taken.

The Administrator presented draft resolution 17-5-18 purchase of lands south of the Loyal Highway shop to replace Highway lands adjacent to the County Fairgrounds. The Administrator reported the Highway Committee's offer to purchase the land in Loyal has recently been accepted. The Administrator asked the committee to schedule a meeting on May 30, 2018 at 6:30 pm to approve the resolution prior to County Board. No action taken.

Mary Olson-Back reported that the part-time office assistant has submitted her resignation. The Administrator presented the job description, position announcement, and a starting wage of \$12.49/hour. Due to increased Munis workload, it is important to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the starting wage of \$12.49/hour for the part-time office assistant position as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

John Wendorski presented the Town Road Grant program renewal for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the renewal of the Town Road Grant program for another three years with no changes. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on the April 29, 2018 wildfires on county property. A wildfire in the Town of Hewett was started by turkey hunters and burned about 35 acres of county forest land. A wildfire in the Town of Dewhurst was started by the improper ash disposal by the group that rented the Bruce Mound Chalet

and burned about 90 acres. About 1/3 of the land was county owned and the rest was privately owned. The committee asked the Administrator to look into recovering costs for property damage, lost timber value and restoration from the responsible parties. The Administrator presented a letter of appreciation thanking the WI DNR for their efforts in containing both fires. Two additional wildfires occurred on the County forest in Foster and Hewett Townships on May 7, 2018. Both fires are under investigation at this time. No action taken.

The 2018 WCFA summer tour agenda was reviewed. No action taken.

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

Under General Department Updates – The Administrator reported the County audit was completed last week and the department was not notified of any inconsistencies. The April snowstorm affected several events at the fairgrounds and Bruce Mound and the shop employees have started working ten hour days. The Administrator discussed the importance of the Corporation Counsel position as it currently exists to this department.

Under Forest Management Update, John Wendorski provided an update of the 2018 tree planting project and summer intern.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the Levis Chalet in-floor heating issues are being studied, the Sherwood shower plans have been approved and the contractor is hoping to begin work next month. Shirts will be purchased for new park employees again this year and seasonal park staff recruitment was challenging with very few applicants. Discussion held on the Personnel Department interpretation of benefits for part-time employees.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the new fairgrounds sign is being used to display upcoming events, county staff assisted in snow removal prior to the annual horse auction and several small events are scheduled at the Fairgrounds in the coming weeks. Daryn Horn asked the committee for permission to use approximately 20 tables from the Fairgrounds for a cancer benefit at Snyder Park in May. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to allow Daryn Horn to borrow approximately 20 tables from the Fairgrounds to be used at the “Pay It Forward” cancer benefit. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the new vault toilet at the horse trail parking lot on Timber Lane Forest Rd has been installed, ATV and truck use on trails in Eau Claire County is being scrutinized and it’s likely that Clark County will have to take some sort of action in the near future. ATV trails will open early on May 12, 2018. The new grader has been delivered to the shop.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that a wedding is booked at the Chalet next week.

Under Dams Management Updates, the Administrator reported that he met with Ayers at Mead Lake Dam to answer questions related to the feasibility study and clarify current dam operations.

Wage rate changes were presented for review.

April 2018 vouchers were presented for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve vouchers as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

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

Next meeting date was tentatively set for May 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 3:07 p.m. by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary