

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

June 11, 2019; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse RM 101, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:00 a.m.

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

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; Einar Fransen – DNR Liaison; Wayne Hendrickson – County Board Chair; Jacob Brunette – County Attorney; Terri Domaszek – Comptroller; Heather Roman – Assistant Comptroller; Janilee Zvolena – Personnel Manager; Natalie Erpenbach – Clark County Community Foundation, Dan Clough – Neillsville Improvement Corporation (NIC)

The Administrator presented the May 14, 2019 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the May 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Dan Clough, representing the Neillsville Improvement Corporation (NIC), presented a summary of the proposed Rails to Trails project from Neillsville to Granton to Chili. Dan asked the committee to partner with NIC on development and maintenance grant applications. Dan explained that if the County partners with NIC, grant applications will rank higher and more likely to be funded. NIC will do all the planning, grant writing, grant administration, building, and future maintenance of this trail. The county could approve and sign grant applications with no further involvement if they choose. The committee indicated that if the County were to support the project as a partner on grant applications they would like to see an agreement that spells out expectations of all parties and they may want a committee member to be part of the grant oversight committee to make sure funds are appropriated accordingly. Dan indicated that he would work with the department to draft an MOU for committee review and consideration in the coming months. No action taken.

Discussion held on lease agreement expiring in 2020 with Badger Telecom INC for placement of telecommunications equipment on County Forest land in the Town of Mead. Badger Telecom is asking for a new 30-year lease for \$1,000.00. County Attorney's opinion was that a new lease agreement is negotiable. Committee directed the Administrator and County Attorney to make a counter proposal for the lease agreement with terms to include 10-years and \$2,000.00 along with improved legal protections for the County. No action taken.

Discussion held on a proposed application/permit to operate a motorized vehicle on County Forest lands. County Attorney's opinion was that the new permit complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Committee discussed several of the permit conditions in depth and recommended that a speed limit is not generally enforced and that indemnification clause should be consistent with other documents being drafted. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the application/permit to operate a motorized vehicle on County Forest lands as presented with the removal of a specific speed limit and revised indemnification language in the permit conditions. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Committee directed the department to implement the new application/permit effective January 1, 2020 to allow time to notify the general public about the changes being made.

Discussion was held on the trail known as the county line ATV trail that lies between the Town of Mentor and Jackson County in sections 33 through 36 of Mentor Township. Marcus Aumann reviewed the maintenance history of this trail and indicated that the department has been maintaining the trail as an ATV trail for a number of years. Recently landowners adjacent to the trail have called into question public access on the trail. The County Attorney researched the trail in question and is of the opinion that the trail has town road status and that status was never properly abandoned. Marcus reported that the department will no longer do any maintenance on the road and will remove any signs or gates that restrict traffic on the road. A letter will also be sent to both townships adjacent to the road indicating that the County is of the opinion that it is a town road and maintenance is their responsibility. No action taken.

The Administrator and Natalie Erpenbach updated the committee on the Fairgrounds Revitalization project fundraising efforts and the importance of establishing a project timeline to continue fundraising momentum. The committee discussed the pros and cons of funding a portion of the project with fund balance. The committee discussed how much the County would be willing to contribute towards the project to ensure that the project comes to fruition. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank support the project and include the multi-purpose livestock barn in the 2020 budget in order to begin construction of the livestock barn following the 2020 fair with a portion of the balance of the funds not raised to be transferred from the Forestry and Parks fund balance and to forward this recommendation to finance committee for consideration and approval. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Mary Olson-Back presented the 2019 year to date financial summary for committee review. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to receive and file the 2019 year to date financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Daryn Horn presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Inmate crews have been mowing and trimming park wet areas to help catch up. Inmate crews scheduled on Fridays from now through September are not guaranteed because correctional facility staff availability is limited. No action taken.

The committee reviewed two request for options for bidding a new department pickup truck. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the request for quotes for a new crew cab pickup truck as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann presented a lease agreement with Selk Electronics for internet services at several Forestry and Parks campgrounds and facilities. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the Selk Electronics lease agreement for internet service as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Personnel Manger reviewed concerns for compensating the Mead Dam operator position. Minimum wage and overtime rules no longer allow for the current compensation plan. The Personnel Manager proposed that the position be classified as a part-time Parks Worker with Mead Dam operation duties. The position would be placed on the class and compensation pay scale as a Parks Worker with on-call pay of \$2.00/hr. when at least one gate is open one foot or more. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the Mead Lake Dam operator compensation plan as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Timber Sale Bids – No bids were received on unsold sales from the May bid opening.

The Administrator presented RESOLUTION – APPROVING SALE OF COUNTY FOREST LAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF LAND FROM COUNTY FOREST CROP LAW IN TOWN OF LEVIS for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve RESOLUTION – APPROVING SALE OF COUNTY FOREST LAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF LAND FROM COUNTY FOREST CROP LAW IN TOWN OF LEVIS as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on department social media sites. Committee requested that Marcus be added as an administrator for the Fairgrounds Revitalization Facebook page. Motion by Allen Krause, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve social media sites as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on agreement for rental of forestry equipment. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Al Bower to approve the agreement for rental of forestry equipment as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator asked the committee for feedback about purchasing department shirts and hats for employees and committee members. Marcus Aumann reported that the new part-time parks worker started on Monday.

Under Forest Management Update, discussion held on value of timber harvested from the Norwegian Creek property.

Under Parks Management Updates, Discussion held on itinerary for Thursday's facilities tour, progress of new Recreation software implementation process and complaints about maintenance at Greenwood County Park. Abnormally wet conditions contributed to maintenance complaints.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that wet conditions persist on the trails, registration for the trail building class at Levis Mound is full, and Jackson County is considering adding designated mudding areas along their ATV trail system. The committee was clear that they are not interested in establishing any such mudding or intensive use areas along Clark County ATV trails.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the Make-a-Wish truck convoy was held last weekend and electrical work on the dairy barn and electrical service upgrades have begun.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the Sherriff's Department held training for evasive driving at the Bruce Mound parking lot and the damage caused by the training was repaired. In addition, the Emergency Management Director will be using the chalet to host a regional planning meeting in the next few weeks.

Under Dams Management Updates – The Administrator reported that the DNR inspection at the Mead Lake Dam embankment showed no serious concerns with the seepage at this time, someone is manipulating stop logs at Sherwood Lake without permission, and the Southern Clark County Sportsman Club released bluegills and crappies into Sherwood Lake in their continued efforts to restock the lake.

Wage rate changes were presented in written format for committee review. No action taken.

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

The committee is set to meet at 9:00 a.m. on June 13, 2019 to tour Forestry and Parks facilities.

Next regular meeting date was confirmed for July 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 2:53 p.m. by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Allen Krause. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary