

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

June 12, 2018; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:03 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; Wayne Hendrickson – County Board Chairman; Andy Sorenson – DNR Area Team Leader; Jed Kaurich – DNR Forester; Dennis Humke – Town of Mead Chairperson and Mead Lake District President; Chris Goodwin and Jeremy Mack – Ayers & Associates; Randy Stabnow – Mead Dam Operator; Dave Wierzba – MSA Professional Services

Under Forest Management Updates, Jed Kaurich reported on the string of arson fires on County Forest land the past several years. The Administrator and John Wendorski thanked the DNR and the local fire departments for their professionalism and help containing these fires. Andy Sorenson reported to the committee on DNR time standards commitment progress and status of the vacant Clark County Liaison position. Andy hopes the position will be filled this fall.

Chris Goodwin of Ayers & Associates presented the Clark County Mead Lake Dam Feasibility Study for committee review. Chris discussed three alternatives to reduce labor associated with managing lake levels. Of the three options, Ayers & Associates recommended automating one gate to reduce manual dam operation. Chris also indicated that the earthen embankment north of the dam has seepage issues that should be monitored closely and be considered for repair in the coming years. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented a professional services agreement with MSA to perform a feasibility study for the Russell Park beach erosion control project. Dave Wierzba of MSA Professional Services explained the scope and timeline of the study. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the professional services agreement with MSA to draft a feasibility study for the Russell Park beach erosion control project as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported on a request from the Mead Lake District to purchase county land. A map with several potential areas of regular county land was reviewed. No County Forest was considered. The Committee directed the Administrator to pass along his findings to the Public Property Committee after attending the Mead Lake District annual meeting if the district membership is in favor of purchasing county land. No action taken.

The Administrator presented the May 30, 2018 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Allen Krause to approve the May 30, 2018 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the May 2018 financial report for committee approval. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Al Bower to accept the May 2018 financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented preliminary capital budget items for the 2019 Forestry & Parks budget. Discussion held on possible Black River Recreation Area improvements in 2019. No action taken.

The Administrator reviewed year end 2017 financial summaries. No action taken

The 2017 annual report was reviewed. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to accept the 2017 annual report as presented and present to the County Board. 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 and day use area for the past few weeks.

Discussion held on a recent request for discounted rates for school groups at Levis Mound. Currently there are no discounted group rates available for Levis Mound Recreation Area. The Committee compared the request to current group rates being applied at Bruce Mound. The committee directed Marcus to develop a group rate policy for committee review. No action taken.

The Administrator updated the committee on recent discussions with DOT regarding the closure of Black River County Park. The Administrator said that Representative Bernier is willing to try and get funding via the next State Budget. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded Al Bower to pursue the Bernier State budget option for funding, sell the land to Lewis Martin, and officially open the Black River Recreation Area. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann updated the committee on the search for new campground reservation software. Prices for installation and annual maintenance vary greatly between companies. Tyler Technologies is also developing a reservation software program that would work very well with the new Munis software being implemented by the county. The Committee asked Marcus to look closer into the Tyler option for the 2019 budget. No action taken.

The Administrator reported to the committee on the Fairgrounds Improvement Project, including last month's meeting with the fundraising committee. Daryn Horn provided the committee with cost estimates for a Cover-All type building. The committee felt it was best for the Department to move forward with developing a design plan for a stick-built barn for promotional materials. The Committee discussed the two options for location of the new barn. Daryn also reported the fence along the north part of the track has been removed and the area is being leveled for additional parking and he is getting cost estimates for additional lighting in the infield. No action taken.

Timber Sale Bids – No bids received.

Under General Department Updates – The Administrator reported that Tim Hagen will be returning to work soon, Don Friemoth may have to miss time for a non-work related injury and the new part-time office assistant will begin work on June 18th.

Under Forest Management Update, discussion held on contract status of Kafka Forestry, letter sent to all timber sale contactors informing them of conversion to Munis, approval of the Haleda withdrawal and arrangements for the upcoming WCFA summer tour.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the Sherwood bathroom has been removed and the new shower building should be completed in July. Park staffing has been relatively stable this season so far.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that ATV use on the County trails has been very heavy on the weekends and several state maintenance grants will be closed out this month.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the Make-a-Wish truck convoy took place this past weekend, several small 4-H events are planned in the coming weeks, and there will be fireworks at the fairgrounds for the 4th of July.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the chalet was rented for several graduation parties and was booked for another wedding.

Under Dams Management Updates – The Administrator reported that he will share the feasibility study with the DNR to get their opinion on the seepage issue on the embankment at Mead Lake.

Wage Rate Changes presented for review.

May 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 set for July 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 3:20 p.m. by Dean Zank, seconded by Allen Krause. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary