

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes
August 13, 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; Fred Schindler – Marawood Construction; Ben Vance – Marawood Construction; Nevin Matin – M&Z Builders; Paul Zimmerman – M&Z Builders; Natelie Erpenbach – Clark County Community Foundation

The Administrator presented the June 11, 2019 amended minutes for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the June 11, 2019 amended minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the July 9, 2019 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Allen Krause to approve the July 9, 2019 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Mary Olson-Back presented the December 2018 financial report and year-end summary for committee review. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to receive and file the December 2018 financial report and year-end summaries as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

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

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

Discussion held on the 2020 Forestry and Parks Department budget. Planned capital expenditures, trail and park improvements and road projects were reviewed. No action taken.

Discussion held on the 2020 Fairgrounds budget. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented the Bruce Mound operations review and analysis for committee feedback. The report included a proposed vision and mission statement for the facility, comparative analysis with similar operations, demographic and user group trends, options for operational changes, and financial history and trends. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented the Bruce Mound 2019/2020 plan of operations for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the Bruce Mound 2019/2020 plan of operations as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Daryn Horn presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Availability of inmate crews has been very limited due to storm damage relief efforts going on in other parts of the State. No action taken.

The Administrator presented applicants for the Clark County Forest Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Advisory Committee membership for committee approval. Applications for all available seats except the motorized recreation stakeholder seat were received by the August 5th deadline. An application for the motorized recreation stakeholder seat was received on August 13th prior to the committee meeting. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the following Clark County Forest Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Advisory Committee members: Al Bower – Committee Chair, Allen Krause – F & P Committee Rep, Lynnette Mitte – equestrian/silent sports, Pat Ule – timber industry, Wellington Wert – sportsman/hunting, Larry Strangfeld – motorized recreation, Jon Holger – citizen at large/tourism, Donald Pentz – Environmental/Conservation, Rick Dailey – F & P Administrator, and Einar Fransen – DNR Liason. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Fairgrounds revitalization project. The Administrator and Natelie Erpenbach updated the committee on fund raising progress and feedback received during the fair at the booth that was setup with an informational display for the project. A list of grants that have been applied for was reviewed. Tom Wilcox opened up the floor to representatives from M&Z Builders and Marawood Construction to provide technical feedback for the proposed multi-purpose livestock barn design. M&Z Builders representatives were Nevin Martin and Paul Zimmerman. Marawood Construction representatives were Ben Vance and Fred Schindler. Advantages, disadvantages, and construction challenges of the proposed design were discussed at length. Following the discussion the Committee agreed that State approved engineered plans were critical prior to bidding out the project. Options to redesign the building with shorter sidewalls should be explored. No action taken.

Al Bower left @ 1:45 pm

John Wendorski reported to the committee that the State's migratory bird refuge/closed hunting status at Winx Flowage could be lost with proposed changes by the WI DNR to chapters NR 11 and NR 15. The Department with support from The Winx Club of Neillsville provided public comment on the proposed

rule change which was due August 2, 2019. The Department and the Winx Club do not support the proposed rule change and wish to retain the migratory bird refuge status at the Winx Flowage. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to maintain the migratory bird refuge status at the Winx Flowage as it is currently and support the letter submitted by the Department dated July 29, 2019 that does not support the proposed rule changes to NR 11 and NR 15. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on storm damage that occurred across thousands of acres of WCFA member counties. Counties that received most of the damage include Langlade and Oconto. WCFA has asked that counties not impacted by the storms consider assisting impacted counties if such assistance is requested. The committee agreed that if asked the Department could send foresters or equipment operators to storm affected counties. The Department would not be able to provide heavy equipment.

John Wendorski presented a one-year policy for timber sale contract extensions without stumpage increases for contractors who will be helping salvage storm damaged timber in affected counties over the next ten months. Motion by Allen Krause, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the one-year policy for timber sale contract extensions without stumpage increases for contractors who will be helping salvage storm damaged timber in affected counties as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Resolution 32-8-19 – AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY CONSERVATIONAIDS PROGRAM/FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT was presented for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve Resolution 32-8-19 – AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY CONSERVATIONAIDS PROGRAM/FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on the upcoming WCFA annual meeting that will be on September 27, 2019 in Rhinelander. No action taken.

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

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported that he is preparing for the upcoming County Board tour of County owned facilities next Monday, the Maintenance Specialist has returned to work after recovering from hip surgery, one part-time employee will be transitioning to a seasonal position and the part-time position will be filled later in the year, and the next phase of Munis will be implemented in the coming weeks.

Under Forest Management Update, discussion held on Ruffed Grouse Society grant reimbursement paperwork, submittal of the Levis 40 withdrawal application, Winx Club partnership and projects and DNR completion of bunker and trail work.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the Sherwood Park disc golf course received significant storm damage a few weeks ago, on-site Vermont Systems Incorporated staff-assisted implementation phase of the new rec software will conclude next week, and the Department has changed credit card vendors.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the Department is looking to purchase a new snowmobile for Levis Mound in cooperation with the Neillsville Area Trail Association instead of purchasing a new drag for cross-country skiing.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the fair was a success with only minor issues reported throughout the event.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that annual maintenance is being completed along with annual inspections.

Under Dams Management Updates – No Report

Wage rate changes were presented for committee review.

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

Call for public comment – none received

Next regular meeting date was confirmed for August 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 3:59 p.m. by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Dean Zank. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary