

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

August 14, 2018; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Auditorium, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:02 a.m.

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

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; Jed Kaurich – DNR Ranger; Jed Hopp – DNR Wildlife Biologist

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

June 2018 financial report – No report available. Discussion held on the impacts to the department during the Munis transition. No action taken.

The Administrator introduced the proposed 2019 Forestry and Parks budget for committee review and feedback. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to increase the capital expenditure line for a used cable skidder from \$145,000.00 to \$240,000. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Tom Wilcox also suggested that the expenditure budget for Black River Recreation Area be increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

The Administrator introduced the 2019 Fairgrounds budget for committee review and feedback. No action taken.

The Administrator reviewed the Forestry and Parks reserved/undesignated fund balances with committee. The Administrator presented a proposal to transfer \$500,000 into the unrestricted/assigned capital infrastructure account and \$200,000 into the unrestricted/assigned dam improvement account as part of the 2019 budget. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to transfer \$500,000 into the unrestricted/assigned capital infrastructure account and \$200,000 into the unrestricted/assigned dam improvement account as part of the 2019 budget as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Daryn Horn presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Inmate crews spent two full days helping set up for the fair. They also cut and transferred firewood at Mead Lake campground.

Marcus Aumann presented the Bruce Mound plan of operations for the 2018/2019 season for committee approval. The plan included slight changes for lift ticket rates, Friday night season passes, and rental rates. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the Bruce Mound plan of operations for the 2018/2019 season as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported on the Fairgrounds improvement project fundraising activities and promotional materials. Joe Waichulis suggested that the fundraising committee consider accepting pledges from potential donors as a way to ensure their donation used as was intended. Daryn Horn presented a draft layout of pens for the new barn for committee feedback. The committee supported the layout proposal presented. The Administrator is setting up a meeting with the dairy representatives to discuss future improvements for their facility. No action taken.

Fairgrounds Camping Rates – No report

John Wendorski reviewed the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Karner Blue Butterfly and proposed increasing the permanent habitat area for the butterfly from 20 acres to 25 acres. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve increasing the permanent habitat area for the butterfly from 20 acres to 25 acres as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann presented a request to install a memorial bench at Mead Lake Dam Park. The design of the bench does not conform to current department policy but it does comply with the intent of the policy itself. A picture was presented to committee for review. Marcus also presented three location options for the bench and recommended that it be set in the location of an existing bench that would be moved elsewhere. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the request for a memorial bench at Mead Lake Dam Park in the location suggested and as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported to committee that he attended a Land Conservation Committee meeting with John Wendorski to discuss the implications and ramifications of enrolling the Sportsman Lake Wildlife Refuge into County Forest Law if their committee wished to pursue that option. No action taken.

The Administrator informed the committee about the dates for the fall WCFA annual meeting that will be held in Hayward. No action taken.

The Forestry and Parks Administrator flex schedule was presented for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Allen Krause 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 DNR approval of the withdrawal application and land trade in the Town of Mentor, efforts to collect for damages from the party responsible for a April 2018 county forest wildfire, military training request, forest certification audit and WisFIRS reset. John Wendorski reviewed WisFIRS allowable harvest and timber type age structure reports. Discussion held on the importance of having the vacant wildlife biologist position filled and how this will benefit the county forest. Jed Kaurich discussed DNR time standards accomplishment, plans to hire an LTE forester to assist with time standards goals and efforts to fill the vacant liaison position.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the dumpster issue at Sherwood Park has been resolved, the walls are going up on the new shower building, and the disk golf course should be completed in the coming weeks.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that all ATV trails were graded this past week and he will be closing several maintenance grants in the near future.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the county fair was completed with no major facility issues to speak of. The horse arena project was completed before the fair as planned. Tom Wilcox suggested that the Fair Board should consider flipping the direction of the farm tractor pull to enhance spectator experience.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that the load test was successfully completed on the chairlift, lift chairs were moved on the cable as per state regulation, and a gear box on the tow for the terrain box needed to be rebuilt.

Under Dams Management Updates – No report

Wage rate changes were presented to committee for review.

Vouchers for June and July 2018 were presented for review. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to approve vouchers for June and July 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 August 29, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 2:34 p.m. by Al Krause, seconded by Dean Zank. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary