

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

2 October 2013

Members Present: Ralph Sitzberger, Chair
Sig Hjermvick, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Charles Rayala, Jr.
Maynard Bedish
Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
John Gagnon, Assistant Forest Administrator
Dale Mayo, Recreation Administrator; Janna Kahl, HR
Ken Anderson, Media; Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Uno & Catherine Bloom, Teri Sabin; RR Grade
Janna Kahl, HR

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Sitzberger, who advised that this was a public meeting and that notification of the meeting with the agenda was sent to the Committee members, the County Board Chairman, the Vilas County Clerk, the Vilas County Corporation Counsel, the Vilas County News-Review, the Lakeland Times, FYI Wisconsin, Radio Stations WRJO and Coyote 93.7, and the Northwoods River News. The notice and agenda were also posted on the Courthouse and Forestry Department bulletin boards. This notification was verified by the Forestry Department Administrative Secretary.

- 1) Motion by Rayala, seconded by Kukanich to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Bedish, to approve the minutes of the 4 September 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Administrative Secretary A Job Description: The updated description was reviewed by the Committee and staff. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Rayala, to approve the job description as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) RR Grade Ownerships: Extensive research assisted Corporation Counsel in rendering a legal opinion as to any ownership interest Vilas County might have in certain portions of abandoned railroad grades. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjermvick, that upon advice of legal counsel, Vilas County shall quit claim any ownership interest it may have in the railroad grade which runs across the Bloom property located at SWSE, Sec. 10, T.39N. - .10E, Town of Lincoln. Motion carried unanimously. Concerning the Sabin parcel. A motion was made by Hjermvick, seconded by Bedish, that based upon advice of legal counsel, Vilas County shall quit claim any ownership interest it may have in the railroad grade which runs across the Sabin property located at SWNW, Sec. 10, T.39N. - .10E, Town of Lincoln. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Tax Deed Land Sales: A bid was received on Parcel #12-1639-008 from Colin McDonough in the amount of \$31,918.00. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Kukanich, to reject this bid. Motion carried unanimously. Bid received on parcel #18-728 from Joan & Perry Renberg in the amount of \$1,716.00. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Bedish, to accept this bid. Motion carried unanimously. Bid received on parcel #8-976-01 from Keith Kohls in the amount of \$3,000.00. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded

- by Kukanich, to accept this bid. Motion carried unanimously. Bid received on parcel #26-2889 from Colin Crawford in the amount of \$300.00. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Bedish, to reject this bid. Motion carried unanimously. Bid received on parcel #28-240 from Arlene Kellett in the amount of \$115.00. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to reject this bid. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Tax Deed Property Forclosures: The list of tax deed properties tentatively slated for tax foreclosure in October 2013 were reviewed. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjenvick, to allow Vilas County to go forward with the tax foreclosures as presented, after reviewing the EA reports, with the exception of #18-1391 (Christensen). Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to table discussion of #18-1391 until the November meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 7) Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant: As directed by the Committee, Stevens solicited quotes for appraisals on CN# 8-2233 & #8-1854-02; quotes are due on 4 October. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Rayala, to authorize Stevens to accept the lowest quotes for the appraisals. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 8) Timber Sales Contracts & Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached.
 - 9) Research Project: A request has been received from DNR to allow them to use the Vilas County Forest as part of a study of Kirtland's Warbler. Stevens briefly explained the project. The DNR wishes to place male warbler song recordings in suitable warbler habitat with the hope of enticing female warblers to stay in the area. Discussion. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Rayala, to allow this. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 10) Timber Stand Improvement Project: Gagnon advised that he had a site prep project planned which involves a FECON mower mounted on a dozer; the project would be contracted. However, due to an unexpected new surcharge (education fee) on the spring tree planting order (\$3,400), the funds are not available from the Timber Stand Improvement budget line item. Stevens suggested that the forestry funds for such a project were provided for in County Board Res. No. 2011-53, "County Forest Reforestation." The Committee directed Stevens to contact Finance Manager Hilger regarding procedure and to keep the Chair informed.
 - 11) Survey Boundary Lines: Stevens advised that the Department would be accepting bids for contracting survey work on County Forest boundary lines. The Committee directed Stevens to go ahead, and told him that when expenses are within the approved budget, he does not need to seek Committee approval.
 - 12) Outdoor Recreation Plan: Heider of NCWRPC provided the Committee with the final draft Plan, which they reviewed and discussed. The Committee directed Mayo to review the Plan and work with Heider on any revisions. Heider wishes to accomplish the following: insert capital improvements/recommendations and make necessary changes in draft, Public Review period & meeting (November), final Committee approval of Plan, and finally County Board approval (December?). Public hearing will follow the 6 November 2013 meeting at the Courthouse Conference Rooms at 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Bedish, to approve the draft Plan with the recommended changes. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 13) Resolutions: Mayo presented 2 resolutions; Snowmobile Trail Aids & ATV Trail Aids. Both resolutions are concerned with the County's ongoing applications for DNR funding for these 2 programs. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Rayala to approve both resolutions. Motion carried unanimously. Snowmo Safety: Mayo gave the report, a copy of which was given to the Committee.
 - 14) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted.

- 15) Meetings & Travel: The Committee approved out of county travel for Jefferson to attend the Timber Cruising Workshop.
- 16) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 6 November 2013, 8:30 a.m., Courthouse. Valkenaar is excused due to scheduled PTO. Valkenaar will contact Floating Secretary for availability to fill in for minute taking.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's (Valkenaar) notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.