

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

1 August 2012

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair
Sig Hjemvick, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Ralph Sitzberger
Charles Rayala, Jr.
Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison
Ken Anderson, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Al Moustakis, District Attorney
Steve Budnik, Wis. Conservation Corps
Jeff Currie, Great Headwaters Trails
Barb Gibson, Vilas Co. Mapping Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Favorite, 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 Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the minutes of the 11 July 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Closed Session: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats. For the purpose of deliberating the purchase of public properties. Roll call vote: Hjemvick, Rayala, Sitzberger, Kukanich, Favorite voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Adjourn Closed Session: Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to adjourn closed session and return to open session. The Committee may ratify any action taken in closed session. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Rayala, to order an appraisal on land parcel #221-900 for the purpose of possible purchase. All voting aye except Hjemvick, who voted nay. Motion carried.
- 5) Tax Deed Land Bids: Sealed bids were received from Kathleen Korbel-Baertschy for tax deed parcels as follows - #18-648-03 in the amount of \$3,760.00; and #28-1589 in the amount of \$95.00. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to reject bid on #18-648-03. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to reject bid on #28-1589. Both motions carried unanimously.

- 6) Sale of former Highway Shop, Boulder Junction: As directed by the Committee, an appraisal was ordered, and received with a value of \$10,600.00. A joint resolution has been prepared for Forestry and Highway Committees. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to approve this resolution authorizing the sale of this property, subject to review and approval of the resolution by Corporation Counsel. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Stevens gave the report, a copy of which is attached. Stevens also reported that there has been a report of Oak Wilt in Vilas County. He will keep the Committee advised of the progress of this disease. Wednesday, 8 August, there will be an SFI re-certification audit at Forestry Department headquarters. Stevens gave an overview of the process, and encouraged the Committee to attend. Sitzberger indicated he would, and Stevens reminded the Committee to notify the office if anyone else plans to attend, in case there would be a possible quorum, which would require public notice.
- 8) GPS Mapping of Existing Bicycle Trails: Gibson addressed the Committee, advising them that cooperative agreements will be entered into with the state for information sharing between DNR and Vilas County. Hjemvick suggested that it would be a good idea to approach the USFS to see if they would like to participate in a similar agreement. The purpose of this information sharing is to standardize the trail maps for multiple uses and make location information accessible for first responders in emergency situations. Mayo advised that he believes he can gather the GPS data to map the trails in about 8 hours. Stevens suggested this work be done when the use of the bike trails is minimal (late fall, winter, early spring) to avoid conflict with bicyclers when using an atv or snowmobile. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to direct Mayo to do the GPS of our bicycle trails. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to join in the joint agreement with the state on the bicycle trail systems. Both motions carried unanimously.
- 9) Brush Rake: Stevens advised that the Department has received 10 bids, the highest is \$1,035.00. Discussion. Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Rayala, to extend the bidding period by an additional month. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) Terrestrial Invasive Species: Stevens advised that according to the direction of the Committee at the July meeting regarding the problem with reed canary grass in some of the wildlife openings, he has been in contact with Seifert's Field & Forest, with whom the Department has a current contract for another project. Seifert will get back to him with a price. The plan is to treat 5-8 (there are 26 openings, total) openings/year twice, then renovate the openings.
- 11) Snowmobile Trail 2012-2013 Advance Maintenance Payment: Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve this payment to the alliance to be distributed to the snowmobile clubs once the clubs have provided documentation of compliance. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12) Land Use Agreements: Mayo reminded the Committee that through the Snowmobile Trail Program, Vilas County has land use agreements with the state and federal governments, because these agencies will not enter into land use agreements with the snowmobile clubs. Vilas County also enters into 10-year land use agreements with private landowners when a snowmobile trail structure (bridge) is involved, due to the investment at stake. The same needs for land use agreements are becoming apparent with multi-use (bike-ped) trails in Vilas County. Stevens remarked this is a change in policy and resulting workload. Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger for Department staff to work with Corporation Counsel to re-work the land

use agreement policy to include multi-use recreation trails and to provide for the County instead of the clubs to enter into these agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

- 13) U.S. Secure Rural Schools Act annual payment election: Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the standard annual agreement of 100% of the SRS payment. Motion carried unanimously.
- 14) Meetings/Out of County Travel: 8/13 Snowmobile Council in Rothschild; motion by Kukanich, seconded by Rayala, to approve attendance for Mayo and Sitzberger. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) Letters/Communications: Budnik gave the Committee the annual WCC report, a copy of which is attached. Shooting Range request – request received for additional shooting bench at the 100 yard range. Discussion. Due to safety concerns, request denied.
- 16) Abandoned Railroad Grades: Discussion of proposed temporary trailhead sign to be donated by Phelps Lions. Hjemvick emphasized the need to bring attention to the trail's existence and location so that the public is aware the trail is available for use. Size, placement, color, and content of sign were discussed at length. Stevens advised that the size and appearance of signs on County Forest land are addressed in the County Forest 15 Year Plan, and also are regulated by Town ordinances. The Committee directed that Stevens work with Great Headwaters Trails on the temporary sign project.
- 17) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted.
- 18) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 5 September 2012, 8:30 a.m., Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorders' (Valkenaar & Stevens) notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.