

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

1 February 2012

Members Present: Bob Egan, Vice Chair  
Leon Kukanich  
Sig Hjemvick  
Ralph Sitzberger

Members Excused: Stephen Favorite, Chair

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator  
John Gagnon, CF, Asst. Forest Administrator  
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary  
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator  
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison  
Ken Anderson, Media  
Dan Balog, Land O'Lakes Town Chair  
Sherry Stecker, GERTA  
Pat Weber, Eagle River Baseball  
Gary Dalbeck, Superior Electric  
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles  
Harv Skjerven, USFS

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice Chairman Egan, 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 Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the minutes of the 4 January 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **OSP Field Lighting Project:** Dalbeck advised that by the County purchasing the materials directly from Musco, a savings (sales tax) of \$4,700.00 will be realized. The anticipated cost of the field lighting project is \$120,992.50. The contract with Superior Lighting and the purchase order for Musco are being reviewed by Corporation Counsel; Dalbeck wants to start work as soon as possible in the spring. WPS has advised him that 440 service is not available; Dalbeck said using 220 will not be a problem or cost extra. The service will be installed on a board type structure which eventually will adjoin the dugout when it is constructed. Weber is working on the dugout project and will coordinate with Dalbeck on that as well as the installation of a security light. Weber advised that the Softball group will use a portion of the \$10,000.00 Oldenburg donation for the dugout project and bases, as was intended. He is advertising for bids for pouring 5 slabs. Egan is working on the scoreboard project. Egan also advised that he would see Corporation Counsel about getting the Musco purchase order fast-tracked.

Also, Stevens advised that he will work with Dalbeck to utilize the fill resulting from his construction excavations where it is needed in the south soccer fields. Sitzberger asked if a motion to approve the \$120,000.00 expenditure was needed, and Egan advised no, it was approved and re-approved, and is in the approved budget. Stevens reminded that expenditures of \$15,000.00 or more must be brought before the County Board, and that this has been brought before the Board and approved through the budget process. Egan affirmed that this was so, and moved onto the next agenda item.

- 4) Chequamegon-Nicolet NF Timber Management: Skjerven addressed the Committee. Skjerven summarized the status of progress toward meeting their allowable cut and difficulties the USFS is having due to lawsuits, budget constraints, and personnel cuts. Hjemvick reassured Skjerven that the resolutions made and letters sent in regard to the USFS's failure to meet their allowable cut were not adversarial but rather an expression of the Committee's desire to be of assistance.
- 5) Greater Eagle River Tennis Association (GERTA): Stecker made a presentation to the Committee regarding the re-surfacing project the Association wishes to undertake. The Committee examined samples of the surfacing material to be used, and the quote from the contractor. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to allow GERTA to proceed with the project as presented, with no cost to Vilas County. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Sealed bids for purchase of tax deed lands were opened and recorded as follows: one bid was received; from Marilee Cappaert for #18-648-03 in the amount of \$3,500.00. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to reject. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Access Permits: Requests reviewed for Butenhoff renewal and ownership change from Gregor to Reed. Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve both permits. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Agenda Items to be Discretionary: Per directive of Legislative & Judicial Committee, the Forestry Committee will cut back on unnecessary agenda items which can best be handled by the Forest Administrator. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, in the future, barring unusual circumstances, access permits will no longer be routine agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) Road Maintenance Agreement: The road maintenance agreement request received last month for tax deed parcel #20-1171-01, Rad's Road, has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel. Based upon her opinion, motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to not participate in the road maintenance agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. NewPage Corp wishes to convert its remaining 4 open timber sale contracts (846, 852, 854, & 856) to the haul permit system. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to allow this contract amendment for these 4 sales as outlined by Gagnon. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to close Sale #873 when all contract conditions have been met. Motion carried unanimously. Also, for the same reason stated in Item #8 above, motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to not require the Department to ask for Committee permission to close timber sales. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Tree Planting Bid Opening: Bids were opened for 2012 spring tree planting as follows:

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Anthony Bull Company       | \$ 9,888.00 |
| Northwoods Forestry, Inc,  | \$12,639.90 |
| All Regions Services, Inc. | \$ 9,100.00 |
| Superior Forestry Service  | \$ 8,873.50 |

Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to accept the bid of Superior Forestry Service. Motion carried unanimously.

- 12) Phelps ATV Trail Update: Mayo reported that he attended a meeting in January with Highway Dept. and will attend another meeting on 8 February in the evening. He advised that it is likely that Phelps will revise the ATV request that they presented to the joint committees. He said that would be sent back to the Town of Phelps for approval and then another joint meeting of Highway and Forestry would probably be requested. Question was asked whether to place Boulder Jct bike trail request on March agenda? Egan advised this wouldn't be on the table till Hwy ROW ownership issue is resolved.
- 13) Snowmobile Program Reports: Mayo gave his report. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to pay the \$59,300.00 2011-2012 final maintenance payment to the Snowmobile Alliance for distribution to the clubs. Motion carried unanimously.
- 14) Snowmobile Safety Committee Report: Hjemvick presented a brief report – the PSA program is going well, and Eagle River Hospital is now providing the names and birthdates of victims of snowmobile accidents in the community, for record keeping purposes. Hjemvick noted that Cindy Burzinski, Tourism Director, is proving a valuable asset to the Committee, and should be recommended for appointment to the Safety Committee Board.
- 15) Special Service Award: The award was received by the Wisconsin County Forests Assoc. from the WDNR-Northern Region in recognition of the work done for the management of habitat on over 2.3 million acres of working forests. The member forests in WCFA work closely with WDNR wildlife staff for the conservation of game and non-game species, Endangered Species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 16) Forest Roads Exemption: A new U.S. 9<sup>th</sup> District Court ruling would classify forest roads as point sources for water pollution, requiring EPA permits. This would have a significant impact on County Forest management. The WCFA has objected strenuously to this action on behalf of the County Forests. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to draft a resolution for the County Board in support of the WCFA's efforts to prevent EPA from imposing this permit process on the forest roads, and to forward copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), & the Wisconsin Counties Association. (WCFA).
- 17) Meetings/Education/Out of County Travel: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, that out of county travel can also be authorized by Department Head without Committee approval (see #8). Motion carried unanimously. Mayo will attend Governor's Council meeting in Minocqua on 2 & 3 Feb 2012; WCFA Board of Directors on 10 Feb at Trees for Tomorrow (Stevens will attend); Motion by Egan, seconded by Sitzberger, that any interested Committee member may attend Sustainable Forestry Conference in Florence. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18) Truck Purchase: The purchase of a 2012 pickup has been approved by the County Board. The Committee discussed the available options. The Committee chose a 2012 Chevrolet for \$24,900.00.
- 19) Monthly Budget Summary: Nat'l Forest/Schools Coalition – motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to renew membership. Motion carried unanimously.
- 20) Monthly Bills: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the bills and forward them to Finance. Motion carried unanimously. Place item on agenda re bill paying
- 21) Next Meeting Date: Next regular meeting will be 7 March 2012, 8:30 a.m., Courthouse.

Motion to adjourn by Kukanich, seconded by Hjemvick. Motion carried unanimously  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

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