

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

4 January 2012

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair
Bob Egan, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Sig Hjenvick
Ralph Sitzberger

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
Jill Nemec, DNR County Forest Liaison
Ken Anderson, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
John Gagnon, CF, Asst. Forest Administrator
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Rec Trails Coordinator
John Helgeson, WRJO Radio
Marcus Nesemann, Lakeland Times
Ron De Bruyne, Communications & Public Property
Committees/Gary Peske, Sheriff's Dept.
Gary Dalbeck, Superior Electric/Greg Smidt, Musco

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, Radio Stations WRJO/WERL, and WLSL, The Northwoods River News, and the Rhinelander Daily News. The notice and amended agenda were also posted on the Courthouse and Forestry Department bulletin boards. This notification was verified by the Forestry Department Administrative Secretary.

- 1) Convene & Approve Agenda: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Egan, to convene the meeting. Motion by Egan, seconded by Sitzberger to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Minutes: Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich to approve the minutes of the 7 December Forestry Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tax Deed Land Sales Bid Opening: Bids were opened for tax deed properties authorized and advertised for sale, with the following results:

Computer Number	Bidder Name	Amount of Bid	Committee Decision
12-1639-002	M. McDonough	\$12,612.00	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd Kukanich, to reject. Roll Call: Egan, Hjemvick, Sitzberger, voting aye; Kukanich & Favorite voting nay. Mtn carried
18-78	M. Cappaert	\$4,500.00	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd by Sitzberger, to reject. Roll Call: Egan, Kukanich, Hjemvick, Sitzberger voting aye; Favorite voting nay. Mtn carried.

- 4) Oldenburg Sports Park: Discussion of status of ball fields lighting project, with Greg Smidt of Musco and Gary Dalbeck present to answer questions. Favorite advised Dalbeck to forward the contract to the Forestry Department and they will have Corporation Counsel review it so that the contract can be finalized to commence the project in the spring. The Committee also asked that Stevens attempt to obtain scoreboard costs. This matter will be placed on the February agenda.
- 5) Snowmobile Trailer Parking at Fairgrounds Request: A request was received from the Sno-Eagles to allow parking of snowmobile trailers at the County Fairgrounds property, as this is a location central to the Eagle River area, where parking is not readily available for trailers. The Fair Board lease gives the Fair Board jurisdiction in this matter, and they may have some concerns with possibility of water lines freezing up due to unexpected winter use of the area. Concerns were expressed with safety issues at that location. Alternative parking sites were also mentioned such as the City owned grade south of Dairy Queen. Mayo was instructed to check into the question of parking at the Fairgrounds and see if anything is feasible.
- 6) Property Acquisition Opportunity SESE, S. 35 & W1/2 SW1/4, S. 36, T42N-R10E: Stevens advised that he has been informed that the asking price for this 120 acre property adjacent to the County Forest has been lowered to \$130,000.00. The Committee has previously discussed the possible acquisition of this block of forestland to add to the County Forest. Stevens reminded the Committee of the 3 possible funding options for land acquisition to block in the County Forest: 1. Segregated Land Account; 2. Stewardship Program Grant; 3. Project Loan. Favorite directed Stevens to check into the tax status of the property.
- 7) Access Permits: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to approve 5 year renewal for Nicklaus. Motion carried unanimously. Jacoby – Delores Jacoby is requesting an access permit to cross County Land to access her property in Conover, located at NENE Sec. 14, T41N-R9E. Discussion. Motion by Egan, seconded by Sitzberger, to grant the access permit with 2 conditions; she must work with the Forestry Department as to location, and she must obtain a driveway permit from the Highway Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Road Maintenance Agreement Request: A request was received soliciting property owners off Rad Road on Camp 12 Lake in Plum Lake to enter into a maintenance agreement for the access road. Vilas County owns a tax deed lot located on this access road. Corporation Counsel will be asked for her input and Stevens will report back to the Committee.

- 9) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Regarding Gagnon's update on the status of the TSI contracts, motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve Gagnon's recommended course of action with respect to the performance bond for Sale #880. Motion carried unanimously. Also, upon Gagnon's recommendation, motion by Egan, seconded by Sitzberger, to close out Sale #888. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) Audit – State Forestry Fund & Wildlife Habitat Grant: The Committee has reviewed the DNR report from the State Audit for the State Forest Aid, Wildlife Habitat, and Timber Sales Revenue accounts. The commended the Department for a job well done.
- 11) Campground Host: Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12) Phelps ATV Route – Invasive Species Concerns: Committee reviewed concerns expressed in citizen letter regarding potential spread of invasives via ATV traffic. Gagnon advised that when developing trails and routes, a proactive management stance should be taken; ideally, surveys along the route should be done to try to prevent invasives from spreading down the trails or bringing in species that aren't already there. This should be part of any trail planning process anyway.
- 13) Snowmobile Trail Program Report: Mayo reported that the first round of trail inspections is complete and went well. Items to be corrected were reported to the respective clubs for their correction. The second round of inspections will be done prior to the Snowmobile Derby. Corridor 13 was re-routed to connect with Three Lakes due to the closure of a portion of the trail on private land in Clearwater Lake. Trails officially opened on 12 December. Mayo also explained a small re-route in St. Germain alongside Hwy 155 near Lost Lake.
- 14) Resolution – Truck Purchase: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the resolution and forward it to the full County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) Resolution – ATC Tower: Milanowski advised she is awaiting answers from ATC. The draft resolution is to approve a perpetual easement to ATC. Milanowski worked on the agreement and now is waiting to hear whether the proposed language is acceptable to ATC. Discussion of the proposed resolution and wording changes. Milanowski recommended that the Committee wait to approve the resolution until all changes have been inserted after she has heard from ATC. She also advised ATC that the County is interested in retaining the arrangement for the Department's free cell phone service.
- 16) Standing Rules: Review of the Committee's Standing Rules. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to amend #3 to read: "It shall oversee all leases of County owned land and bring its recommendations to the County Board for approval." Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to amend his title to "Recreation Trail Coordinator" in the Standing Rules. Favorite clarified the motion by asking if the intent is to simply change the word "Snowmobile" to the words "Recreation Trail" in #12 of the Standing Rules, and Hjemvick replied that it was. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Snowmobile Safety Committee Report: Hjemvick reported that the public service announcement campaign is going very well. There was a very serious accident reported in the Boulder Junction area in December. The Committee is working with Eagle River Hospital on a reporting system to more accurately track snowmobile-related accidents.

- 18) Correspondence: Letters regarding the Clean Water Act, Forest County/Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and National Forest Counties & Schools Coalition were forwarded to the Committee for their information.
- 19) Meetings/Education/Out of County Travel: WHIP – Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to authorize Gagnon’s attendance monthly for 2012. Motion carried unanimously. WCFA Spring Adm Meeting – Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize Stevens’ attendance for 21 March, and Stevens, Gagnon, and any interested Committee member(s) for 22 & 23 March. Motion carried unanimously. Stevens announced that the WCFA Summer Tour will be held in Iron Belt, Wisconsin on 14 & 15 June. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to authorize Stevens to attend the Annual meeting WCFA/USFS/Towns Assoc. in Rhinelander on 14 February. Motion carried unanimously.
- 20) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted.
- 21) Bills reviewed for payment: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Egan, to forward the bills as presented to Finance Motion carried unanimously.
- 22) The next regular meeting will be 1 February 2012 at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
- 23) Motion to adjourn by Kukanich, seconded by Egan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Transcribed from tape and notes of Valkenaar and Stevens and presented to the Committee for approval.