

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

4 May 2011

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair  
Bob Egan, Vice Chair  
Leon Kukanich  
Jack Harrison  
Sig Hjermvick

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator  
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary  
Tim Friedrich Acting DNR Forestry Liaison  
Ken Anderson, Media  
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles  
John Helgeson, Lakeland Times  
Conrad Heeg, Eagle River Chamber of Commerce  
Al & Sue Drum, Presque Isle Bicycle Club  
Mike Robillard, Vilas Silent Sports Assoc.  
Gary Meister, Great Lks Trail System  
Dan Balog, Land O'Lakes  
Nancy Atwater, Star Lake  
Jim Behling, Ron De Bruyne, Vilas Co. Board  
Roger Pluedeman, Brent Martin – Logging contractors

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, and the Rhinelander Daily 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 Egan, seconded by Harrison, to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the minutes of the 6 April 2011 meeting with the following correction: Terry Hess of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, NOT the Wisconsin DNR as recorded in the draft copy, was present. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Oldenburg Sports Park Lease Renewal: David Chamberlain addressed the Committee with his comments and concerns with the new lease language. Discussion. He was urged to consult an attorney if he so desires, to review the lease. Chamberlain advised that he is okay with the lease; he asked that the County maintain the parking lot. The Committee advised that will not be a County responsibility, that if there is a particular issue it will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjermvick, to refer the lease back to Corporation Counsel for her to make the following changes: #7 – add: ...lessee is responsible...with the exception of the

baseball field fencing.” #9 – “No vehicles...grass areas, with the exception of vehicles being used for maintenance purposes.” #22 – “charge and retain ...” add reasonable user or rental fees...”. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Snowmobile Trail Program Report: Mayo reported that ATC will be taking the lead on the temporary Lac du Flambeau trail re-route due to the installation of the new transmission line project. Mayo also reported that there is an issue with Corridor 13 south of Eagle River in the Clearwater Lake area. Favorite recused himself from this subject. The concern is that due to legal problems with the DNR and resulting monetary penalties to the landowner of the property through which the trail passes, this segment of trail is in jeopardy of being closed. A letter from Oneida County to the prosecuting assistant attorney general was reviewed. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, that Corporation Counsel is directed to send a similar letter to this assistant AG, asking him to consider this matter on a situational basis, as it will greatly impact the local economy. However, it should be noted in this letter that the Committee does not condone the actions of the developers. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Parks: Stevens reported that there is considerable ice damage at the Snipe Lake Boat Landing; the pad is broken and tented. Collins Excavating will temporarily fix this. Due to budget constraints, a more permanent fix will be put off till end of summer.
- 6) ATV Trails: The Landover ATV Club presented a proposed route map. A number of citizens voiced concern with the proposed development of ATV routes that use town roads, County Highways, County Forest Roads, bicycle trails, and multi-use trails. The Committee was advised that the Town of Phelps could benefit economically from ATV routes in their town; the bicycle people advised that some of the proposed ATV route overlapped with DOT approved bike routes. Favorite received 19 letters from citizens expressing their opposition to ATV routes in Vilas County. Discussion. The Committee directed Stevens to send a letter to the town boards and advise them that if they have an interest in opening up ATV routes within their town, let them send letters to the Committee with routes that they want to use. The Committee will give further consideration to this discussion only upon a specific request from a specific town.
- 7) Bicycle Trail Funding: Stevens advised that \$820,000.00 was awarded to Conover in a State Transportation Enhancement Grant for bicycle trail to go from Conover to Muskrat Creek. These are State dollars. This Department’s involvement with this grant is that the Forestry Department applied for \$164,000.00 snowmobile trail development grant to split the cost of 3 bridges that have to be installed. The Governor’s Budget Repair Bill took those monies out of the State funds and the monies went back to Highways (Transportation). Rep. Dan Meyer was contacted and was advised that the funds have already been allocated, and several projects would be in jeopardy. Meyer was instrumental in moving this project funding back over. The result is that the project is safe. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to send a letter to State Rep. Dan Meyer thanking him for his assistance. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Timber Sales Bid Opening: Sealed bids were opened for 13 tracts of timber. A copy of the results is attached to these minutes. Motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to accept the high bid on each tract, provided the math on each tract checks out. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) County Forest Reforestation Resolution: Previous discussion set this resolution to reserve \$25,000.00/per year for reforestation. According to the calculations, \$34,300.00 is the maximum that will be needed for reforestation in any particular year.

The resolution has been updated to reflect this figure so as to not leave the Department short of funding if needed. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Harrison, to approve this resolution and forward the same to the full County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

- 10) Correspondence: For information only, no Committee action required - DNR Strategic Direction, WCFA/State Budget/PILT, Status of Wolves, Vilas County Landfill.
- 11) Meeting/Continuing Education/Out-of-County Travel: Wetland & Storm Water Permitting – motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize attendance of Stevens, Gagnon, & Mayo in Phillips the first week of June. Motion carried unanimously. Invasive Plants Steering Committee – motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to approve Gagnon’s attendance on 20 May 2011 in Woodruff. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjenvick, for whoever is necessary to travel out of County to pick up the new truck when it is ready. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted. Discussion of LTE wages. It has come to light that the .18 cent increase for LTE Art Nass (bringing his hourly wage up to \$10.00) is insignificant when compared to the LTE wages other Departments are paying. This matter will be re-visited at budget time.
- 13) Tax Deed Land Appraisals: Stevens asked if new appraisals should be done on the parcels for sale since last fall. Discussion. The Committee decided that new appraisals at this time are not necessary.
- 14) Access to Deerskin 40: The research was received from the title company. Upon review of the same, it appears that Vilas County may have proscriptive rights for ingress and egress. Committee directed that a memo be sent to Corporation Counsel asking for her legal opinion, advising her that this is definitely not a priority issue.
- 15) Access Permits: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison, to approve renewal for Slizewski and also to approve new AP for Will & Chris Kamps for the former Barnhill property. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Land Acquisitions: Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Harrison, to postpone discussion of the items on State Trust Lands and NESW, Sec. 11, T41N – R9E. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Forest Management/Timber Sale Contracts Activity: Stevens gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 18) Cell Tower on County Forest Land: This cell tower location has been leased by the County to American Tower Company for several years. The communications company now wishes to buy an easement from the County. After consultation with the DNR, Stevens advised the Committee that this land should not be in the County Forest Law. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to begin the withdrawal process. Motion carried unanimously.
- 19) Bills reviewed for payment: Motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 20) The next regular meeting will be 1 June, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
- 21) Motion to adjourn by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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