

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

6 July 2011

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

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 Gagnon, CF, Asst. Forest Administrator  
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator  
Mark Busha, Highway G Landfill  
Rich Ruffalo, Preservation Flowage Alliance  
Sherry Stecker, GERTA  
Darryl Landeau, NCWRPC  
Ann & Jeff Currie, Great Headwaters Trails  
Charles Rayala, Jr., Vilas County Board

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 Hjemvick to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Highway G Landfill Expansion: Busha gave an update. He feels that the site as it is now situated should be adequate for 15 years minimum. The Chair said that the Forestry staff could do some forward thinking about the years ahead and bring any ideas back to the Committee in the future.
- 3) Tennis Club (GERTA): Stecker asked the Committee for permission to install additional spectator bleachers at their leased site. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to grant permission to install the proposed bleachers. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Vilas County Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Plan: Landeau of North Central WI Regional Planning Commission gave an update on the Plan, which is complete. Revisions will be ongoing as needed. Landeau is bringing this matter to the Forestry Committee for their approval; he will then take it before the Highway Committee for their input and approval as the trails would involve some County Highways. A resolution approving

the Plan will then need to go before the full County Board. Stevens advised that he attended the Phelps ATV trail planning meeting in June. He said the Phelps group reviewed the Plan map from Landeau and didn't indicate any problems with user conflicts. Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to accept this working draft Plan. Motion carried unanimously. A joint resolution with Highway will be drafted for future use.

- 5) Little Tamarack Flowage Preservation Alliance: Ruffalo addressed the Committee. He advised that DNR studies have been done and this project is ongoing. Ruffalo requested permission to place an information box at the County Boat Landing site. This will contain literature to inform visitors to the site about the project. It will also serve as a donation box. Ruffalo advised that the Alliance will police and maintain the box and clean up any debris generated at the site because of the box presence. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to allow placement of this information/donation box, under supervision of the Forestry Department staff. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Minutes: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the minutes of the 28 May & 1 June 2011 Forestry Committee meetings as presented. Motion carried unanimously
- 7) Tax Deed Lands: Sealed bids for purchase of tax deed lands were opened as recorded on the attached bid results sheet. #12-1714 – Babcock Road House: Request received from successful bidder David Erickson to have the bid awarded in his daughter Tanya Jaeger's name as that was his intent when he placed the bid. This detail is necessary to obtain USDA Rural Development assistance for financing this purchase. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to grant Erickson's request subject to approval by Corporation Counsel. Motion carried unanimously. #24-1802 – St. Germain vacant lot: Former owner Barbara Nelson paid the delinquent taxes, penalties, & interest owed per the direction of the Committee from the 1 June 2011 meeting. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to direct Corporation Counsel to have the Default Order for tax computer #24-1802 vacated. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8) Survey Bids: Bids for survey work were opened as follows:

	<u>Fire Lane</u>	<u>Honeysuckle Lake</u>	<u>Highway G</u>
Favorite, et al	\$2,400.00	\$935.00*	\$935.00
Eagle Landmark	\$1,880.00*	\$940.00	\$580.00*

Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to accept the low bid on each job (indicated with an asterisk). Motion carried unanimously.

- 9) Cell Tower Easement Proposal: Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Favorite, to postpone this matter until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) Land Trade Request – SWSW, Sec. 26, T42N – R10E: Wayne Oldenburg has expressed an interest in acquiring additional County Forest Land to block into his current holdings in Conover area. Discussion. Egan will contact Oldenburg to obtain more information. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to postpone discussion of this matter until next agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to close Sale #867, motion by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison, to close Sales #872 & #880, motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to close Sale #887; all closures contingent upon compliance with all conditions of the respective contracts. Motion carried unanimously. Stevens received a request from the Vilas County Historical Society to

replace 10 logs at the museum display. Stevens feels that a logging contractor could be persuaded to donate logs from his job on the County Forest. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to allow a contractor to transport logs from the County Forest to the museum. Motion carried unanimously. Salvage Sale: A salvage sale has been set up near Ski Hill due to Aspen blow down. Motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to approve this sale in the amount of \$5,723.10. Motion carried unanimously.

- 12) OSP Update: Stevens gave an update. He reported that the termination on the storm water permit was sent in to DNR; Pitlik & Wick has completed the contract. Stevens has a few issues for the Committee. The topsoil from the parking lots was used on the U-14 fields and the U-12 field and the practice baseball field, which was not what the contract stated that topsoil was for. The topsoil was supposed to be for the U-8's. Another issue is that Pitlik & Wick moved into and out of the site without first notifying the Department, as specified in the contract. Also, Pitlik & Wick was supposed to look at a low place in the gravel near the entrance that holds water. They did not address that. Finally, it seems that the seeding was not done to specs. Other than the issues reported, a good job was done. Stevens reported that the banister work in the concession was completed by Forestry staff and a fire extinguisher was purchased from the Forestry Department budget.
- 13) Snowmobile Trail Program: Buckatabon Creek Bridge – Mayo advised that vandalism was discovered to the railings on the Buckatabon Creek Bridge. At the direction of the County Clerk, quotes were received. The lowest quote was from Collins in the amount of \$1,580.00. The County has a \$1,000.00 insurance deductible. At the County Clerk's suggestion, this will be paid for out of the Snowmobile Development account as a separate project; as there are no budgeted funds available. Mayo gave an update on the Wisconsin River Bridge Project. There is a delay in driving the pilings because Decker Lumber (the contractor) planned to use Inland Dock & Dredge, but Inland is unable to provide the work up to contract specs. Decker will use Collins instead; work should commence next week.
- 14) Natural Forest Openings Maintenance Project Bids: Bids were opened as follows:

Seifert's Field & Forest	\$4,800.00
Northwoods Forestry	\$6,994.80

Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept Seifert's bid. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) Snowmobile Trail Safety Committee: Hjemvick gave his report on the most recent meeting.
- 16) Out of County Travel: Motion by Favorite, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize Gagnon to attend Invasive Species Partnership in Minocqua on 15 July. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted.
- 18) Bills reviewed for payment: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 19) Closed Session: Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to adjourn into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats. for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel who is rendering verbal or written advice regarding litigation in which it is involved – Cira/Weissman v. Vilas County, Case #10CV259. Roll call vote: Egan, Hjemvick, Harrison, Kukanich, Favorite, all voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- 20) Motion by Egan, seconded by Harrison, to adjourn closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats and return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. No action was taken by the Committee.
- 21) The next regular meeting will be 3 August, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
- 22) Motion to adjourn by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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