

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

7 March 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  
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator  
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison  
Ken Anderson, Media  
Pat Weber, Eagle River Baseball  
Gary Dalbeck, Superior Electric  
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles  
Joe Fortmann, Comm. On Aging  
Michael Kieffer, HYSA – Eagle River  
Joe Van DeLaarshot, Lakeland Times

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 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.

- 1) Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the minutes of the 1 February 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.  
Bid Opening – Tax Deed Land Parcels: Bid by Edward & Susan Bonack on Parcel No. 12-1639-007 Lot #6 in the amount of \$31,027.00 (\$100.00 deposit was enclosed). Motion by Sitzberger, second by Hjemvick, to approve sale of Lot # 6 for \$31,027.00. Motion carried unanimously. Bid by Edward & Susan Bonack on Parcel 12-1639-002 Lot #1 in the amount of \$13,094.25 (\$100.00 deposit enclosed). Motion by Hjemvick, Second by Kukanich, to approve the sale of Lot #1 for \$13,094.25. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Commision on Aging – Leasing of Office Space: Fortmann explained reasons for the need to lease office space for the Commission on Aging and presented a resolution which would approve the co-location of the Commission with the Aging Disability Resource Center at 521 Wall Street. Fortmann stated the Commision looked at several properties in the Eagle River area. Discussion. Motion by Sitzberger, second by Hjemvick, to send the resolution and proposal for relocating the Commission on Aging Offices back to the Commission on Aging with instructions to put the leasing of office

space out on bids to see if anyone else responds. Motion carried unanimously. Egan stated that a special meeting can be held to accommodate the timeline for moving the offices.

- 5) OSP Field Lighting Project: Stevens updated the Committee on the project. Dalbeck submitted his installation proposal and will put it in a form that can be attached to the Vilas County Contract. Dalbeck requested the requirement of a performance bond be waived as it was not part of the original bid, it is an extra cost, and he has held his bid for about 2 years. Egan will speak to Corporation Counsel regarding waiving the performance bond requirement. Stevens explained there may be some extra expenses for surveying the new locations of the light towers as the plans have changed to a smaller field. There may be some extra expenses for power to the scoreboard and turf restoration from installing of power. The budget for the Lighting project is \$130,000.00. The cost savings from downsizing to a 300 ft. field will provide approximately \$9,000.00 to accomplish these extra expenses. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Sitzberger, for the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract and the purchase agreement after discussing the performance bond with Corporation Counsel. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Trails Policy: Sitzberger reviewed the proposed changes to the trails policy. An additional change was made to items: "E" to contact the Land & Water Conservation Dept. for the possibility of conducting the environmental review; Change item "H" to read "...trail groups must be informed."; Amend the amount in item "J" to \$1,000.00. Mayo was directed to send the waiver for worker's compensation to Corporation Counsel. Motion by Kukanich, Second by Hjermvick, to postpone action on this item. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Request for music festival at OSP: Kieffer presented a proposal to permit a M3 Rock Music Festival on May18, 19, & 20, 2012. The promoters are Wild Eagle Resort and Eagle Waters Resort. Discussion. Motion by Sitzberger, to permit the musical affair at Oldenburg Sports Park for one year only. Motion died for lack of a second. Discussion. Hjermvick stated the Committee needs more information on the issues of the venue, logistics, emergency services, security, impact on public services, compliance with County and Town ordinances, and new ordinances that may have to be passed. Also, consideration must be given to the purpose of the Sports Park from the view of those who donated to its purchase and development, the neighbors, the construction of the lighting, the new turf, and the County Sheriff on the many different aspects of management of the festival. Kieffer would like another meeting with the Forestry Committee at which the promoters and the Sheriff would be present. Egan said the Committee would be open to having another meeting to consider the issues.
- 8) Phelps ATV Plan: Mayo updated the Committee that at the March 1, 2012 meeting of Town ATV Committee the ATV Ordinance was revised and will be submitted to the Town Board at their March 12, 2012 meeting. If the revised ordinance is passed, a meeting with the County Forestry and Highway Committees will be requested.
- 9) Trail 13 Reroute: The Oneida County is talking with the WDOT on the use of Hwy 45 right of way. Also, Oneida County has notified the landowner they will be removing the bridge which belongs to Oneida County.
- 10) Trail 10 Reroute: An emergency re-route was performed around a landowner that wanted the snowmobile trail removed from his property. With the cooperation of an adjacent private landowner, using the right of way of County Highway G, and relocating the position of the trail on County Forest Land, the Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club paid Collins Excavating to relocate the trail.

- 11) Timber Sales Contracts Activity: There was activity on four timber sale contracts in the month of February. Work in February concentrated on preparing the Spring 2012 Timber Sale and GIS/mapping updates of forest stands and boundary lines. A detailed report submitted by Gagnon is attached to these minutes.
- 12) Natural Resource Conservation Service: Stevens reported the NRCS has requested to inventory sites on the Vilas County Forest as part of a project wherein soils, topography, climate, and plant associations will be correlated to produce a model of vegetation dynamics for ecological sites of the Northern Highland Region of the State.
- 13) Snowmobile Safety Committee Report: Sitzberger and Mayo reported on the cooperation of the different entities. Reports received from the trauma centers at the hospitals in the region have enabled accident sites to be checked to expose and correct any problems with trail management. There have been 68 accidents requiring medical attention in Oneida and Vilas Counties and 8 snowmobile related fatalities statewide this season. Mayo reported on the posters obtained encouraging people not to operate while intoxicated. Sitzberger reported the ratio of warnings to citations is about 2:1. The Safety Committee will ask to have this statistic published. Sitzberger also commended Mayo for attending to a hazard situation in Manitowish Waters where a snowmobiler ran a stop sign and collided with a motor vehicle. The signs were doubled up after Mayo witnessed several other snowmobilers run the same stop sign.
- 14) Resolutions: Stevens reviewed the resolution in support of Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to forward this resolution to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to forward the resolution to direct the County Clerk to amend the 2011 budget to reflect additional revenues from "Outside Revenues" and a "Sustainable Forestry Grant" in the "State Aid Forestry Account". Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) Agenda Format & Dept. Oversight Activities: Stevens reviewed the actions of the Committee and some additional suggestions. Discussion. Motion by Sitzberger, second by Hjemvick, to forward the suggestions to the County Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Correspondence: Letter received from Great Headwaters Trails (GHT) commending the Committee for working to obtain Parcel 8-1455 containing a segment of abandoned rail grade and the reasons this parcel is vital to the trail system. Hjemvick noted he explained this to GHT as there was no additional value placed on the grade in the appraisal and he wanted for all those involved to appreciate that value.
- 17) Meetings & Education: Stevens distributed copies of the agenda and registration materials for the WCFA Spring Meeting, March 22 & 23, 2012.
- 18) Monthly Budget Summary: Stevens reported there is a problem with the telephone system in that we have been getting billed by both Choice Tel and Frontier with no voice mail as of yet. There were additional unplanned repairs on the brush hog mower, tractor, and the skidder. The additional costs will have an effect on our line items, although not at this time. The summer help positions have been filled with the people that were employed last summer.
- 19) 2011 Annual Report: The Committee reviewed the report. Stevens pointed out a correction on the miles of County Forest Boundary established by certified survey or by agreements with adjacent landowners. The miles should be 204.6. The Committee commended the Department on the Annual Report and for doing a good job of keeping the Committee informed.

- 20) Abandoned Rail Grades: A snowmobile bridge that is located on the grade west of Sayner is in need of being replaced. The placement of bridges mandates a 10 year land use agreement with the landowner. The current owner of the grade is unidentified. The WDNR is willing to share in the cost of a title search, a total of \$250.00, as a step in determining ownership of the grade. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to co-op the cost of the title search with DNR. Motion carried unanimously.
- 21) The bills were reviewed and signed by the Committee. Motion by Sitzberger, second by Kukanich to pay the bills. Motion carried unanimously.
- 22) Motion to adjourn by Sitzberger, second by Kukanich. Motion carried unanimously.

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