

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

7 September 2011

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

Others Present: Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary  
 John Gagnon, CF Asst. Administrator  
 Dale Mayo, Parks/Rec/Snowmo Coordinator  
 Ken Anderson, Media  
 Ken Kmichik  
 Jeff Currie, Mike Robillard  
 Chris Brunner, USFS  
 Tim Friedrich, Acting DNR Liaison  
 Dale Ayers, Vilas County Fair  
 Pat Weber, Eagle River Softball  
 Michael Kreffir  
 David Chamberlain, Soccer  
 Russell Wolfe, Eric Chapman, Lac du Flambeau Tribe

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 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 Kukanich, 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 Harrison, to approve the minutes of the 3 August 2011 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Land: Bids were opened for the sale of tax deed parcels as follows:

Computer Number	Bidder Name	Amount of Bid	Action Taken
2-1322	Dennis Howard	\$2,656.67*	Mtn Kukanich, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, accept
12-1557	William Kahlenberg	\$12,500.00	Mtn Hjenvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Egan, reject
12-1639-002	Jeffrey Paalman	\$9,012.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kukanich, reject
12-1639-002	Mark	\$7,640.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup>

	McDonough		Kukanich, reject
12-1639-002	Robt. Anderson	\$7,070.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kukanich, reject
12-1639-003	Harold Paalman	\$10,802.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
12-1639-003	Mark McDonough	\$8,340.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
12-1639-003	Robt Anderson	\$7,575.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
12-1639-006	Robt Anderson	\$8,080.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
12-1639-007	Jerry Bybee	\$20,100.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
12-1639-007	Robt Anderson	\$16,665.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
12-1639-008	Jerry Bybee	\$25,250.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kukanich, reject
12-1639-008	Robt Anderson	\$21,715.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kukanich, reject
12-1884	William Kahlenberg	\$12,500.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Egan, reject
18-78	Colin Crawford	\$3,000.00	Mtn Egan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
18-648-03	Colin Crawford	\$3,000.00	Mtn Hjemvick, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harrison, reject
22-1916	Mark McDonough	\$3,500.00	Mtn Harrison, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hjemvick, reject

All motions carried unanimously.

- 4) Kmichik Access Request: A request for access was received from Ken Kmichik to access his property located on Muskellunge Lake via the County Boat Landing. He presented his proposed access and letters from the adjacent landowners stating they would not give him access. Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to allow Kmichik access via the boat landing, according to the recommendations and direction of Stevens and Gagnon. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Oldenburg Sports Park: Discussion of lighting. Weber advised that he didn't yet have the cost projections from Musco or Superior. Weber pointed out that since soil borings have not been done with respect to the placement of light poles, the cost of the pole foundations is not known. Fencing was also discussed, as to the matter of placing removable panels at the softball field or not. Favorite stated that the fencing question can be dealt with in 2012. Gagnon advised that the panels cost \$8,000 and there is no money budgeted for this. Weber advised the Committee that the \$10,000 donation promised by Mr. Oldenburg has been received for the construction of dugout and

placement of scoreboard and bases. The Department has some concerns regarding the maintenance provisions of the lease agreement between HYSA and the County; namely, mowing, completion of stonework on the concession building and cleanliness of the concession restrooms and storage areas. Chamberlain advised that the prepared fields, especially the ones being used, are mowed. The Committee advised that all the fields have been prepared and must be maintained to be ready for use when needed. Chamberlain said he would get together with Stevens on this. Chamberlain further advised that engraving work is to be done on the stones before completion, and when funds are available, this will be done, hopefully spring 2012.

- 6) Collaborative County/Tribal Park Project - Request from Tribal Concerns Committee: Chapman and Wolfe addressed the Committee. The Tribal Concerns Committee sees a need for a public park in the southwest area of the County to serve residents and visitors to that part of Vilas County. They advised that the Tribe has 3 parks in the area which are in need of playground equipment upgrades and maintenance. Chapman & Wolfe highlighted "Sand Beach" area on Flambeau Lake across from Cemetery Road off Highway 47 just north and west of town, which they advise receives a lot of use, is a regulated area, and is a beautiful area. Chapman and Wolfe advised they feel the Highway Department is well suited to assist, and they will be meeting with the Highway Committee.
- 7) Fairgrounds Improvements: There is \$9,149.24 remaining in the budget for this purpose. The Committee would like the Fair Board to prioritize the projects they would like to accomplish; i.e., fencing, electrical upgrades, ground leveling, parking and traffic flow issues. The Committee asked Ayers to have the Fair Board to come in, look at the plans Blackhawk Engineering provided a couple years ago, and provide the Department with a written prioritized list.
- 8) Chequamegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest Road Map: Chris Brunner gave an update. She noted that the matter is still open for appeal, and she can be contacted for information.
- 9) Vilas County Pedestrian/Bike Trail Plan: The Plan was prepared by No. Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) and reviewed by both the Highway and Forestry Committees. Input from Highway Committee have been incorporated into the Plan, and a joint resolution to submit the Plan to County Board for their approval has been signed by Highway. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to submit the resolution to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) Land Trade – Oldenburg Request: Oldenburg has acquired from Brown the parcel located in Pt. NENE, Sec. 21, T41N – R10E, Conover which the County is interested in acquiring as a vital recreational trail segment. Oldenburg's objective is to acquire the County owned 40 located at SWSW, Sec. 26, T42N – R10E, Conover in order to consolidate his private holdings. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to move forward in this land trade between Oldenburg and the County with consideration to adding additional lands to the County Forest inventory in order to meet the DNR standards. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion. One possibility to fulfill this land inventory requirement might be to retain the tax deed 80 acres parcel in Land O'Lakes located in Sec. 2 & 11, T42N – R10E and enter this 80 into the County Forest Law.
- 11) Land Acquisition – Lanser Property: Lanser has advised the County he is interested in selling this 40, located at NWSW, Sec. 11, T41N – R9E, Conover. The County would benefit from absorbing this parcel into the County Forest, as it is contiguous to County Forest on 3 sides; State land is on the fourth side. Discussion as to what Lanser will accept for the parcel; i.e., cash or trade. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to

allow the Forestry Department to proceed in pursuing what it would cost to acquire this piece of land and to negotiate. Motion carried unanimously.

- 12) Tax Deed Parcel #12-1714 – Babcock Road: USDA is still working on the financing for the successful bidder, Tammy Jaeger. Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to extend payment deadline to 31 December 2011, and revisit the matter at that time if necessary. Motion carried unanimously.
- 13) Cell Tower Easement Request: American Transmission Company is waiting for an answer to their request for a “permanent” easement for \$100,000.00. The Committee reviewed the list of suggestions Stevens prepared. Discussion. Motion by Harrison, seconded by Favorite, to appoint Egan (who agreed to consult with his contacts in the communications industry) to review the present lease and work with Corporation Counsel and Stevens on this matter. Egan will procure a copy of the lease from the Sheriff’s Department, which has the file as it is under the jurisdiction of the Communications Committee.
- 14) Resolution Project Loan to Purchase Truck: Motion by Egan, seconded by Favorite, to approve this resolution and forward it to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) Resolution Oldenburg Sports Park Lighting: Motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the resolution in the amount of \$130,000.00 and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Tamarack Springs Campground Host: Two of the regular campers, Chris & Kathy Pownell, have requested an arrangement with the Department wherein their camping fees would be waived in return for making sure other campers were paying their fees and in general, keeping an eye on the campground. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, directing Mayo to look into a plan for a campground host situation. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Snowmobile Program: Mayo reported that another stumpage payment (\$839.76) was received via the DOT contribution to trail safety improvements; the Wisconsin River snowmobile bridge at County K is completed and the bill for \$98,500.00 is with the monthly bills to be reviewed. The 2011-2012 trail maintenance advance payment in the amount of \$59,875.00 is ready to be paid out. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Harrison, to forward the payment to the Alliance. Motion carried unanimously. Conover trail relocation – a portion of trail will be re-routed away from highway ROW onto private land. Funds from the DOT contribution from the logging contract will be used to pay for the tree removal involved. Three quotes were received: \$4,500, \$2,000, & \$1,200. Denny’s Excavating is the \$1,200 quote. That quote was accepted and work has begun.
- 18) PDMD’s (power driven mobility devices): Gagnon advised that a basic synopsis of the law is that anybody has the right to use a device of his/her choosing to access the same areas that anybody else can, as long as it’s safe for other users. As far as the Department can tell, no other counties or the State has come up with a policy to accommodate this federal rule, from which the federal government is apparently exempt. The Committee determined that a good starting point for Vilas County is to update and assess the Department trail inventory, and directed that this be done. Friedrich suggested that a sustainable forestry grant might be available to pay a LTE to do the project (Oneida has applied for this grant).
- 19) Timber Contracts Activity & Forest Management Report: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Motion by Kukanich seconded by Harrison, to approve

closure of Timber Sale #838 when contract conditions are satisfactorily completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 20) Declaration for 2011 Secure Rural School funds: This request is for annual payment to towns in Wisconsin based upon the Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act P.L.110-343. Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison, to authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
- 21) WDNR Strategic Direction Results: The County Forest Program is to receive a reduction in assistance from DNR. The reduction is coming via a reduction of available funds in the Sustainable Forestry Grant and by use of unused dollars in the Forest Administrators Grant. The Wildlife Habitat Grant and the Forest Administrators Grant remain fully funded as well as man-hours of assistance.
- 22) Meetings: Wisconsin Invasive Species: Meeting in Minocqua 23 September – motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize Gagnon to attend. Motion carried unanimously
- 23) Performance Deposits/Bonds: The Department conducted a survey of the County Forests to aid in determining whether Vilas County is in line with other counties. 22 of the other 28 counties responded. The Committee directed that Stevens review the responses and make recommendations to the Committee at the October meeting.
- 24) 2012 Budget: The skidder needs an engine. Discussion. It appears the most cost effective solution is a re-built for around \$12,000.00 (quote from Ison). Harrison suggested the Department check with Superior Diesel in Rhinelander as well. Motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich to place \$12,000.00 into the 2012 budget for this project. Motion carried unanimously.
- 25) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted with the budget.
- 26) Bills reviewed for payment: Motion by Harrison, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.
- 27) The next regular meeting will be 5 October, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
- 28) Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Harrison, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned approximately 12:30 p.m.

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