

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

1 May 2013

Members Present: Ralph Sitzberger, Chair  
Sig Hjemvick, Vice Chair  
Leon Kukanich  
Charles Rayala, Jr.  
Maynard Bedish  
Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator  
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary  
Dale Mayo, Recreation Administrator  
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison  
Ken Anderson, Media  
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles  
Pat Weber, ER Baseball  
Ted Bogeman, ChoiceTel

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Sitzberger, 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 Administrative Secretary.

- 1) Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Bedish, to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Bedish, to approve the minutes of the 3 April 2013 meeting as presented at this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tax Deed Lands: Sealed bids were received as follows: Parcel #12-1639-008 – Timber Valley LLC. This bid was not opened. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Bedish to table this bid opening till the next meeting (June). There is a possibility the Sheriff's Department may have an interest in placing a communications tower on site. Hjemvick will follow through on this question and advise the Committee. Motion carried unanimously. #18-648-03 – Todd Riihmaki in the amount of \$9,500.00. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to accept this bid. Discussion. The Committee is concerned about the large amount of tires and other debris present on the property, and directed that Corporation Counsel be asked if a 2 year cleanup deadline could be imposed on the buyer. A letter will be sent to Corp Counsel asking the question. For clarification, the motion was not amended to include any conditions. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Fiber Optic Cable Access Request: Pursant to the Committee's direction at the April meeting, Stevens presented the following information after conferring with Corporation Counsel: terms of access would be an access permit, not an easement across the County Forest. In regard to the County Forest 15 Year Plan provision for charging \$1.00/linear foot, Corporation Counsel advised that if the Committee decides

not to charge the \$1.00 ft. as provided for in the Plan, they can gain authority to do so when the Plan is amended via County Board resolution; . In regard to location of the fiber optic cable in the County Forest Road, consideration should be given to physical placement in order to avoid future safety hazards. As to the question the Chair had of how much other County Forests charge for this type of access, Stevens received responses from 9 counties. The prices range from 10¢/ft. to \$5.00/ft. The average of all prices is \$1.27/ft. Some counties charge minimum or flat rates or a charge based on lost forest productivity of the land. Renewal rates and periods varied. Discussion. The Chair advised that he would like to see the County Forest Plan amended so that the Committee could decide how much to charge for any given access request, without re-visiting the Plan each individual time there is a request. The Chair directed that a resolution be prepared to facilitate this. Bogeman of ChoiceTel wants to do the work by 20 May this year. Nemec advised the Committee that in addition to County Board approval of the resolution to amend the Plan, DNR approval is required by state law, which will add additional time to the process. The Chair advised that he and Stevens will meet with Corporation Counsel to discuss the resolution and call a special meeting to act on the resolution in time to present it to the County Board on 28 May.

- 5) Commissioner of Public Lands (BCPL) Acquisition Opportunity: Stevens reminded the Committee that in 2011, the BCPL identified a large number of forties to either trade for or otherwise obtain from the County Forests. One of these 40's is located at NWNW, Sec. 34, T.42N. - .10E., Conover, and abuts County Forest Land. This tract has been identified as a tract to be acquired from the State. Even if the County is not interested in pursuing acquisition of this tract, an easement for the existing snowmobile trail would be desirable. Discussion. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Bedish, to start the procedure, including obtaining an appraisal, to acquire this parcel via purchase or trade. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Stevens gave Gagnon's report, a copy of which is attached. Timber sales sealed bids were opened and read; results as follows: Tract #1: Cloverland Logging \$69,311.90; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to accept. Tract #2: Pluedeman Logging \$17,597.50, NewPage \$16,341.25; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to accept Pluedeman's bid. Tract #3: Ed Holtorp \$8,022.70; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Bedish, to accept. Tract #4: Wiitala Vozka Logging \$76,326.80, Bell Timber \$65,725.40; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to accept Wiitala Vozka's bid. Tract #5: Northwest Hardwoods \$55,530.00, Futurewood \$55,273.75, Nordine Land Mgt. \$48,102.50; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to accept Northwest Hardwood's bid. Tract #6: Biewer WI Sawmill \$12,050.25, Nordine Land Mgt. \$12,045.00, Brandenburg Logging \$11,142.50, Futurewood \$10,400.50, Cloverland Logging \$9,760.45; motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept Biewer's bid. Tract #7: Futurewood \$63,157.75, Nordine Land Mgt. \$62,116.90, NewPage \$59,714.75, Cloverland Logging \$58,774.75; motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept Futurewood's bid. Tract #8: Nordine Land Mgt. \$34,581.25, NewPage \$24,790.00; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to accept Nordine's bid. Tract #9: Nordine Land Mgt. \$9,999.50, Klessig Tree Service \$8,555.00, Ed Holtorp \$7,373.00; motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept Nordine's bid. Tract #10: Nordine Land Mgt. \$3,979.20, Klessig Tree Service \$3,610.00, Brandenburg Logging \$3,040.00, Ed Holtorp \$2,720.00; motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept Nordine's bid. Tract #11: NewPage \$41,942.50, Nordine Land Mgt. \$36,805.60, Vimber Calley \$29,823.00; motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept NewPage's bid. Tract #12:

NewPage \$23,387.75, Nordine Land Mgt. \$21,155.90, Ed Holtorp \$19,653.70; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to accept NewPage's bid. Tract #13: Nordine Land Mgt. \$34,508.00, NewPage \$20,846.25; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to accept Nordine's bid. Tract #14: Nordine Land Mgt. \$13,790.00, Pluedeman Logging \$13,677.50, Futurewood \$12,251.70, NewPage \$11,641.25, Ed Holtorp \$11,551.30, Cloverland Logging \$9,431.25; motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept Nordine's bid. Motions carried unanimously.

- 7) Research – Bioenergy MTU: Stevens advised that Michigan Tech and New Hampshire Universities entered into a cooperative project to study bioenergy. They have requested the use of a County Forest land tract, a 5-6" diameter Aspen stand. Stevens briefly explained the scope of the project, advising the Committee that no products would be cut in the stand. Stevens consulted Corporation Counsel as to liability issues, and she advised that a copy of the Universities' Certificates of Liability & Workers Comp Insurance would suffice in lieu of a contract. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to allow utilization of a designated plot for the study providing the Universities supply a copy of their insurance certificates as outlined by Corp Counsel. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Wildlife Renovation Bid Opening: Bids were received as follows: Custom Landscaping - \$1,850.00; Northwoods Forestry - \$6,865.00. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept the bid of Custom Landscaping. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) Parks & Recreation: Mayo provided a summary of the snowmobile trail maintenance expenses and revenues for the 2012-2013 season for the Committee's review. Summer Hours – Mayo talked with HR regarding a schedule of four 10 hour days for the summer parks help. Mayo advised that it is more practical for the Shooting Range maintenance to be done early in the morning when it is unoccupied and that the heavy parks use on Fridays makes maintenance work difficult at those locations. HR advised Mayo to take a recommendation from the Forestry Committee to Personnel. Hjemvick advised that he discussed this matter with Legislative & Judicial Committee which advised that if Forestry wrote a policy for this, working with HR, the Forestry Committee could manage the hours to suit the needs of the Department. Mayo was directed to work with HR on a policy to bring to the Committee next meeting.
- 10) Letters & Communications: The Chair gave an update on County Board Committee consolidations. He advised that the result of discussions with L & J is that Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee & Land Records Committee will be combined. Ken Anderson advised that he thought the County might be interested in acquiring the State property where the rearing ponds were formerly located in Conover. Nemec advised that the appropriate DNR contact would be Steven Gilbert at the Woodruff office.
- 11) Meetings: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to allow 5 delegates from Vilas County to attend the Wisconsin Conservation Congress meeting in Eau Claire on 8-10 May. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12) Monthly Budget Summary: Stevens advised that the Sustainable Forestry Grant for the Project Forester 2013 was accepted and approved by the DNR. Applicants are being interviewed for the Forestry Intern position. The Chair directed that the Department continue to provide the usual in-house monthly budget summaries and check register.
- 13) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 5 June 2013, 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms. Rayala is excused for another commitment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's (Valkenaar) notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.