

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

15 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  
John Gagnon, Assistant Administrator  
Dale Mayo, Recreation Administrator  
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary  
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison  
Ken Anderson, Media  
Martha Milanowski, Corporation Counsel  
Dan Balog, Land O'Lakes Town Chair  
Ted Bogeman, ChoiceTel

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 Rayala, seconded by Kukanich to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Resolution re Amending Vilas County Forest 15 Year Management Plan – Private Utilities Access: As a result of the discussion at the 1 May 2013 Forestry Committee meeting, a resolution was drafted and reviewed by the Committee. Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to forward the resolution amending the 2006-2020 Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to the County Board, setting the private utility fee at \$250.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Resolution re Amending the Vilas County Forest 15 Year Management Plan – MOA with DNR to participate in Knowles-Nelson Land Acquisition Grant program: Stevens explained that entering into this MOA will allow Vilas County to participate in land acquisition for the benefit of the County Forest. This grant program can provide up to 50% of purchase price for land acquisitions under conditions set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Wisconsin DNR, which is attached to the resolution. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to forward the resolution to the County Board in regards to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and Vilas County. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Access Permit – ChoiceTel: This Utility Land Use Permit will allow the installation of the fiber optic cable to service Camp Ramah as discussed at the May Committee meeting, which prompted the resolution passed in #2 of these minutes. The permit

provides for a 50-year renewable term for a one-time fee of \$250.00, and does not require County Board approval. County Board approval of the \$250.00 fee will be accomplished by way of the resolution. Stevens expressed concern that the fiber optic cable not be placed directly in the County Forest Road. Milanowski advised that under the terms of the Land Use Permit, ChoiceTel will have to present a plan to the County for approval, so that Bogeman can go out on site with Forestry staff, flag it, commit the location to paper. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the Utility Land Use Permit with the provision that the resolution amending the 15 Year Plan to allow for the \$250.00 fee and the 50 year term receives County Board approval. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Summer Work Hours Policy: Mayo advised that as directed by the Committee, he met with Janna Kahl of HR to devise a policy regarding a schedule of four 10 hour days for the summer parks help. Mayo presented the resulting policy to the Committee for their review. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to forward the draft to Personnel for their review. Discussion. Stevens advised that he devised a similar draft to address the summer work hours of the Forestry employees. Stevens felt that in the interest of fairness the same work hours and paid breaks should be available to all Department employees. In the course of doing so, Stevens noted that the employees on the County Highway Dept. 4-10's schedule receive an additional 80 minutes of County-paid breaks that the other employees (regular 5-day work week) do not receive. Regular employees receive 2-10 minute paid breaks and must take a 30 minute unpaid lunch break. Mayo noted that on his proposed 4-10's schedule for Parks, the employees receive 2-15 minute paid breaks and no lunch. Discussion. Mayo advised that he intended for this 4-10's schedule to apply to himself as well as the summer help. Milanowski advised that it was her understanding via HR that Mayo would keep his regular hours and that summer help employee Art Nass would be supervising the summer help. The Chair advised that he didn't know either that Mayo planned to go on the proposed summer help 4-10's schedule, and advised that Personnel should probably be consulted. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to table this until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6) The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

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