

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

6 August 2014

Members Present: Steven Doyen, Chair
Rocky Caffarella, Vice Chair
Ken Anderson
Art Kunde
Willy Otterpohl
Others Present: John Gagnon, CF, Forest Administrator
Dale Mayo, Parks & Recreation Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison
Ron De Bruyne, County Board Chair
Dawn Schmidt, Zoning
Amy Springer, Gina Egan, Public Health
Edie Kukanich, Dale Ayers, Leanna Brassell, Fair Board
Ann & Jeff Currie, Al Drum, Great Headwaters Trails

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Caffarella, who advised that this was a public meeting and that notification of the meeting with the agenda was properly posted. This notification was verified by the Forestry Department Administrative Secretary.

- 1) Approval of Minutes: Motion by Otterpohl, seconded by Anderson, to approve the minutes of the 2 July 2014 meeting. Discussion. Caffarella pointed out a correction to the 2 July 2014 minutes, item #9, correct to delete sentence that stated Caffarella had spoken with Lt. Ritter regarding the shared position. This correction has been made per Committee approval. Mayo asked to have item #10, Eagle Lake Park Pavilion Bids, amended as regards the amount budgeted. Discussion. Committee agreed that statement was recorded accurately in the minutes, requested amendment will not be made. The Vice Chair called for the vote to approve the 2 July 2014 minutes as corrected. All voting aye, motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. During the oral portion of this report (1:07 p.m.) Chairman Doyen arrived and took charge of the balance of this meeting.
- 3) Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant: Gagnon advised that the final payment request has been submitted to DNR for the acquisition of the Denton Lake 40. When this grant check is received, the County will submit the purchase price to BCPL at which time they will issue a Patent and Vilas County will own the property. Gagnon will continue to keep the Committee informed as to the progress of this project. In regard to the Richman access project, Gagnon will continue to attempt to make contact with owner Jay Richman.
- 4) Tax Deed Redemption Policy: This item will be placed on the September agenda. Valkenaar will produce a current procedure outline for the Committee's review.
- 5) Tax Deed Parcel #28-561: At their 2 July 2014 meeting, the Committee passed a motion to allow former owner Debra Kurth Roeder to redeem the property after certain conditions were met. Kurth Roeder has advised the Department that she is unable to pay the amount due as set forth by the Committee and wishes to remove her

personal property from the premises. Gagnon has consulted with Corporation Counsel as to procedure and will arrange to have staff on hand on designated dates to monitor the removal by Kurth Roeder of her property.

- 6) Land Acquisition Opportunity – Harold Johnson #6-157: This 28.3 acre parcel is located in the Town of Cloverland off High Point Road, and is accessed via snowmobile trail and bordered on the west and south by County Forest Land and to the north by State land. Discussion. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Caffarella, that Gagnon is directed to order an appraisal. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Land Acquisition Opportunity – Ron Jackson SENW, S. 32, T41N – R10E, Town of Conover: This 40 composed of 3 parcels is being offered for sale to the County. Appraisal done in January 2014 gave a value of \$57,000.00. Access is via funded snowmobile trail on County Forest Land. Discussion. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Otterpohl, to offer Jackson \$57,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Maintenance Funds Request – Vilas County Fairgrounds: A request was received from the Vilas County Fair Board in the amount of \$4,000.00. The Board explained that they have recently purchased cement barriers for the truck pull area, they are expecting a load of gravel, they need new fencing (the Baseball group removed the fence for relocation to OSP), they are remodeling the old press box, and need an electrical upgrade. The Committee reviewed summaries of the expenditures from the ATC payment of \$210,250.00 which was to be used for Fairgrounds improvements, and this revealed that to date the Fair has received \$4,812.00. A copy of this summary is attached to these minutes. Motion by Caffarella, seconded by Anderson, to grant the Fair Board's request for \$4,000.00 to be placed in the 2015 Budget for the Fair. Motion carried unanimously. There was also discussion with regard to the carnival, which has moved into place for the annual County Fair. Public Health and Zoning both have concerns about sanitary issues. Mayo advised that the immediate concerns are being addressed. Mayo was directed to continue to work with the Fair to address these concerns, and to make a plan for next year's Fair.
- 9) Phelps Land Use Agreement: Doyen advised that he worked with Mayo and Corporation Counsel in reviewing this proposed Land Use Agreement (LUA) between Vilas County and the Town of Phelps for use of the County-owned abandoned railroad grade in an attempt to resolve some concerns the Town of Phelps has with the current language of the LUA. The Town wishes the language in #1 to be changed from “for a period of thirty (30) years, commencing on the 1st day of June, 2014, and ending on the 1st day of June, 2044,” to “consistent with the time period set forth in the grant agreement between the Town and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to construct the trail.” Doyen also pointed out a proposed change to #15: “The County may, **after 30 days’ notice of breach**” to the first sentence, and deleting the rest of the sentence after “conditions contained herein.” Doyen advised that if these two changes could be made, Phelps would sign the LUA. Discussion. The consensus of the Committee is to let the matter sit and focus on the idea of an ad hoc committee with representation from various user groups to aid in trail planning. The Committee directed Gagnon and Mayo to make a formal request to the County Board Chair and Vice Chairs to form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of county-wide trail planning. The Chair twice asked if the Committee had a motion to accept the LUA, with no response.
- 10) Summer Forestry Help: Gagnon advised that he went to Personnel Committee in July and asked for an extension of the employment of the summer Forestry LTE. Personnel approved this request contingent upon approval of the Forestry Committee.

- Motion by Anderson, seconded by Otterpohl, to allow the County Forest Administrator the discretion to extend the hours of the summer help, as he sees the need, to the maximum hours allowed by the County. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Segregated Land Account: Discussion of future property acquisition and the budget process to allow for same. Motion by Doyen, seconded by Anderson, to amend the 2015 Budget to include up to the appraised value of the Johnson property. Discussion. Finance Director Hilger was asked to come down to the meeting to explain the budgeting mechanics of the Land Account to the Committee. Hilger addressed the Committee and answered their questions. The Chair called for a vote on the pending motion. Motion failed, all voted no. See Item #6 of these minutes for discussion of the Johnson property acquisition.
 - 12) Maintenance Funds Request – OSP Baseball: Request was received from Eagle River Baseball in the amount of \$20,000.00 to have the lights moved from the Fairgrounds location to OSP. The Fair has indicated to Mayo they would like the lighting to remain at the Fairgrounds. Motion by Caffarella, seconded by Anderson, to say no to the Baseball maintenance request. Motion carried unanimously. OSP has a new Musco lighting system in place. Committee directed Mayo to write a letter to the Fairgrounds and Baseball organizations to advise that the lights at the Fairgrounds will remain in place.
 - 13) Maintenance Funds Request - OSP Soccer: Request was received from Headwaters Youth Soccer in the amount of \$1,250.00 annually for grading, \$7,000.00 for temporary irrigation, and \$35,500.00 for grading and seeding annually. The Soccer Association would also like for the Committee to consider \$100,000.00 for future irrigation. Motion by Caffarella, seconded by Otterpohl, to say no to the Soccer Association requests. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the OSP Fund account expenditures is attached to these minutes.
 - 14) Camping Fees: Current fee is \$3/night for all camping sites. Discussion. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Kunde, to raise the fee for Tamarack Springs Campground to \$10.00/night. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Kunde, to raise the fee to \$5.00/night for Canoe Campsites and camping where designated on the County Forest. Motion carried unanimously. Both fee hikes to take effect in 2015.
 - 15) 2015 Parks/Rec Budget: Mayo advised that as a result of the discussion of a shared position between Highway and Parks & Recreation, that position was figured into the 2015 budget. Mayo said he was advised by HR and Finance Director to leave the 2015 budget like it was last year, with 3 LTE's. Mayo advised that he then changed the budget back to what it was with 3 LTE's. Mayo reminded the Committee that the \$4,000.00 approved for the Fair request is also a budget amendment. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Otterpohl, to approve the amended budget. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 16) Shared Position Parks/Highway Department: Mayo advised that in regard to the proposed 4 months Highway/8 months Parks & Recreation shared position, HR has asked for a motion in support of this position from this Committee. Discussion. Motion by Otterpohl, seconded by Kunde to support this shared position. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 17) Phelps ATV Ordinance: Current draft of new Chapter 26 “All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Ordinance” reviewed by Committee. Motion by Caffarella, seconded by Anderson, to change references in 26.02 from “Vilas County Board of Supervisors” to Vilas County Highway Committee.” Discussion. Chair

called for the question on the motion on the floor. All voted no. Chair asked for motion to proceed with the draft ordinance, forwarding same to Highway Committee and Legislative & Judicial Committee for their approval with the recommendation of this Committee. Motion by Otterpohl, seconded by Kunde, to forward the draft ordinance Chapter 26 to Highway and Legislative & Judicial Committees for their approval with the recommendation of the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of this draft ordinance to be presented is attached to these minutes.

- 18) Resolutions: Motion by Caffarella, seconded by Anderson, to place 2015 Parks truck & service body purchase for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 in 2015 Budget. Motion carried, with Doyen voting no. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Otterpohl, to approve expenditure of \$18,500.00 for baseball field fencing at Oldenburg Sports Park, motion carried with Doyen voting no. Motion by Doyen, seconded by Anderson, to approve expenditure of \$17,950.00 for construction of replacement pavilion at Eagle Lake Park. Motion carried unanimously. These 3 resolutions will be forwarded to August County Board.
- 19) Committee Consolidation: No discussion at this time, Committee directed that this remain an agenda item until further notice.
- 20) Correspondence: The Committee was given a copy of a recent training report for Valkenaar; a summary of Forestry County Ordinance violations requested by Anderson was provided by Gagnon; Anderson advised that the County Deer Advisory Council meetings have been set for 24 Sept., 29 Oct., & 11 Dec., 7-9 p.m., Boulder Junction Community Center. Applications for be council members are available.
- 21) Meeting Notifications: In response to this Committee's directive that notifications of Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee meetings be sent to none other than present County Board Supervisors, media, and relevant County personnel, the County Clerk has indicated via memo to the Committee that "one of his duties is to ensure county compliance with open meeting laws, and this includes the posting of county meeting notifications in an open and transparent manner. As you are required to send me your agendas for posting on the web and for official archiving, I will make the proper postings to the Meeting Notification email distribution list." Discussion. The Committee reaffirmed its directive as set forth in the first sentence of this paragraph.
- 22) Meetings/Education/Travel: Governor's Council meeting will be in Wausau 17 through 19 August – Mayo will attend; WCFA Fall meeting 26 September – Gagnon will forward information to Committee. Motion by Doyen, seconded by Anderson, to approve attendance for Gagnon and interested Committee members. Motion carried, with Caffarella voting no.
- 23) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted.
- 24) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee will be 3 September 2014, 1:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms. Kunde is excused.
- 25) The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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