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## MEETING MINUTES

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**Committee:** Forestry & Recreation  
**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2018  
**Time:** 8:30 AM  
**Location:** Forestry Office Conference Room, Fairgrounds, Antigo, WI

The following discussion was held by the Committee at the meeting detailed above:

1. Meeting called to order at 8:30 A.M.
2. Roll call was conducted.

Forestry & Recreation Committee		
Name	Role	Status
Ronald Nye	Chairman	Present
Donald Scupien	Vice Chairman	Present
Joseph Novak III	Secretary	Absent
Sam Hardin	Member	Present
Duff Leaver	Member	Present
Non- Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
Erik Rantala	Forest Administrator	
David Solin	County Board Chairman	
Pete Pennington	County Board member	
Tom Lazars	Park Manager	
Janet Brehm	DNR Wildlife Biologist	
Robin Stowe	Corporation Counsel	
Alexander Brown	North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	
Darryl Landeau	North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	
Dave Peterson	Langlade Co. Snowmobile Council, Kettlebowl	
Beth Wagner	LAMBA	
Brian Braun	Highway Commissioner	
Terry Poltrock	Recording Secretary	

3. The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Approval of December 6, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Leaver to approve the meeting minutes for the December 6, 2017 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

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5. Public Comment on Agenda Items, and Consideration of Requests for Items to be added to Future Meeting Agendas – Discuss service animals at recreational facilities at February meeting.
6. Discuss/Approve Ski Fest at Jack Lake – February 10, 2018 – Rantala stated that since Lacey Stensberg was unable to attend the meeting that he would like the committee to consider approving the Ski Fest at Jack Lake on February 10, 2018 as our next meeting is not scheduled until February 8, 2018. The ski fest was held last year at Jack Lake and was very successful and the group would be working with the Elcho School District on this project and all funds would go to silent sports. Motion by Solin, seconded by Leaver to approve Rantala working with the group for the Ski Fest at Jack Lake on February 10, 2018. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Approve Bike Race at Veteran’s Memorial Park – September 15, 2018 – Beth Wagner of LAMBA spoke to the committee about the mountain bike race that they would like to hold at Veteran’s Memorial Park on September 15, 2018. This race is part of the Wisconsin Mountain Bike Endurance Race series. Participants race for 3, 6 or 10 hours either individually or as a group. All funds from this event will go back for trail maintenance. They are expecting about 50 racers. Robin Stowe, corporation counsel, touched on how recreational immunity can affect events on the county and will discuss this in more detail at the February meeting. Wagner did state that LAMBA does have liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million to cover events. Motion by Scupien, seconded by Hardin to approve Rantala working with LAMBA on this event. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Discuss Otter Lake Wayside - Rantala informed the committee that the Town of Elcho received the Otter Lake parcel from the DOT in 1988, but by 1991 Langlade County received the parcel by quit claim as the Town of Elcho did not have the funds for its upkeep. The parking area does need to be repaired. Otter Lake is mostly used for its boat landing and dock as it is used quite heavily by fishermen. Rantala will contact Schuh to find out exactly what plans the Town of Elcho has for the Otter Lake Wayside.
9. Update on Langlade County Bike/Pedestrian Plan – Darryl Landeau and Alexander Brown, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, addressed the committee on the Langlade County Bike/Pedestrian Plan. This was the kick-off meeting for the plan. They would like to update the forestry and recreation committee on the plan at their meetings in April and July. During the period April – June, this would be the public outreach period with a survey and Wiki maps. In May and August, there would be Ad Hoc meetings and public meetings with partners, interested user groups, and the public. In June, they would meet with the Highway committee. Review and public comment would be in September with forestry and recreation committee review and approval in October and then adoption by the full county board in November. Once a plan has been approved it is easier to apply for grants to build or designate a trail. Information only.
10. Consider Plan Development for Camp Lyle – Darryl Landeau, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, stated that they have worked on alternative campground layouts for both Adams and Vilas Counties. There would be no cost to Langlade County for alternative campground layouts, but there could be a cost if Langlade County was looking for a feasibility study. Landeau will speak with Dennis Lawrence to see what projects are being worked on now by North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to see what timeframe they might have for this type of project. Once begun, this would be a 3-6 month project. Also,

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once it was decided what type of campground Camp Lyle would be, the Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan might need to be updated/revised in order to apply for grants from the DNR. It was also discussed to implement campground improvements in phases. Information only.

11. Discuss Land Request – Cal Watters – Rantala informed the committee that he was contacted by Cal Watters, who would like to swap the NE1/4 NW1/4 – Section 7 in the Township of Summit for the NW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 6 in the Township of Summit. Langlade County currently has a logging in Section 6 of the Township of Summit and the only access is through Watters property. Watters would also like to acquire within the next three years the SW1/4 SE1/4 in Section 6; Township of Summit. After discussion, the committee requested that Rantala continue conversations with Watters and report back to the committee.
12. Wolf River Cross – Langlade Bridge Project – Rantala stated that there is a proposed ATV route to connect the motorized portion of the Wolf River State Trail to Oconto County. The White Lake ATV Club is working with an ATV club from Oconto County. Rantala stated that there would be a lot of private property to cross as the DOT would not allow them to use Hwy. 64 as a route. They are also looking to cross the DNR fisheries property for this route. The ATV clubs are looking to apply for a grant to cross the Wolf River and they need it to be sponsored by a local unit of government and are looking for Langlade County Forestry Department to be that unit. Rantala stated that it is up to the ATV club to acquire all necessary easements on private property. Dave Peterson was at the Wolf River town board meeting last night when this was discussed and concerns were addressed and the ATV club is having some troubles acquiring all necessary easements. Also, because April 15 is the grant filing deadline, it is highly unlikely that a grant will be applied for this year. Information only.
13. Update on DNR Lands Offered to Langlade County – Rantala informed the committee that he contacted the DNR regarding the two DNR properties that are still federally encumbered and there is no timeline for this to be resolved. Rantala inquired of the committee if they would like to proceed with purchasing the Township of East Elcho (Rice Bed Lane) property – 102 acres for \$72,000 and the Township of East Upham (Hwy. T) – 21.8 acres for \$18,500 with funding coming from the land buy account. After discussion, motion by Scupien, seconded by Leaver to purchase the Township of East Upham (Hwy. T) – 21.8 acres for \$18,500 with funding coming from the land buy account and to wait for the Township of Evergreen property – 80 acres for \$40,000 to be unencumbered. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Consider Timber Sale Contracts - #1427-15, #1429-15 – Rantala stated that at the December committee meeting, it was decided to extend these contracts until January 31, 2018 and if payment in full was not received, to take the contracts back. Rantala informed the committee that payment has been received and that he is now working with the contractor to pay for the wood that they had cut, but not been allowed to haul. Rantala feels that the contractor will meet all expectations so would like to extend these contracts until December 31, 2018 with a price increase of 5% as of February 1, 2018 consistent with our extension policy. Motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to extend contracts #1427-15 and #1429-15 until December 31, 2018 with a price increase of 5% as of February 1, 2018. All ayes. Motion carried.
15. Review 2017 Invasive Species Treatments – Rantala stated that two LTE's/casual employees were hired in 2017 to assist with invasive species treatments, which were very helpful and covered lots of ground for inventory work. 193 patches of garlic mustard have been mapped

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and 142 patches – 762 acres were treated and were able to retreat 400 acres with chemical. 61 patches – 393 acres were hand pulled and 7 patches that were treated now show no garlic mustard. 20 patches of wild parsnip were mapped – 10 new this year – 14 patches were treated. 62 patches – 275 acres of buckthorn were mapped – 32 new this year – 29 patches – 135 acres were treated.

16. Discuss Office Hours – Rantala stated that the forestry department has flexibility with their hours and the office is usually open. After discussion, consensus is to leave office hours as they are and stay open on Friday afternoons.

17. Review 2017 Timber Sale Harvest Volumes and Revenue - Rantala reviewed the 2017 wood volume harvests with the committee.

He handed out a summary of the wood harvests for the past 15 years. In 2017, there were 31,409 total cords cut. There were 10,374 cords of hardwood pulp cut. The hardwood logs were up 364,230 board feet from 2016 to 2017 at 1,237,610 board feet. Rantala reported that the timber sale scale charges, which are the total value of material cut, scaled, and actually removed off the County Forest, is at \$1,723,837 for 2017. In 2016, the timber sale scale charges were at \$1,954,398.

The actual timber sale revenue for 2017 is \$1,624,850 compared to \$1,859,546 for 2016. The timber sale revenue figure is the actual revenue from payments made on the scale charges during the year, and it does not include the prepayments on timber sales or credit balances. Rantala also mentioned that \$180,538.72 will be returned to the townships as severance payments for those townships that have county forest in them, on a proportional basis.

18. DNR Liaison Report – Janet Brehm, DNR Wildlife Biologist, updated the committee on several DNR items of interest.

19. Administrator's Report – Rantala reported that as of this morning, there are 10 active sales on county lands. A few more are scheduled to start next week. We have a lot of sales that roads have been worked on and frozen down. If the weather remains cold we should have a good winter.

Snowmobile trails are closed. The Langlade County Snowmobile Council passed a motion at the January 2 meeting to keep trails closed until we get more snow. Clubs are dealing with ruts and rocks on the trails, need snow to fill those in for safe conditions.

Vehicle traffic is widespread on the snowmobile trail system. This is in violation of our ordinance which states that you cannot operate a motorized vehicle on an approved snowmobile trail after the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday after deer season.

ATV clubs are working on a new map for this upcoming season. The new trail will be on the map.

There has been a lot of activity regarding Camp Lyle. People have been accessing the lake.

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Rantala was recently contacted by a realtor regarding approximately 1,150 acres in the County that will be going on the market soon.

Rantala was notified by the Forest Service that the Boulder Lake Campground on USFS property is temporarily closed until further notice. They are refunding reservations that were already made and will not be taking reservations until further notice.

Knights Templar is interested in pursuing a long term access agreement for the purposes of forestry department access across their property for land management duties as well as snowmobile trail. Ice Age Trail already has a 10 year agreement and a new agreement would likely coincide with it.

20. Review Budget Summary – Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through December 31, 2017.
21. Schedule Next Meeting – The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
22. Adjournment – Motion by Hardin, seconded by Scupien to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:

Terry Poltrock  
Recording Secretary