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LANGLADE COUNTY



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MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Forestry and Recreation Committee
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Time: 3:30 PM
Location: County Board Room, Lower Level of the Safety Building

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

1. Meeting called to order at 3:33 PM by Chairman John Medo
2. Roll call was conducted
3. Silence cell phones.

FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Name	Role	Status
John Medo	Chair	Present
Reinhardt Balcerzak	Vice-Chair	Present
Roger Buck	Member	Present
Todd Mayr	Member	Present
Ben Pierce	Member	Present

Non-Committee Members Present

Name	Interest	Name	Interest
Al Murray	Forest Administrator	Jason Polley	Recreation Coordinator
Jason Hilger	County Administrator	Wes Phillips	DNR
Joe & Peg Jopek	Ice Age Trail	Tom Lazars	Forestry Dept: Jack Lake
Judy Nagel	County Clerk/ Rec. Secretary	Keri Beck	Economic Development
Members of the Public			

4. The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for Supervisor Wiegert.
5. **Approve previous meeting minutes of December 7, 2022:** Motion by Supervisor Pierce, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to approve the December 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **Public comment on agenda items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas:** No public comment.
7. **Partner reports determined by attendance (WDNR, Economic Development, Trail Clubs):** **WDNR:** Wes Phillips, DNR, updated the Committee. The Committee receive a copy of an email outlining the DNR Accomplishments on Langlade County Forests, email is available from Forest Administrator Murray. Phillips also presented numbers from the Wildlife Biologist on the 4210 deer harvested in Langlade County for the 2022 season, stating buck harvest up 44%, along with doe harvest up. CWD was discussed.
Economic Development: Keri Beck, Economic Development, discussed the Welcome Center, Breakfast Club, and Build My Adventure, along with Travel Wisconsin, and working with the Office of Outdoor Recreation. Beck also stated their office is starting a Human Resources Group. Discussion on ski trails.
Ice Age Alliance: Ice Age Trail Rep. Joe Jopek stated that with the December/January weather there are more hikers and the trail heads are not plowed. Polley stated the State Alliance will be taking care to open up the trail heads for hikers.
8. **Forest Administrator's Report - Discussion to be carried through Agenda:** Written report submitted by Forest Administrator Murray that will be followed throughout the Agenda.

- 9. Park and Recreation Coordinator Report - Discussion to be carried through Agenda:** Written report submitted by Rec Coordinator Polley. Polley reviewed the 2023 Booked Events, Events in the Works both at the Fairgrounds and Recreation Areas. Polley discussed the request from the Jack Lake Silent Sports Group to have a donation box, with proper signage, placed at their trail head, with the donations going back to the Silent Sports Group.
- 10. Campground and Parks Manager Report- Discussion to be carried through Agenda:** Lazars reported under Agenda Item 15.
- 11. Extension of Timber Sale Contracts- Discussion and Possible Approval:** Discussion held. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Buck to extend the following Timber Sales for 1 year without stumpage increase: #1741-21, #1707-20, #1711-20, #1557-18, #1588-19, #1739-21, #1746-21, #1617-19, #1645-19, #1586-19, #1590-19, #1692-20, #1708-20, #1710-20, #1666-20, #1667-20, #1526-18, #1529-18, #1566-18, #1676-20, #1740-21, #1558-18, #1563-18, #1726-21, #1727-21, #1554-18, #1556-18, #1671-20, #1738-21, #1626-19. All ayes, motion carried.
 Motion by Mayr, second by Balcerzak to extend the following timber sales for 1 year with a 5% stumpage increase: #1633-19, #1640-19, #1730-21. All ayes, motion carried.
 Motion by Buck, second by Mayr to extend the following timber sales for 1 year with a 10% stumpage increase and issue a directive that no additional extensions will be approved: #1463-16 and #1481-17. All ayes, motion carried.
- 12. 2022 Annual Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department Report- Discussion and possible approval prior to presentation to Board:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the 2022 Annual Report. Murray also presented a chart showing the County Forest Harvest Acreage from 1996 to current, noting that Langlade County has the 7th largest forest in the State but ranks #2 in average harvest acres since 1996. Discussion held. Motion by Pierce, second by Balcerzak to forward the 2022 Annual Forestry, Parks and Recreation Report to the January County Board. All ayes, motion carried.
- 13. Department Policies**
- **Mandatory Training Policy- discussion and possible approval:** Forest Administrator Murray presented a proposed policy for on-line Mandatory Training effective January 1, 2023, some training for all Forestry Staff and some directed towards the Foresters. Discussion on trainings. Training Policy will be brought back next month for possible action.
 - **Acquisition and Purchase Policy- discussion and possible approval:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the purpose of this policy is to ensure that all purchases and acquisitions made or proposed, including purchase of public work, materials and services, by Department Employees meets the requirements of existing County Financial Policies. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Buck to approve the Forestry Department Purchase and Acquisition Policy effective January 1, 2023. All ayes, motion carried.
- 14. Forest Access Improvement Program- Discussion**
- **Road Classification Categories:** A Map and Classification Criteria presented to the Committee
 - **Initial Map of Road Classifications (over 4000 road/trail segments):** Available from the Forest Administrator.
 - **Discussion on plan of action for various road categories:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the map and classification criteria, which will assist in identifying areas of improvements doing field visits, a management and improvement tool, as this is the first map created by Forestry. Discussion as to the number of miles in each Class and Current External Funding for the Forest Roads. No action taken.
- 15. Winter Trails and Facilities Status-Update:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the snowplowing on trail heads, sharing a summary Invoice from the Highway Department of Plowing/Clearing Trail Heads. Murray explained that there is no budgeted money for snow removal and what funding they are using will reduce funding for road gravel.

- **Snowmobile Trails:** Zone A is currently open. Zone B, mainly farm fields, is closed.
- **Cross Country Ski Trails:** Rec Coordinator reported that the trails are icy, with little snow. Numerous volunteer hours used to get the trails open.
- **Sled Dog Trails:** In the Croker Hills Rec Area, 3, 4, and 5-mile loops are open. 86 volunteer hours needed to get this much open.
- **Fat Tire Bike Trails:** Groomed trails are in excellent condition.
- **Kettlebowl:** Downhill skiing open. Cross Country trails and groomed and in fair condition. Track 52 Sled Dog Trails are groomed and in fair condition.
- **Moccasin Recreation Area:** Cross County Trails are groomed and tracked and in good to very good condition. 52 volunteer hours needed to open and maintain.
- **Jack Lake:** Lazars discussed the campground reservations, as they are now online and opened up January 2, 2023 for reservations. Lazars discussed the number of reservations, the county and non-county resident reservation numbers, and the number of states campers are from committing to reservations at Jack Lake. Discussion on the development of Perch Lake Campground, with a potential soft opening of June, 2023.

Motion by Pierce, second by Buck to excuse Balcerzak at 5:45 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

- 16. Wisconsin Geological Survey- Monitoring Well Permit- Discussion:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the request for a Wisconsin Geological Monitoring Well Permit on county land in the Moccasin Lake area, currently on private land. Murray will work on the agreement with the Corporation Counsel. No action taken.
- 17. TimberBase Accounting Program- Update:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the accounting program approved in the 2023 budget, which will replace the AS 400 Program. Discussion held.
- 18. Budget Tracking Sheets- Update:** Forest Administrator Murray discussed the budget tracking sheets that will allow for fiscal tracking on each facility under the Forestry Department, breaking down budget numbers by facility and rec trails.
- 19. 2023 Fee Schedule- Update:** Rec Coordinator Polley stated the 2023 Approved Fee Schedule is posted on the County Website.
- 20. Shooting Range Closure- Update:** Public signed up to speak. Ray Lewis, Little Creek Firearms, a local group business, discussed the closure of the range a burden and would like to work with the County and others to keep the range open year around. Ken Michels, Trapp Club Member, is requesting clarification of the fees and charges the club will be responsible for. Frank Charles, user of the Range ~~and a member of the Little Creek Firearms Group~~, attends the range regularly, noting the safety concerns due to the range being closed, vandalism, garbage, requesting ~~a location for public to shoot~~ a location to shoot. John Hitz, Trapp Club President, discussed the Range and use of the Range by the clubs from April through August. Chairman Medo reminded the public that the Range will remain closed until April 1, 2023. A meeting to discuss the Range and the possible formation of a Shooting Club will be held on February 9, 2023 at Noon in the Wolf River Room with Forestry Staff, County Administrator, Committee Chair and Club reps.
- 21. County Administrator- Update:** County Administrator Hilger thanked the Forestry Staff for their forward thinking. Forest Administrator Murray stated invitations have gone out to possible partners to start a Fish and Game Counsel in Langlade County.
- 22. Next Meeting Date:** February 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- 23. Adjourn the meeting:** Motion by Buck, second by Mayr to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes transcribed and submitted by:
Judy Nagel, County Clerk/Recording Secretary.