



## MEETING MINUTES

**Committee:** Forestry and Water & Land Use Planning Committees  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020  
**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**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 8:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Curran, as Chairman Novak is by phone.
2. Roll call was conducted.

Forestry and Water & Land Use Planning Committee		
Name	Role	Status
Joseph Novak, III	Chairman	Present, by phone
John Medo	Member	Present
Robert Curran	Member, Acting Chair	Present
John Breske	Member	Present
Reinhardt Balcerzak	Member	Present
Non-Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
Erik Rantala	Forest Administrator	
Tom Lazars	Park Director	
Jim Wisneski	ATV Association	
Wes Phillips	WI DNR, by phone	
Angie Close	Economic Development Director	
Keri Beck	Assistant Economic Development Director	
Judy Nagel	County Clerk, recording Secretary	

3. The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Approve previous meeting minutes:** Motion by Balcerzak, second by Breske approve the October 6, 2020 Water & Land Use and Forestry Committee Minutes. All ayes, motion carried. All ayes, motion carried.
5. **Public comment on agenda items, and consideration of request for items to be added to future meeting agendas.** Jim Wisneski distributed a print of the proposed bridge on Wolf River, reporting on the trail system to the bridge and the engineering of the bridge.
6. **Economic Development:** Discuss resolution regarding grant funding managed by Redevelopment Resources, with several other counties, working with entrepreneurs and their lenders to structure financing packages for start-up and expanding business: Close

addressed the Committee, addressing the funding and the development that supports job creation. Close also requested to be appointed to the Redevelopment Resources Board. Motion by Medo, second by Novak to approve the proposed resolution, send it onto County Board and appoint Close to the Redevelopment Resources Board as the Langlade County representative. All ayes, motion carried.

Keri Beck, Assistant Economic Development, updated the Committee on the activities of the Economic Development for November, 2020, discussing marketing strategies for 2021.

- 7. Approve 2021 County Forest Work Plan:** Rantala explained that the plan is an annual, required plan, meeting the DNR requirements, supplementing the 15-Year County Plan. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Novak to forward the 2021 Work Plan to the County Board. Discussion held. Motion by Medo, second by Breske to amend the 2021 County Forest Work Plan to add the registration software to the Plan. All ayes, motion carried. All ayes, motion carried on forwarding the Amended Plan forwarded to the County Board,.
- 8. Review Parks Policies and Rates for 2021:** Rantala discussed the proposed rate changes: currently \$30 per night for electric sites, changing to \$35 per night, with a discount of \$10 for Veterans. Cabins: currently \$70 per night, moving to \$75 per night. Main lodge at Park: currently \$105, moving to \$150 per day. Non-electric sites will remain at \$25 per site. Polices discussed regarding the on-line registration. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Medo to approve the rate changes discussed. All ayes, motion carried.
- 9. Approve purchase of registration software to be used for camping registration, estimated cost of \$18,000:** Motion by Medo, second by Balcerzak to approve the purchase of registration software, estimated cost of \$18,000, with funding from borrowing. All ayes, motion carried.
- 10. Review expiring timber sale contracts:** Rantala discussed the summer timber sales that expire December 31, 2020. Discussion on the one-year extension, market condition and weather conditions regarding the timber sales. Motion by Medo, second by Breske to approve the one-year extension, with no increase for the extension. All ayes, motion carried.
- 11. Discuss re-advertising and process for Non-County Forest Lands that did not sell and consider other lands to offer for sale:** Rantala presented a list of non-county forest land that possibly could be sold in the near future. Discussion on comparable prices, access issues, and omitted lands. The Committee agreed to reduce each of the three that did not sell on Wisconsin Surplus: Ainsworth in Section 11, 40 acres: \$30,000; Elcho in Section 6, 35 acres: \$27,000; Upham (W) in Section 36, 47 acres: \$56,750; and Upham (E) in Section 36, 36 acres: \$72,000.
- 12. Review private lands for sale within County Forest Boundary:** Rantala distributed a copy of the private lands for sale within the County Forest Boundary. Discussion held. Committee agreed to give Rantala latitude to negotiate on the lands for sale within the County Forest Boundary.

**13. Discuss timber sales that did not sell from October 28, 2020 Timber Sales:** Rantala stated that there were 23 sales, as 17 sold. Rantala discussed the market conditions and the uncertainties within the markets. Rantala has made agreements for three of the timber sales that did not sell on October 28, 2020, reporting that the remaining three will be held over until Spring, 2021. Information only.

**14. Approve DeBrall Access Permit in Section 25, Town of Elcho (E):** Rantala stated that there was an access permit with the previous owner, and the permit is not transferrable. Motion by Breske, second by Balcerzak to approve the \$100 DeBrall access permit in Section 25, Town of Elcho (E). All ayes, motion carried.

**15. Budget Summary for Forestry and Recreation:** Discussion held.

Motion by Medo, second by Curran to excuse Balcerzak at 9:20 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

**16. Closed Session – At approximately 9:30 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1)(c), Wisconsin Statutes, considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, annual performance evaluation.** Motion by Breske, second by Medo to move into closed session at 9:15 a.m. Voice vote: Breske, aye; Medo, aye; Curran, aye; and Novak, aye. Those remaining in closed session: Rantala and Nagel.

**17. At approximately 9:45 a.m., return to open session with possible action taken on any matters discussed in closed session.** Motion by Medo, second by Breske to return to open session at 9:20 a.m. All ayes, motion carried. No action taken.

**18. Forest Administrator Report:** Rantala updated the Committee on the change of office as Terry Poltrock has now retired, and the office hours will now be 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Novak requested Rantala introduce the Foresters at the next meeting. Rantala reported that the ATV Shelter in the Town of Parrish is now completed and Bow/Gun Range Building is scheduled for February, 2021. Rantala has been working with ATV Clubs on the 2021 ATV Maps. Rantala also discussed county forest lands, non-county forest lands and county forest lands outside our county forest boundaries. Rantala discussed the mission statement of the Forestry Department: “managing every acre”. Discussion held. Information only.

**19. Schedule next meeting:** Forestry Committee Meeting: January 11, 2021 @ 8:00 a.m. in the Forestry Conference Room.

**20. Adjourn meeting:** Motion by Novak, second by Breske to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

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