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LANGLADE COUNTY



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MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Forestry and Recreation Committee
Date: May 9, 2024
Time: 4:30 PM
Location: Highway Department Conference Room

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

1. Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM
2. Silence cell phones
3. Conduct Roll Call

FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Name	Role	Status
Steve Maier	Chair	Present
John Medo	Vice-Chair	Present
Roger Buck	Member	Present
Rick Bina	Member	Present
Reinhardt Balcerzak	Member	Present

Non-Committee Members Present

Name	Interest	Name	Interest
Al Murray	Forestry, Parks and Recreation Administrator	Jason Polley	Park and Rec Manager
Rick Dedeyne	Assistant Forest Administrator	Wes Phillips	DNR
Cody Brauner	Assistant Forest Administrator	Doug Curler	County Board Supervisor
Joe Jopek	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Judy Nagel	County Clerk/Recording Secretary
Kevin Bouche	Facilities Management Director		

4. The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **Approve previous meeting minutes of January 16, 2024:** Motion by Buck, second by Medo to approve the January 16, 2024 meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **Elect a Vice-Chair for the Forestry and Recreation Committee:** Balcerzak nominates Medo for Vice-Chair. Motion by Bina, second by Buck to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Medo for Vice-Chair. All ayes motion carried. Medo is elected Vice-Chair for the Forestry and Recreation Committee.
7. **Public comment on agenda items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas:** Forest Administrator Murray listed the following items: Forest Road Classification and Policy, Modifications to the 15-year Plan, Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Issues. Facilities Management Director Bouche requests clarity and job description discussion on Maintenance Positions and Forestry Maintenance positions.
8. **Partner Reports (DNR, EDC, Trail Clubs, Others):** Wes Phillips, WI DNR, working to complete hours with the Forestry Department, 2375 hours annually, renewing those hours at the end of June each year. Phillips is working with the Forestry Department to prepare for Spring Timber Sales. Medo acknowledged Phillips and his DNR crew, and how they handled a grass fire in his neighborhood. Keri Beck, Economic Development, submitted a written report, which the Committee reviewed. Jopek announced that he has been with the Ice Age Trail Alliance for 51 years. Polley stated all trails are open and in good seasonal

condition. Brauner stated all ATV/UTV trails are open and in relatively good condition. No other Partner Reports.

9. Forest Administrator's Report – Discussion to be carried through Agenda: Handout provided and followed throughout the meeting.

10. Timber sale Contract Extensions: Dedeyne discussed the list of sales that need contract extensions:

Central Wisconsin Lumber #1372-14 & #1735-21

Tim Jacobs #1763-21

Marshall Logging #1347-14, #1457-16, #1475-16, #1497-17, #1552-18, #1580-19, #1596-19, #1705-20, #1736-21, #1745-21, #1752-21, #1754-21, #1761-21

Brad Mihalko Trucking #1500-17

McCaslin Logging #1547-18, #1481-17

Dave Raith Logging #1486-17

Neil Schallock #1599-19

Solin Forestry #1551-18, #1535-18, #1560-18, #1582-19, #1597-19, #1750-21, #1756-21, #1762-21

Strong Logging #1749-21

Motion by Buck, second by Balcerzak to extend the timber sales listed above for 1 year. All ayes, motion carried. Discussion on extensions and length of timber sale.

11. Timber Sale Bid Opening: Discussion on timber sales, dates, and attendance at the bid opening. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Buck to set the bid opening date of June 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Forestry Conference Room, and authorizing the Forest Administrator to accept the timber sale bid from the highest responsible bidder. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Medo, second by Buck to excuse Bina at 5:05 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

12. 2023 Forestry, Parks and Recreation Report: Forestry, Parks and Rec Administrator Murray presented the Committee with the 2023 Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report. Murray also did a presentation on the 2023 Annual Accomplishments. Discussion was held during the presentation. Motion by Medo, second by Buck to approve the 2023 Forestry, Parks and Recreation Report and forward to the Full Board for approval. All ayes, motion carried. The 2023 Forestry, Parks, and Recreation Report will be on the May County Board Agenda.

13. Wolf River State Trail: The Committee discussed the Wolf River State Trail (WRST), the DNR's response to Langlade County's request for modifications to the Master Plan for the WRST, managing and maintaining the WRST with no control, petitions being circulated to expand use of WRST. Discussion held. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Buck to defer any changes to the management and ownership of the WRST until Forest Administrator Murray checks into further options. All ayes, motion carried.

14. Gartzke Bridge Replacement, discussion on RTP Grant, possible Committee Action to Support 20% Matching Funding the 2025 Budget: Park and Rec Manager Polley discussed the bridge replacement estimate, \$181,418, and the grants applied for, RTP (80/20) and Knowles Nelson (50/50). Medo discussed obtaining a Bridge from Forest County and the engineering costs. Motion by Medo, second by Balcerzak to support the RTP Grant and/or follow up with the Knowles Nelson Grant and support matching fund obligations in the 2025 Budget. All ayes, motion carried.

15. Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Improvement Project, discussion on East Branch of the Eau Claire Trout Habitat Improvement: Forestry, Parks and Rec Administrator Murray shared Stream Rehabilitation Project Report for the East Branch of the Eau Claire. The project will include brushing, tree planting, channel shaping, point/bar construction, and wood and rock habitat. Discussion held, no action.

16. Bow and Gun Range: Forestry, Parks, and Rec Administrator Murray shared the 2023 Shooting Range Daily Pass Log. The report notes that 34% of the attendees are Langlade County Residents and 66% are non-

residents. The total paid customer count for 2023 at the Bow and Gun Range was 1,259, with \$6294.82 in customer revenue at the Range. Discussion held, no action.

17. 2024 Capital Projects Update: Park and Rec Manager Polley provided a written report, which is available at the Forestry Office. Polley's report included Trail Updates, 2024 Facility Rental Report, Fairground Events in the Works, 2024 County Recreation Area Events Booked and In the Works. Polley also discussed the Bow and Gun Range, discussing the option of installing an electronic gate at the entrance. Polley updated the Committee on the progress of the Veterans Memorial Park House, in preparation for public rental. Polley provided an update on the Jack Lake Rec Area Vault Toilets, Jack Lake Hand Pump Wells, Charles de Langlade Park Project remodeling the restroom building, and Fairgrounds Restrooms to be installed in August 2024. Discussion on the Veterans Memorial Park Project and the 2022 DNR Stewardship Grant, \$494,224. Information only.

18. Staff Vacancies and Recruitment: Forestry, Park, and Rec Administrator Murray stated that they will be fully staffed by May 20, 2024. Discussion on the vacant permanent part-time position that handled reservations and website design, making this a full-time position.

19. Tracked Skid Steer, Trailer, and Attachments: Forestry, Park, and Rec Administrator Murray provided photos of the skid steer and noted that it is being used regularly on forestry projects. No action.

20. County Administrator – Update and Report on Activities/Grants: County Administrator Hilger was not present.

21. Next Meeting Date: June 5, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. The Forestry, Park, and Rec Committee will try to meet consistently on the first Wednesday of each Month at the Highway Conference Room.

22. Adjourn the meeting: Motion by Medo, second by Buck to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

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