



MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Forestry and Water & Land Use Planning Committees
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020
Time: 7:30 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 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Novak.
2. Roll call was conducted.

Water & Land Use Planning Committee		
Name	Role	Status
Joseph Novak, III	Chairman	Present
John Medo	Member	Present
Robert Curran	Member	Present
John Breske	Member	Present
Reinhardt Balcerzak	Member	Present
Non-Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
George Shinnars	Supervisor	
Erik Rantala	Forest Administrator	
Tom Lazars	Park & Rec	
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 Curran, second by Breske approve the July 28, 2020 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.** Curran requests discussion on the Bridge in Langlade. Curran also requests information on the trail system that ends at Highway 55. The Committee also noted the Closed Session on today's agenda should be noted that Closed Session should be 8:00 AM.
6. **Approve 2021 Forestry and Recreation Budget:** Forest Administrator Rantala distributed both budgets, reviewing the grants, camping fees, cuts made, moving around casual employee hours and on-line camping registration. Motion by Currant, second by Medo to give preliminary approval of the Parks/Recreation 2021 budget and send it onto the Finance Committee. All ayes, motion carried. Discussion on the 2021 Forestry budget. Motion by

Breske, second by Curran to give preliminary approval of the 2021 Forestry budget, and send it onto the Finance Committee. All ayes, motion carried.

- 7. Consider increasing hours for Park Assistant LTE Position:** Rantala discussed the Park Assistant hours, currently at 1190, which is under the WRS threshold, requesting to increase the Park Assistant hours to 1500, with an estimated cost of \$7000, which is available in the 2020 budget. Discussion held. Motion by Medo, second by Balcerzak to approve the increase in hours, currently at 1190, moving those to 1500 and forward this request to County Board. All ayes, motion carried.
- 8. Discuss filling upcoming Office Manager vacancy:** Rantala discussed the upcoming retirement of Forestry Office Assistant, which position is now being shared with the Maintenance Department. Rantala will be requesting this to be filled, prior to the current employee retiring, allowing for cross-training. Discussion on the job description, sharing with both departments. Motion by Medo, second Curran to require Department Heads Rantala and Heuss to meet with current Office Manager Poltrock, Interim County Manager and Corporation Counsel to review the upcoming vacancy in Forestry Office and the vacant/eliminated Office Assistant in Maintenance, reporting back to the Personnel Chairman and Committee. All ayes, motion carried.
- 9. Discuss approving camping at Scout Camp for Art Fair Group for weekend in September, 2020:** Rantala discussed a request regarding using Scout Camp for a group of traveling artists, showing art and camping, a group of approximately eight. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Medo to allow the Art Fair Group to use Scout Camp in September, 2020. All ayes, motion carried.
- 10. Update on Non-County Forest Lands to sell as presented in June and July, 2020:** Rantala updated the Committee on the three parcels listed on Wisconsin Surplus, with possible additional parcels that could be sold. Information only.
- 11. Review Chapters 1000-2000 of Langlade County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and open 30-day public comment period:** Rantala distributed copies of Chapters 1000-2000 of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, not all policy as more of it is the appendix to the plan. After approval, the plan will be on the county web site, followed by 30-day public comment period, then to be finalized by the Committee and forwarded onto the DNR for approval. Motion by Curran, second by Balcerzak to give preliminary approval of chapters 1000-2000 and open the 30-day public comment period. All ayes, motion carried.
- 12. Approve Antigo High School Gartzke Flowage Invitational Cross-Country meet on September 22, 2020:** Motion by Medo, second by Breske to approve Antigo High School Cross-Country meet at Gartzke Flowage on September 22, 2020. All ayes, motion carried.
- 13. Approve grant application for Restoring Early-Successional Forests for Wisconsin for project on County Forest Lands:** Rantala discussed the American Bird Society doing research on young Aspen that have tipped due to the storm of 2019, a Federal grant, with matching

grant funding. Rantala would use the hours of harvesting Aspen as the matching fund. Motion by Balcerzak, second by Novak to approve the grant application for Restoring Early-Successional Forests on County Forest Lands. All ayes, motion carried.

- 14. Closed Session – At approximately ~~2:00~~ 8:00 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons required a closed session, to discuss land trade and lands offered to the County for acquisition:** Motion by Curran, second by Medo to move into closed session at 9:11 a.m. Voice vote: Curran, aye; Breske, aye; Balcerzak, aye; Novak, aye; Medo, aye. The Committee moved into closed session, with those remaining in closed session: Shinnors and Nagel.
- 15. At approximately ~~2:35 p.m.~~ 8:30 a.m., return to open session with possible action take 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.
Action taken from closed: Motion by Curran, second by Medo follow through with the action discussed in closed session, and refer this to County Board. All ayes, motion carried.
- 16. Keri Beck, Economic Development:** Beck updated the Committee as to the activities that Economic Development has been involved in for August, 2020. Beck discussed promotion/marketing, the Welcome Center, and partnering with the Chamber on a promotion guide for Langlade County.
Forest Administrator Report: Rantala updated the Committee on timber sales still in progress, the fall timber sale, issues from the July 2020 flooding, grant bridge project, gun range project. Information only.
- 17. Budget Summary for Forestry and Recreation:** Rantala distributed the current budgets, the Committee reviewed, with no concerns.
- 18. Schedule next meeting:** Forestry and Water and Land Use Committees: September 29, 2020.
Forestry Committee Meeting: October 6, 2020 @7:30 a.m. in the County Board Room.
- 19. Adjourn meeting:** Motion by Curran, second by Novak to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

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