

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

May 14, 2019; 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse RM 101, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:00 a.m.

Supervisors Present: Tom Wilcox, Al Bower, Joe Waichulis, Dean Zank, and Allen Krause, Jr

Supervisors Absent: None

Others present for all or some of the meeting: Rick Dailey – Forestry and Parks Administrator; John Wendorski – Forestry Manager; Marcus Aumann – Parks & Programs Manager; Daryn Horn – Facilities Supervisor; Mary Olson-Back – Office Business Manager; Einar Fransen – DNR Liaison; Wayne Hendrickson – County Board Chair; Dan Clough – Neillsville Improvement Corporation

The Administrator presented the April 9, 2019 minutes for committee approval. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the April 9, 2019 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Mary Olson-Back presented the 2019 year to date financial summary for committee review. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Joe Waichulis to receive and file the 2019 year to date financial report as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Committee Chair Tom Wilcox yielded the floor for public comment. Dan Clough, representing Neillsville Improvement Corporation, requested to be on the June committee agenda to discuss a partnership for the “Rails to Trails” project.

Daryn Horn presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Inmate crews have been cleaning and helping to setup at the fairgrounds ahead of several events, helped fix a roof at Russell Memorial Campground and preparing campgrounds for the camping season. No action taken.

Discussion held on Levis/Trow Mound Recreation Area policy for use of groomed winter trails for committee approval. Changes to the policy being proposed include not allowing hiking in the winter on groomed trail without snowshoes. The trail closure language regarding hiking was also clarified. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Al Bower to approve the Levis/Trow Mound Recreation Area policy for use of groomed winter trails as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on Mead Lake Dam operator compensation. The current interpretation is that the operator is eligible for overtime pay now that he is also a seasonal employee. Previous interpretations were that the pay was a stipend and not eligible for overtime. The Office of Personnel is looking closer at

the issue and will provide feedback to the Administrator when they have more information. No action taken.

John Wendorski reported to the committee that Delaney Forest Products LLC notified the Department that they do not intend to sign extensions for timber sale contracts 1653, 1733, and 1736. Delaney Forest Products indicated that the stumpage rates they bid on those sales are too high compared to current market conditions and they will lose less money by returning the contracts and forfeiting the performance bonds than they would completing the contracts. John presented an accountability statement from Delaney Forest Products LLC regarding their remaining six timber sale contracts with Clark County and their intentions to complete those contracts. John recommended that the committee apply appropriate penalties in accordance with the Department's Timber Sale Contract Default Policy. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to cancel timber sale contracts 1733 and 1736 with Delaney Forest Products LLC and apply the following penalties: retain the performance bonds; not allow Delaney Forest Products LLC to bid upon or obtain future timber sales of the county until their remaining timber sale contracts have been completed in their entirety or other acceptable arrangement agreed upon; and submit a written request to be approved by the committee to have bidding privileges reinstated. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Allen Krause to cancel timber sale contract 1653 with Delaney Forest Products LLC effective November 1, 2019 and retain the performance bond. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann gave the committee an update on the new recreation software implementation process. After meeting with the vendor recently, the Department was able to identify several software components that were not necessary. Eliminating those components will save the department approximately \$5,000.00. Site training will begin in June with full implementation slated for November 1st. No action taken.

The Administrator reviewed a draft version of proposed Forestry and Parks ordinances with the committee for comments and feedback. No action taken.

Results of the May 8th timber sale bids were presented. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the May 8th timber sale bids as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Results of the park UTV bids were presented. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Allen Krause to accept the low bid from Power Pac Inc for the purchase of two new Kawasaki Mules with trade-ins as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Results of the Forest Road gravel bids were presented. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Joe Waichulis to accept the low bid for delivery of gravel for the Bald Peak Forest Road project from Opelt Sand and Gravel LLC as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann presented Resolution 20-5-19 – Approving Grant Application for Knobby Ridge Motorcycle Trail Maintenance for committee approval. Marcus explained that if this grant is accepted

the County cannot collect daily user fees at Knobby Ridge while the trails are being rehabbed under this grant. Once the grant is closed, the County may begin collecting user fees again. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Dean Zank to approve Resolution 20-5-19 – Approving Grant Application for Knobby Ridge Motorcycle Trail Maintenance as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Marcus Aumann presented Resolution 21-5-19 – Approving Applications for ATV/UTV Trail Maps Grant for committee approval. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Al Bower to approve Resolution 21-5-19 – Approving Applications for ATV/UTV Trail Maps Grant as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator updated the committee on the Fairgrounds Revitalization project fundraising efforts. The Fundraising Committee has raised just shy of \$200,000. Discussion held on need to set a goal to begin construction and possibly borrowing money to begin construction sooner rather than later. Wayne Hendrickson, County Board Chair, explained the borrowing process and said any decision to borrow would be made during the budget process. This item will be brought back next month for further discussion. The Administrator also reported that he met with Excel Energy at the Fairgrounds and they will upgrade the electrical distribution services at the Fairgrounds to help support the project. No action taken.

The committee reviewed the framework of a proposed Operations Analysis for Bruce Mound. The committee asked that the analysis be completed by the October committee meeting. No action taken.

In consideration of the Sherwood Township land acquisition project not happening in 2019, the Administrator asked the committee if they still wished to move forward with the sale of landlocked county forest land in Section 34, Town of Levis. The committee discussed potential asking prices for the property as well as the process for selling. The committee agreed that the process should be similar to how the Public Property Committee sells land. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to move forward with selling the parcel with a minimum price of \$60,000 and using the same process Public Property Committee uses. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. The department will draft a County Board resolution for the withdrawal and sale of the parcel for approval next month.

Discussion held on the 2019 WCFA summer tour. Department staff and committee members interested in attending will contact John in the next few weeks. No action taken.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported that the department will be advertising to fill a part-time parks worker vacancy, the Maintenance Specialist will be off for up to 8 weeks starting in June, and an individual is completing community service time by picking garbage up along the forest roads.

Under Forest Management Update, discussion held on recruitment for the WCFA Executive Director position, encroachment in the Town of Hewett and Fox 25/48 “County By County” production. Einar Fransen updated the committee on the Dickie Creek timber sale.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that the Russell Memorial Campground parking lot reconstruction project was approved by Finance Committee without sacrificing other parking lot improvement projects, the campgrounds are open and the early camping season is underway, and that he met with Selk Electronics at Mead Lake Campground to discuss installing internet service at that location. The Administrator reported that he was contacted by Senator Bernier's office about her efforts to acquire funds through a budget amendment to help offset the cost to close Black River County Park.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the ATV trails will open on May 15 with only a few minor closures due to wet conditions and the Levis Chalet in-floor heat issues are still being investigated for a solution.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, Daryn Horn reported that there have been a half dozen events at the fairgrounds in the past month, the dining hall and fine arts building were upgraded with LED lights, the dairy barn rewiring project is underway, and a small storage shed near the horse arena will be removed before the fair.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that he met with Daryn and Clark Electric at the facility to evaluate options for electric usage in the future.

Under Dams Management Updates – The Administrator reported that he is meeting with a DNR dam safety representative at Mead Lake to inspect the seepage along the earthen berm and he and Marcus attended a dam safety training in Eau Claire.

Wage rate changes – No report

Vouchers for April 2019 were presented for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve vouchers for April 2019 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The committee set June 13, 2019 as the date to tour Forestry and Parks facilities.

Next regular meeting date was confirmed for June 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

The July committee date was rescheduled from July 9th to July 10th.

Motion to adjourn at 2:56 p.m. by Al Bower, seconded by Allen Krause. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary