

Unofficial Until Approved

Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes
September 10, 2019; 9:00 a.m.
Courthouse RM 101, Neillsville, WI

Call to order 9:01 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; Mary Olson-Back – Office Business Manager; Einar Fransen – DNR Liaison; Wayne Hendrickson – County Board Chair

The Administrator presented the August 13, 2019 amended minutes for committee approval. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Al Bower to approve the August 13, 2019 amended minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the August 22, minutes for committee approval. Motion by Dean Zank, seconded by Allen Krause to approve the August 22, 2019 minutes as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

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

The Administrator presented a revised 2020 Fairgrounds budget that included a change made by Finance Committee. The change was a reduction of \$150,000 for construction of the livestock barn.

The Administrator presented a revised 2020 Forestry and Parks budget that included a change made by Finance Committee. The change was to increase the budget by \$5,000 for installation of a new dock at South Mead Lake County Park boat landing. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Dean Zank to approve the 2020 Fairgrounds and the 2020 Forestry and Parks budgets to include the revisions by Finance Committee as presented. Voice vote all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator presented the inmate labor report for committee review. Availability of inmate crews continues to be limited. Crews will be available on Fridays again. When the crews are available, they have been working on embankment clearing at Mead Lake and splitting firewood. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann presented snowmobile bids for committee approval. Only one vendor submitted bids prior to the deadline. The qualifying bid included three different snowmobile options for consideration. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to approve the low bid submitted by Donahue Super Sports as presented and to include the extra equipment required for grooming as needed. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The Administrator reported that Senator Bernier's office contacted him regarding DOT compensation for buyout of the Hwy. 29 access for Black River County Park. The DOT will be contacting the department with more details in near future. No action taken.

Marcus Aumann reported on progress of the new recreation software installation and updates. The new software is scheduled to go live November 1st. Between October 1st and November 1st the current reservation system will be shut down as the Department works to transfer existing reservations to the new software program. The public has and will continue to be notified about the temporary suspension of reservations. Marcus reviewed several changes to the current reservation policy. Changes include switching credit card vendors and changing holiday reservations from a 3-night to a 2-night minimum. Discussion held on current policy on gift card expiration dates and account credits. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Tom Wilcox to change the expiration date on gift cards and account credits to one year from date of issue instead of the end of the calendar year and to allow the business office to refund directly back to credit cards instead of issuing checks when appropriate. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on the Department's facility rental/lease policies. There is very little consistency between the various facility rental/lease policies and now would be a good time to try and bring all the policies in line with one another. The committee agreed that the timing for changing these policies is appropriate and directed the Department to begin the process. No action taken.

Discussion held on request for bids for 40 acres of landlocked County Forest in the Town of Levis. Motion by Joe Waichulis, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the request for bids for the 40 acres of land in the Town of Levis contingent upon County Forest Law withdrawal approval as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion held on a request to donate a memorial bench at the Rock Dam Campground. Motion by Al Bower, seconded by Tom Wilcox to approve the donation of a memorial bench at the Rock Dam Campground in front of the campground store as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

The committee reviewed the current Fairgrounds fee schedule and storage rental rates. Discussion held on 2020 camping rates for the fair, 2020 facility rental and storage rates and a petition to not raise fair camping rates. Motion by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Joe Waichulis to leave 2020 fairgrounds rental and storage rates as is. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. The committee took no action on 2020 fair camping rates, which upholds action taken in March 2019 to recommend an increase in 2020 rates to the Agricultural Society.

Discussion held on Fairgrounds revitalization project and fundraising efforts. The Administrator reported that an anonymous donor pledged \$100,000 if the fundraising committee can reach \$350,000 in donations. The committee needs to raise approximately \$100,000 to reach the \$350,000 goal. The fundraising committee minutes from August and September 11th agenda were distributed. The State will review building plans for the new barn on December 4th and the Administrator is in contact with MSA to contract civil engineering services for the project. No action taken.

Discussion was held on the Bruce Mound operations review and analysis. One significant cost issue that was identified in the plan is electricity costs. The committee asked the Department to explore electricity options that could reduce this cost moving forward. No action taken.

Discussion held on the September WCFA annual meeting. Committee members who are planning to attend the meeting include Joe Waichulis, Dean Zank, Al Bower, and Allen Krause. No action taken.

Under General Department Updates, the Administrator reported that OSHA is scheduled to visit the shop for an informational walk through and a new reservation and department sales kiosk has been installed in the business office. The Administrator presented an updated version of Forestry and Parks ordinances for committee review. The Department hopes to have the ordinances ready to present to County Board in November. No action taken.

Under Forest Management Update, discussion held on positive feedback from the timber sale contract extension policy, Winx Club donation in the amount of \$3,000.00, oak scarification project, sprayer rental, WCFA Executive Director recruitment and 15 year planning committee agenda. Einar Fransen reported on DNR dozer work and time standards.

Under Parks Management Updates, Marcus Aumann reported that campgrounds are beginning to wind down for the season, Mead Lake Campground and Sherwood Campground will be winterized at the end of September while other campgrounds will remain open with limited water availability through the gun deer season, the Russell Memorial Park storm water project is underway and the shoreline erosion control project at Rock Dam should be completed next month.

Under Trails Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that the trail design training was held at Levis Mound last month, the Highway Department agreed to inspect snowmobile trail bridges and the Department will be featured in a health publication for its efforts to promote family friendly camping at county campgrounds.

Under Fairgrounds Management Update, the Administrator reported that the Central Wisconsin Horse sale is next week, the Wood Workers auction is Oct 1st, and the livestock banquet was last week.

Under Bruce Mound Management Update, Marcus Aumann reported that new lights have been ordered for the tube hill, Selk electronics is working on an estimate to install speakers on the tube hill, and annual maintenance continues at the facility.

Under Dams Management Updates – No Report

Wage Rate Changes – No report

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

Call for public comment – none received

Next regular meeting date was confirmed for October 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium.

Motion to adjourn at 12:59 p.m. by Dean Zank, seconded by Al Bower. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Rick Dailey, Secretary