

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOREST COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE:** FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – MRA SUB-COMMITTEE

**PLACE:** COUNTY BOARD ROOM

**DATE:** September 22, 2014

**TIME CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** DON LEMASTER, BILL CHANEY, PAUL CLEEREMAN, LARRY SOMMER

**WORVPI REPRESENTATIVES:** JOHN SCHNORR, MELINDA OTTO, JACK MATUSZEWSKI

**OTHERS PRESENT:** DAVE ZIOLKOWSKI, CRAIG WILLIAMS, MARY TORGERSO AND APPROXIMATELY 25 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (SEE ATTACHED SIGN IN SHEET)

### **MINUTES OF MEETING AS FOLLOWS:**

Meeting called to order by Chairman LeMaster. Motion by Sommer seconded by Chaney to approve the agenda. All voting aye, motion carried. Paul Payant, County Corporation Counsel identified the purpose of the meeting and stated that the first step in this process is to amend the 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan to state that we propose to allow an MRA Park on newly acquired County forestland. If the plan is DNR and County Board approved it would then allow the Forestry Department to apply for a Project Loan and a Stewardship Grant for land acquisition. Williams stated that WORVPI has already submitted an application for Project Loan and Stewardship and has been told by the DNR that they need more information. Ziolkowski stated that the grant application deadline is May 1, 2015. Payant also stated that he could create an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the two groups but would need to know what each group would be bringing to the table in project development. It was agreed that an MOU was not necessary at this time. Payant also stated that this issue would be brought to the voters for a referendum vote prior to developing an MRA Park. Williams stated the 15 Year Plan would have to

be updated sometime in the future so WORVPI should provide all of their plans to Forestry so they would have adequate information to amend the 15 Year Plan. Williams also stated that the DNR can't approve the 15 Year Plan amendments unless the amendments and proposed use complies with the law on the County Forest Program. Ziolkowski stated that he cannot amend the 15 Year Plan unless WORVPI provides more information. Schnorr stated the County has the feasibility study. He also stated that he doesn't know what information Forestry is asking from WORVPI to amend the 15 Year Plan. Schnorr stated that if the amended 15 Year Plan doesn't make it out of the Forestry Committee the project is over. Schnorr felt the cost and hours of amending the 15 Year Plan would be much less than going ahead with other issues. Ziolkowski explained the process to amend the 15 Year Plan and that it may take several plan revisions before it is completed. The contact people for WORVPI were identified as John Schnorr with Jack Matuszewski and Melinda Otto serving on WORVPI's Committee. For Forestry Dave Ziolkowski will be the County contact. Payant stated that the Forestry Department has a staff of 3 and the Forestry Committee would need to discuss hiring additional staff for the department to complete workloads. The Committee agreed to meet again in 30 days, next meeting date is Monday, October 27th at 5:00 p.m. There being no further business at this time, motion by Chaney, seconded by Cleereman to adjourn. All voting aye, meeting adjourned.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Forestry and Recreation MRA Sub-committee meeting.