

Forestry and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2018

Members Present: Bill Chaney, Ron Karl, Dave Campbell, Steve Bunda, Don Dehart, Mike Miller

Members Absent: Kris Houle

Others Present: Joan Ginter, Ben Broquard, Sam Blake, Cindy Gretzinger, Adam Bontje, Lynn Black, Jamie Anderson, Tom Tallier

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order by Bill Chaney at 4:30 p.m.
2. **Approve Amended Agenda:**
Motion by Dehart and seconded by Miller to approve the amended agenda. All voting aye, motion carried.
3. **Approve minutes:**
Motion by Campbell and seconded by Bunda to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2018 meeting. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Short report on FSFC Meeting:**
Ron Karl reported on nature conservancy, wildlife habitat and wild fire issues. Ron also reported on importance of the GNA program and how it can have a positive impact on the county.
5. **Update, discussion and possible action on future land acquisitions:**
The forestry department contacted the DNR (as directed) and the information given is that there are funds available, but no funds are reserved for counties until the grant applications are submitted. The county needs to get land acquisitions in place and then check on the funding available at that time. Bunda will contact the realtor and find acceptable parcels and bring the information to the next meeting.
6. **Discussion and possible action on approval to start the application process for a County Forest Sustainable Grant to do recon on the newly acquired parcels-Forest Drive and Spring Lake.**
Motion by Dehart and seconded by Miller to put start the bid process to qualified contractors and to start the application process to acquire a County Forest Sustainable Grant for recon work on the Spring Lake and Forest Drive parcels.
7. **Update, discussion and possible action on quotes received for boundary survey work needed on Forest Drive and Spring Lake Blocks:**
Copies of the quotes the department received from the contractors were given to the committee for review. Motion by Miller and seconded by Campbell to accept the quote from Rusch Engineering & Surveying LLC at a total price of \$7600 for work needed to be completed on both blocks. All voting aye, motion carried.
8. **Update on Forestry equipment repairs:**
The department reported that the tires had been replaced on the tractor and the loader bucket and doors were also repaired and looks good. The work on the bushings and pins and electrical work will hopefully be completed in June. The UTV has been repaired and is running great.

9. Update on Weber trespass-County land sale:

The county land withdrawal application was sent to the DNR and a letter from the DNR received confirming that the application was complete. The department received an email stating that the withdrawal form was sent on to the second step of the process and will hopefully be finalized in June.

10. Discussion and possible action on 2016 Timber Revenue error:

The state auditors found a discrepancy in the Forestry books which was caused by a 2016 billing error that resulted in an overpayment in the amount of \$1100 to the townships via the severance payments. Motion by Campbell and seconded by Bunda to leave the error as is and contact the state to adjust the books to reflect the committee's decision. All voting aye, motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible action on new policy for the Forestry Department:

Motion by Bunda and seconded by Karl to adopt the new policy (drafted by corporate counsel) for the Forestry Department. All voting aye, motion carried.

12. Discussion and possible action on Natural Resource Technician position name change to Assistant County Forest Administrator:

No action required. (has already been approved by Personnel)

13. Update, discussion and possible action on Wolf Rive Bridge Grant application:

Talk to snowmobile and ATV clubs to get their input and thoughts on Motorized Stewardship Grant. Set up possible meetings

14. Update on Phase II project-Jamie Anderson:

Progress is being made.

15. Discussion and possible action on Memorial and tree planted at the Otter Springs Trail Head:

Motion by Dehart and seconded by Campbell to let the memorial and tree that was planted to remain, but to inform the club that any person, club or group need to get permission from the Forestry and Parks Department before planting trees or placing memorials on county land.

16. Discussion and possible action on NREH timber sales:

NREH requested to open timber sale 488-16, discussion on 484-15 timber sale that is not closed. Motion by Karl and seconded by Miller to allow NREH to open timber sale 488-16 after July 1 (due to seasonal restrictions as stated in contract), with the knowledge that there will be restrictions upon the opening of this sale which will include prepayment terms that will be set by the Forestry Department.

17. Public comments on agenda items:

The Forestry Department reported on all of the accomplishments that have been made in the past four months.

17. Set next meeting date: June 27, 2018 at 4:30 pm will be the next meeting.

18. Adjournment: Motion by Dehart and seconded by Campbell to adjourn. All voting aye, motion carried.

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