

FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FORESTRY AND RECREATION
DATE: JANUARY 16, 2023
TIME: 4:30 P.M.
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Chaney called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m

ROLL CALL.

Members Present: Campbell, Chaney, Dehart, Karl, Lukas, Miller and Tallier.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Sam Blake, Doug Brown, Jason Headson, Don LeMaster, Jason Neilitz, Travis Wollenberg, Jared Oemig and Erin Lane.

APPROVE AGENDA.

Motion by Dehart to approve the agenda, second by Campbell. All Present voting AYE. Motion carried

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 19, 2022 FORESTRY AND RECREATION MEETING.

Motion by Lukas to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2022 Forestry and Recreation meeting, second by Tallier. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FORMING A POLICY FOR PREPAID STUMPAGE PAYMENTS.

Motion by Miller to pursue putting a policy in place for prepaid stumpage, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Will need to check with other Counties on their policy as well as with County Clerk.

DISCUSSION WITH DOUG BROWN ON WITHDRAWING PROPERTY FROM FOREST COUNTY LANDS.

Doug Brown, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR gave a presentation on the County Forest Withdrawal Process. He explained that the reason to withdraw has to benefit the Public as a whole, the County and the State. The process starts with committee approval, then to County Board for 2/3 approval, if passed County Forest Administrator fills out and submits application to WDNR. The WDNR will then review and investigate to make sure it fits criteria for withdrawal. Further discussion on what our 15 year plan reads for withdrawal and who pays for it.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WITHDRAWING PROPERTY FROM FOREST COUNTY LANDS FOR EASEMENT ACCESS TRADE.

Jason Neilitz would like to trade deeded access through his property for 5 acres of County Forest Land that would adjoin his property. He feels it would benefit logging operations with a shorter route to the County's Property. Motion by Miller to proceed with the withdrawing County Forest land for the easement agreement, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Committee would like the application filled out first and brought back to next committee meeting for review and possible approval.

DISCUSSION WITH DOUG BROWN ON LAND PURCHASE.

The Forestry Department will be receiving \$134,000 for land acquisition only. These funds

cannot be used for anything else or used in combination with Knowles Nelson funds. The money must be held in a separate fund for Land Acquisition.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SECURE RURAL SCHOOL INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT. More information will be gathered and will be brought back to next meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TRAIL MAINTENANCE RESOLUTIONS.

Motion by Campbell to approve trail maintenance resolutions and move to County Board, second by Tallier. All Present voting AYE. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PLAYGROUND PURCHASE FOR COUNTY PARK.

Forestry and Recreation Department received a donation from the Crandon International Off-Road Raceway Organization for new playground equipment at Veteran's Memorial Park. New equipment was picked out and the cost will be completely covered by the donation including the installation. Motion by Miller to approve the purchase of the playground equipment, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FLAG POLE PURCHASE FOR COUNTY PARK.

Funding for a new flag pole was discussed and will be brought back to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ON 2022 FORESTRY AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Presentation on what was accomplished in 2022 by the Forestry and Recreation Department

UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

- a) ATV TRAILS AND BRIDGES – A flood plain study has to be done for the Mill Pond, Popple River North and Popple River Center bridges and bids for replacement should go out this spring. An updated MOU agreement will need to be put together for the Wolf River extension trail.
- b) TIMBER SALES – 3 active sales and 1 starting.
- c) COUNTY PARK – revenue and expenditure report was reviewed

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS.

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SETTING NEXT MEETING DATE.

Next meeting will be February 13, 2023 at 4:30

ADJOURNMENT 6:00PM

Motion by Lukas to adjourn, second by Karl. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

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