

FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FORESTRY AND RECREATION
DATE: June 10, 2024
TIME: 4:30pm
PLACE: County Board Room

CALL TO ORDER.

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

ROLL CALL.

Members Present: Chaney, Dehart, Karl, Lukas, Miller, Tallier, Wirtz.

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mike Albrecht, Craig Albrecht, Tim Gretzinger, Chad McKee, Sam Blake, Travis Wollenberg, and Erin Lane

APPROVE AGENDA.

Motion by Wirtz to approve the agenda, second by Lukas. All Present voting AYE. Motion carried

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 13TH AND MAY 21ST 2024 FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING.

Motion by Dehart to approve the meeting minutes from the May 13th and May 21st meetings of the Forestry and Recreation committee, second by Wirtz. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION WITH MIKE ALBRECHT PERTAINING TO TIMBER SALE EXTENSION FOR CONTRACT #511-21.

Mike Albrecht was present to discuss the 10% stumpage increase that was imposed with his timber sale extension. Mike A. felt that he should not have received the 10% stumpage increase because he did start the sale but due to weather he was unable to finish the sale before the deadline, weather permitting he would have finished the sale on time. He asked the committee to give him until October 1 with 0% increase to finish the sale. He also informed the committee how the market is slow and it is hard to move wood at this time and by imposing the 10% stumpage increase the committee is only hurting his business more. Chad McKee was present as well to support the conversation of the slow market and how it hurts the Logging Businesses when the 10% stumpage increase is imposed on timber sale extensions, especially when the weather is out of their control and they cannot get a sale cut in a timely manner. The Committee argued that Mike A. did receive a one year extension and that the 10% increase was imposed because that was what the contract stated, he had three years to complete the sale and waited until the last year of the contract to move into the sale. Further discussion on how loggers plan out their jobs and determine a bidding price for Timber Sales, Mike A. and Chad M. both tried to explain a bit of the process to the committee. Committee Chairman Chaney decided there will not be another vote, committee already voted and made a decision at the last meeting.

DICUSSION WITH CHAD MCKEE PERTAINING TO COUNTY FOREST LAND TIMBER SALES.

Chad McKee was no longer present at the meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSSIBLE APPROVAL OF OFFER TO PURCHASE AND OFFER TO PURCHASE RESOLUTION FOR LAND ACQUISITION USING ARPA FUNDS AND MOVE TO COUNTY BOARD.

One of the land owners was unable to be present at the meeting. A special meeting will be set up potentially for Monday June 17th at 4:30.

No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON OPENING COUNTY FOREST LANDS TO MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE.

Chaney would like to see all County Forest Lands open to motorized vehicle use. Wollenberg explained that County Forest Lands have to follow BMP rules and opening all forest roads for motorized vehicles would create potential problems with maintaining the roads. Forest County has heavy soils and when it is wet they rut up easily causing damage that needs to be repaired. Maintenance and repair of the roads can be costly and the County would have budget money for this annually. If the roads are not maintained to BMP standards the County could lose their Certifications, any Grants Funded by the State DNR and potentially see a decrease on the Timber Sale Bid prices due to cost to maintain the forest roads with the extra traffic. Wollenberg suggested rather than opening all roads put in cul-de-sacs in certain areas of the County Forest to allow easier access to center portions of the forest and ensure they are in areas that can handle the vehicle traffic. Wollenberg will identify areas of the County Forest where cul-de-sacs could be put in.

No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION APPROVING SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT.

Wollenberg explained there are 4 road projects that are being submitted for to help with access for logging County Forest Land, resolution is not needed just approval to apply. Motion by Karl to approve the Sustainable Forestry Grant, second by Tallier, all present voting AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FOREST ADMINISTRATOR MATERNITY LEAVE SCHEDULE.

Motion by Miller to approve maternity leave schedule for Forest Administrator, second by Tallier, all present voting AYE. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- A. ATV TRAILS AND BRIDGES- 10 bridges were inspected 3 of which were rated with a poor substructure. They are not in critical condition but grant will be applied for to replace the bridges. The two current bridge projects are a bit behind schedule and may need to have a grant extension filed.
- B. TIMBER SALES – 2 active sales and 2 dormant sales
- C. COUNTY PARK – Electrical issue that has been resolved, everything else is going smooth.
- D. MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – May report has not been sent to department yet

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SETTING NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting will be July 8th at 4:30pm with the tentative special meeting date of June 17 @ 4:30pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dehart to adjourn, second by Tallier. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

Adjourn 6:25pm

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.