

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, July 9, 2012 @ 9:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center Conference Room 107
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034

Members Present: Graham Rankin, David Fox, John Bailey, Donald Nelson and Carl Vander Sanden

Visitors: Joan Giusto, Bill Groth, Kevin Kleinschmidt and Sherrie Zortman

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, July 9, 2012 in Conference Room 107, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Rankin at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of June 11, 2012 meeting. Motion by Fox, second by Vander Sanden to approve minutes of June 11, 2012 meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Review year to date budget report. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.

4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Joan Giusto advised the ATV trails look good.

5. Open and award any land sale bids. No bids were received.

6. 2011 CIP transfer. Kevin reported that the CIP transfer was \$670,611 and the 20% transfer to the general fund was \$315,155 from our 2011 forest land revenue. The committee requested that Kevin offer a presentation to the County Board regarding distribution of Forestry funds.

7. Discuss firewood permit fees. Kevin advised that firewood permit fees have been \$10.00 since 2002, and provided comparisons to fees charged by other counties. Discussion followed. Motion by Rankin, second by Vander Sanden to increase firewood permit fees from \$10.00/month to \$15.00/month beginning January, 2013. Discussion followed. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Discuss selling timber by weight. Kevin advised that pulp mills are now purchasing timber by the ton vs. cord. Most contractors he spoke with would prefer buying wood products by the ton, and the department is considering changing to timber sales by weight. There are many factors to consider before implementing this change. Discussion followed. Motion by Fox, second by Rankin to sell timber by weight, utilized to a 4 inch top, and selling biomass products at \$2.00/ton. Discussion followed. Motion failed. Motion by Fox, second by Rankin to sell timber by weight, utilized to a 4 inch top, beginning with the Spring 2013 Timber Sale and sell biomass at a set price/ton. State weight conversions will be used and the industry standard of 2.4 tons/cord will be used for mixed hardwood. Discussion followed. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. 2012-2013 Snowmobile/ATV funding projects. Kevin reported that the state grant requests made for 2 snowmobile trail re-routes will receive funding and 1 bridge project will not. A trail rehab project will receive ATV state grant funding and construction of an open shelter was not funded, but there is a possibility that funding for the open shelter may be revisited later this year. Discussion followed. Kevin advised he is working to develop a plan for the Pine Lake ATV trail and plans to apply for state grant dollars for that project next year.

10. WDNR Report – Bill Groth. Bill Groth reported on storm damage.

11. Review Administrator's written report. Kevin informed committee members that Tony Trola, Equipment Broker, set the price to sell the groomer/drag at \$43,000, to be offered first to the local snowmobile clubs. The certification audit will be conducted on August 10, 2012 with a pre-audit meeting to be held on July 25, 2012. Also, the Harrison Hills ATV Club signed a maintenance agreement to replace damaged/missing signs and adding new signs when necessary in addition to trail brushing. The Administrator's written report was reviewed and placed on file.

12. Close timber sales. There were no timber sales to close.

13. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meetings are set as follows:
Monday, August 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC, Conf. Room 107 w/land sale bid opening at 10 a.m.
Monday, September 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC, Conference Room 107

14. Field trip – will leave approximately 10:00 a.m. from Service Center – picnic lunch provided. No action will be taken during field trip. The Committee left at approximately 10:20 a.m. to view the following areas:

- a. 2011 tornado damage
- b. Horn Lake Road
- c. Garlic Mustard Site
- d. Underdown Trail Head
- e. CTH B Multi-Use Building
- f. Tug Lake
- g. Krueger Firelane
- h. New Wood Park

The Committee returned to the Service Center at 3:40 p.m.

15. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Fox, second by Vander Sanden to adjourn at 3:40 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.