

**Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, December 9, 2013 @ 9:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center Conference Room 156
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034**

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

Members Absent: Donald Nelson, excused

Visitors: Randy Scholz, Nancy Bergstrom, Bill Groth, Mike Lietz, DNR, Dean Bowe, Nick Behrens, Lee Rahlf, Kevin Kleinschmidt and Sherrie Zortman

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, December 9, 2013 in Conference Room 156, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Rankin at 9:00 a.m. Donald Nelson was excused.

2. Approve minutes of November 11, 2013 meeting. Motion by Vander Sanden, second by Bailey to approve minutes of November 11, 2013 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. No comments.

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

6. Discuss the sale of Forward House – 1200 E. 3rd Street, Merrill. Randy Scholz appeared to discuss sale of Forward House. Discussion followed. Motion by Bailey, second by Vander Sanden to offer the Forward House, 1200 E. 3rd Street, Merrill, following normal land sale procedures, at the 2014 Land Sale. All ayes. Motion carried.

The order of items on the agenda was changed to accommodate visitors.

9. Biomass sales. Kevin informed the Committee that a contractor for Lincoln County defaulted on four biomass jobs and advised they will be resold. Discussion followed. Motion by Fox, second by Vander Sanden directing Kevin to close biomass sales, retaining cash bonds, and resell. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Closed Session.

Convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1) (g). Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

- a. River Valley Bank – Motion by Vander Sanden, second by Bailey to convene into closed session authorizing Kevin Kleinschmidt and Nancy Bergstrom to remain for closed session. Roll call vote taken. Rankin-aye, Fox-aye, Bailey-aye, Vander Sanden-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Bailey, second by Vander Sanden to reconvene into open session. Roll call vote taken. Rankin-aye, Fox-aye, Bailey-aye, Vander Sanden, aye. Motion carried.

8. Open Session. Take any necessary action on items discussed during closed session. Motion by Rankin, second by Bailey authorizing corporation counsel to send a letter to River Valley Bank president, Todd Nicklaus, notifying him that the Lincoln County Forestry Department will no longer be able to accept River Valley Bank letters of credit as security for logging contracts because of their refusal to honor our contract terms regarding payment on default by logger. All ayes – motion carried.

10. Budget modifications. Kevin informed Committee of department budget modifications. Motion by Vander Sanden, second by Rankin to approve budget modifications as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. WDNR Report – Bill Groth. Bill Groth conveyed a good report on the 3-Year DNR audit conducted on Forestry Department programs. Mike Lietz advised the DNR will be hiring foresters and technicians to replace retiring employees.

Break taken at 9:55 a.m. Reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

11. Open timber sale bids – 10:00 a.m. Timber sale bids were opened and read. A total of 31 bids on 13 jobs were opened. Two jobs received no bids. No irrevocable letters of credit will be accepted from River Valley Bank.

13. Review Administrator’s written report. Kevin reported that the Eagle Scout bat house project at Otter Lake is completed, and provided information on the county’s snowmobile supplemental claim. Discussion followed regarding the Underdown and snowmobile trails. The Administrator’s written report was reviewed and placed on file.

14. Close timber sales.

T036-10	Friske Logging, LLC	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T013-13	Futurewood Corporation	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T037-11	Graap Logging	Close and retain cash bond
T030-12	Graap Logging	Close and retain cash bond
T031-12	Graap Logging	Close and retain cash bond
T030-13	Graap Logging	Close and retain cash bond

Motion by Bailey, second by Vander Sanden to close sales per Kevin’s recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.

15. Award timber sale bids. The timber sale bids were discussed by the Committee. The total estimated value for the 11 jobs sold was \$504,387.70. Motion by Fox, second by Bailey to award sales to apparent high bidders at Kevin’s discretion, pending any mathematical errors or necessary reference checks, and re-advertise the two jobs that received no bids. All ayes. Motion carried.

16. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meetings are set as follows:
Monday, January 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 107
Monday, February 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 107

17. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Vander Sanden, second by Bailey, to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.