

**Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee  
Minutes of Monday, January 12, 2015 @ 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:** Carl Vander Sanden, Ryan Schwartzman, Curtis Powell and Kevin Koth

**Members Excused:** Graham Rankin

**Visitors:** Margaret Powell, Kevin Kleinschmidt and Deb Gerdes

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, January 12, 2015 in Conference Room 107, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Carl Vander Sanden at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of December 8, 2014 meeting. Motion by Schwartzman, second by Powell to approve minutes of December 8, 2014 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. 2014 timber sale revenue. Kevin distributed spreadsheet and reviewed 2014 timber sale revenue. A total of \$1,657,234.69 was collected on County Forest property with \$164,180.54 being distributed to towns with County Forest Land within their townships; \$328,361.31 to the County General Fund and \$1,164,692.84 to the County Forestry Fund. This is our second best year on record. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred from the County Forestry Fund to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed. Discussion followed.
7. Harrison access road – Section 32-T35N-R8E. Kevin explained this road is used to access timber sales in this portion of the County Forest and also provides access to our snowmobile and ATV trails in the County. A request has been made to provide assistance to help improve this road. Discussion followed. Motion by Powell, second by Koth to expend \$450.00 and keep the option open for future assistance. All ayes. Motion carried
8. Forest Economy Stats. Kevin distributed information developed by the DNR on the Forest Economy in Wisconsin and in Lincoln County. Discussion followed on the importance of maintaining county forestland in Lincoln County and the positive impact that our timber sale program has as a revenue source for county government as well as for the economy of our county overall.
9. Property by Prairie Dells. Kevin advised he was contacted by a landowner who owns a five acre parcel adjacent to County property in the Prairie Dells area and is interested in donating his property to Lincoln County to enhance the recreational opportunities in this location. Discussion followed on long term goals for that area. Motion by Powell, second by Koth to use all means available to pursue the donation. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. WDNR Report – Bill Groth. Bill Groth was not present. Kevin informed the committee that the DNR is working on recon. Also Gary Osness, DNR Forest Tech has retired and the vacant position in Merrill will be advertised for lateral transfer within the DNR.

11. Review Administrator’s written report. Recreation Officer’s report was distributed. Kevin advised snowmobile trails were opened in stages due to unfrozen ground conditions. The Hiawatha Trail was opened December 23<sup>rd</sup> when Oneida County’s system opened. Zones 1 and 3 were opened January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Zone 2 opened January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Underdown ski trails opened December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2015 spring timber sale paperwork is in the final stages before being sent to the DNR. The Administrator’s written report was reviewed and placed on file.

12. Close timber sales.

T026-07	Hanson Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T005-14	Tigerton Lumber Co.	Close and refund cash bond
T021-10	Friske Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

Motion by Schwartzman, second by Koth to close sales per Kevin’s recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meetings are set as follows:  
Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 107  
Monday, March 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 107

14. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Koth, second by Schwartzman to adjourn at 9:32 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.