

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Wednesday, June 7, 2006 @ 8:30 A.M.
Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center

Members Present: Graham Rankin, Richard Berndt and Carl Short

Members Absent: Frank Saal and James Alber

Visitors: Fred Heider, Curtis Powell, Norman Heckendorf, Nancy Bergstrom, John Mulder, Rob Kudick, Jane Severt, Sherrie Zortman

1. Meeting called to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Rankin at 8:30 a.m. James Alber was excused. Frank Saal was absent.

2. Approve minutes of May 18 and May 30, 2006 meetings. Motion by Short, second by Berndt to approve minutes of May 18 and May 30, 2006 meetings as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Review vouchers. Jane explained the schedule of vouchers format and answered questions. The Committee reviewed vouchers as previously paid and placed on file.

4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Norman Heckendorf told new Committee members about his membership in the Harrison Hills ATV Club, and explained the Trail Ambassador Program.

5. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – 5 Year Outdoor Recreation Plan – Fred Heider. Fred Heider, Planner for the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission appeared to inform the Committee about the planning process for the development of the 5 Year Outdoor Recreation Plan. He explained that this plan must be implemented in order for the County to receive grant dollars for various projects. Surveys will be conducted, and open house meetings will be held. Discussion followed. Motion by Berndt, second by Short to authorize Fred Heider, Planner for the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to conduct city, municipality and user group surveys. All ayes. Motion carried. Surveys will be sent to user groups identified in the Lincoln County Access Plan.

6. Set date for tax delinquent land sale. The Lincoln County Land Sale will be held on August 2, 2006. The Committee meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the tax delinquent land sale to be held at 10:00 a.m. The County Land Sale will be advertised in the Tomahawk Leader, Merrill Courier, Foto News, Milwaukee Journal and Lincoln County website.

7. Resignation of campground host. Jane distributed copies of a letter she received from Tom Rick, campground host. Mr. Rick stated that he is terminating his agreement with the Forestry Department as Otter Lake Camp Host due to problems and liabilities resulting from Memorial Day weekend.

8. Discuss activity on County Forest over Memorial Day weekend. Jane distributed copies of a letter from Robert Towne, Forestry employee, stating his observations over Memorial Day weekend at Otter Lake Campground. Illegal activities took place including drug use, fireworks and excessive alcohol use. The Sheriff's Department responded to complaints several times, but no arrests were made or citations issued. Discussion followed. Motion by Short, second by Berndt to request that Chief Deputy Soucy submit a written explanation to County Board Chair explaining why no arrests were made or citations issued at the Otter Lake Campground on Memorial Day weekend. Further discussion followed. All ayes. Motion carried. Copies of letters from Mr. Rick, Mr. Towne and Chief Deputy Soucy will be distributed by Chairman Powell to County Board Supervisors.

11. WDNR Wildlife Report – Rich Wissink. Rich was not in attendance at today's meeting.

12. WDNR Forester's Report – Bill Groth. Bill was not in attendance at today's meeting.

13. Review Administrator's report. The Administrator's report was reviewed and placed on file.

14. Close timber sale.

T043-02 Rick Graap Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

Motion by Rankin, second by Berndt to close sale per Jane's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.

15. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center.

A recess was taken at 9:45 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

9. Release of public access deed restriction – Wausau Paper properties – 10:00 a.m.

Closed Session. Motion by Berndt, second by Short to convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats. Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, and pursuant to §19.85 (1) (g) Wis. Stats. Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, authorizing Nancy Bergstrom, John Mulder, Jane Severt, Curtis Powell and Rob Kudick to remain for closed session. Roll call vote taken. Berndt-aye, Short-aye, Rankin-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Short, second by Berndt to reconvene into open session. Roll call vote taken. Berndt-aye, Short-aye, Rankin-aye. Motion carried 3-0

10. Open Session. Take any necessary action on items discussed during closed session.

Motion by Rankin, second by Berndt to forward Wausau Paper settlement proposal to County Board at the June 2006 meeting, and also to present an ordinance establishing the new fee for the removal of public access deed restrictions. All ayes. Motion carried.

16. Adjourn meeting: Motion by Rankin, second by Berndt to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.