

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Wednesday, August 2, 2006 @ 8:30 A.M.
Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Graham Rankin, James Alber, Richard Berndt and Carl Short

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frank Saal

VISITORS: Jim Wendt, Norman Heckendorf, Bill Groth, Marge Johnson, Diana C. Smith, Mike Soucy, Collin Lueck, Rick Peters, Matt Groppi, Calista Wendt, Lyle Wendt, Jim Schneider, Sameer Darduk, Jane Severt, Sherrie Zortman

1. Meeting called to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Rankin at 8:30 a.m. Frank Saal was excused.

2. Approve minutes of July 5, 2006 meeting. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to approve minutes of July 5, 2006 meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Review vouchers. Carl Short suggested possible savings by computerized use of UPS. Jane will check. The Committee reviewed vouchers as previously paid and placed on file.

4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. The Committee responded positively when Diana Smith asked if comments from members of the public would be accepted on individual agenda items.

5. Authorize advertising for quotes on new front end loader – Jim Wendt. Jim Wendt, Shop Foreman, appeared to explain the need for a new front end loader. Discussion followed. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to authorize advertising for quotes on a new front end loader. Discussion followed. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Authorize advertising for quotes on 4 wheel drive truck. Jane explained that the 2001 Ford should be replaced. Discussion followed. Motion by Berndt, second by Short to authorize advertising for quotes on a 4 wheel drive truck. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Tax delinquent parcel – Mathews Street, City of Merrill – Marge Johnson. Marge Johnson, Real Property Lister, informed the Committee that in 1987 Lincoln County took a tax deed on a small parcel. The adjacent property owner on Mathews Street thought this parcel was included in the property they purchased in 1983. They wish to have the deed placed in their name. Marge explained that the exemption of this parcel on their deed was a mistake, and suggested giving the parcel to the landowner. Discussion followed. Motion by Alber, second by Short to grant the tax delinquent parcel on Mathews Street, City of Merrill, to Patricia Granato for deed and recording fees. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Staff requisition – Recreation Officer – Sheriff’s Department. Mike Soucy, Chief Deputy, Rick Peters, DNR Warden and Jane asked the Committee to approve their request for a Recreation Officer position, and offered justification for this position. Discussion followed regarding funding, scheduling, training requirements and duties. Jim Alber indicated that changes should be made to the job description citing specific duties and training requirements. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to forward request for Recreation Officer to Law Enforcement Committee with job description reflecting changes discussed. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Request from the Town of Birch. The Town of Birch is building a new town hall and wishes to purchase County owned land by the Forestry Shop for their building placement. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to layover the request from the Town of Birch to purchase County owned land, direct Jane to forward request to Corporation Counsel, and bring information back to Committee for review in October. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan progress. Jane informed the Committee that surveys sent out by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission have been received. She will contact townships that did not respond to the surveys to see if they have specific projects that require grant dollars to be included in the Plan.

12. Permit for Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) event in Underdown. WORBA has requested a permit for a biking event in the Underdown on August 19-20. Motion by Rankin, second by Short to grant permit to WORBA for event in Underdown on August 19-20, 2006. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. Policy on turning back timber sales. Jane explained that due to uncertain markets, some timber sales may be relinquished to be rebid. Jane asked the Committee to decide if a policy should be developed regarding costs to be paid by the contractor when turning back a sale. Discussion followed.

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

17. WDNR Wildlife Report – Rich Wissink. Rich was not in attendance at today's meeting, but Bill Groth reported that the DNR will be mowing wildlife openings.

18. WDNR Forester's Report – Bill Groth. Bill reported that DNR employees spent 2,000 hours in the last year on the County Forest, participating in activities such as site prep, planting, timber sale administration, etc. There is a set amount of hours that the DNR spends on each county forest. Bill has a more active role in Lincoln County as liaison.

A brief break was taken at 9:50 a.m. Meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m.

11. Open and award bids for Lincoln County Land Sale – 10:00 a.m. A total of 23 bids were opened and read. Motion by Alber, second by Rankin to award parcels to highest bidders. All ayes. Motion carried. Discussion followed regarding land sale policies. This item will be placed on next month's agenda.

14. Alternate director for WCFA. Jane reported that there is a vacancy for alternate director for WCFA in our area. Discussion followed. Motion by Alber, second by Short to submit Richard Berndt's name as alternate director for WCFA. All ayes. Motion carried.

15. Sustainable Forestry Grant application. Jane informed the Committee that she would like to apply for grant dollars to purchase a surveillance camera. The application deadline is August 15th. Jim Alber had questions regarding grant criteria. This item will be placed on next month's agenda. Discussion followed. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to apply for Sustainable Forestry Grant to purchase 2 surveillance cameras. All ayes. Motion carried.

16. Preliminary budget form review. Jane presented the preliminary budget form to the Committee. Discussion followed. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to forward preliminary budget form to Administrative Coordinator. All ayes. Motion carried.

19. Review Administrator's report. The status of MAPLE program was discussed. The Administrator's report was reviewed and placed on file.

20. Close timber sales.

T036-02	Homer Van Meter	Close and refund Bond
T041-02	Mel Flannery, Jr.	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T045-02	Stora Enso North America	Close and refund Bond
T037-02	DeBoth Bros. Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

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

21. Set date for Committee tour of County Forest. The Committee will tour the County Forest after the next scheduled Committee meeting to be held on September 5, 2006.

22. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center.

23. Adjourn meeting: Motion by Alber, second by Rankin to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.