

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND & PARKS COMMITTEE
Minutes of Friday, January 05, 2007 @ 10:00 AM
Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center

Members Present: Graham Rankin, Carl Short, Richard Berndt, Frank Saal, James Alber

Members Absent: None

Visitors: Joan Giusto, Bill Groth, Gary Bartz, DNR, Randy Scholz, Linda Krueger, Theresa Schmeltzer, Scott Jahnke, Bob Heimann, Jay Stapleton, Thomas O'Neill, Ken Schneider, Mike Soucy, Jane Severt, Sherrie Zortman

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Friday, January 5, 2007 in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Graham Rankin.

2. Approve minutes of December 4, 2006 meeting. Motion by Berndt, second by Saal to approve the minutes of December 4, 2006 as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Review vouchers. Carl Short requested that the department name be printed on the Munis report. Committee reviewed vouchers as previously paid and placed on file.

4. Review year to date budget report. Discussion followed. Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.

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

8. Sheriff's Department request for shooting range. Mike Soucy and Ken Schneider appeared to explain the request. The Highway Department is removing gravel at the present site, so a new location for a shooting range is necessary. Discussion followed. Jane said she would work with Mike and Ken to check out several options. Motion by Alber, second by Berndt to layover Sheriff's Department request for shooting range until details are worked out. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Updates on Recreation Officer position. Mike Soucy reported that the individual hired, Travis Watruba, is the new Recreation Officer and has started work in the position. Discussion followed regarding the hiring process and County ordinances. Jane and Mike will revisit ordinances, add and make changes, and submit a summary to Corporation Counsel.

5. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Bob Heimann, Computer Services Administrator, suggested the landfill as a site for the shooting range. Joan Giusto inquired if the Recreation Officer's duties take place on the County Forest only, and Jane informed her that he will work all over the County.

6. Access to Linda Krueger property. Theresa Schmeltzer, Realtor, and Linda Krueger, her client and property owner, appeared for the second time to request that a road to be constructed on County Forest land to access the Krueger property for sale. Jane distributed maps and explained the access request. Discussion followed regarding other options, wetland issues, setting precedence and long term effects on the County Forest. Motion by Rankin, second by Alber to grant access across County Forest land in Section 6-33-05 to Linda Krueger property at owner's expense for permits and road construction contingent on recommendation by Army Corp. of Engineers. Further discussion followed. Chair called the motion. Berndt, Rankin, Alber voting aye (3). Saal and Short voting nay (2). Motion carried.

A brief break was taken at 11:05 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

7. Town of Birch request for land. Jane informed the Committee that Herb Schotz, Representative for the Town of Birch, said the resolution authorizing the land purchase for the new town hall passed and they are

ready to proceed. Jane explained that the town had decided on a particular area for the site of the new town hall. Discussion followed. Motion by Alber, second by Rankin that the County Forest Administrator coordinate sale of described land. All ayes. Motion carried. Survey of the agreed upon parcel will be done by the County Surveyor and appraisal of the land will be paid for by the Town of Birch.

10. Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Jane provided supplements indicating corrections to the Plan, and informed the Committee that the City of Merrill will be developing their own plan. Copies of the Plan have been made for all the County Board Supervisors, and the resolution will be presented at the next County Board meeting.

11. WDNR Wildlife Report. Bill Groth reported that the WDNR Wildlife Biologist position is now vacant, as Rich Wissink has assumed a new job.

12. WDNR Forester's Report – Bill Groth. Bill had nothing to report, but urged the Committee to follow the guidelines of the 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan when making decisions referring to access to private property across the County Forest.

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

14. Close Timber Sales.

T029-04	Rick Graap	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T032-04	Rick Graap	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T028-04	Rick Graap	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T015-03	DeBoth Bros. Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T026-02	DeBoth Bros. Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T001-03	Thomas Fick	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T009-01	Mike Olson	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T006-04	Wiitala-Vozka Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T012-04	Wiitala-Vozka Logging	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T009-04	Stora Enso North America	Close and refund Bond

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

15. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meetings are scheduled as follows:
Monday, February 5, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m., Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center
Monday, March 5, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m., Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center.

16. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Rankin, second by Alber to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.