

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND & PARKS COMMITTEE
Minutes of Tuesday, November 6, 2007 @ 9:00 AM
Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center

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

Members Absent: James Alber

Visitors: Joan Giusto, Bill Groth, Jeff Jaeger, Travis Watruba, Mike Soucy, Kevin Kleinschmidt, Sherrie Zortman

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Graham Rankin. James Alber was excused.

2. Approve minutes of October 1, 2007 meeting. Motion by Saal, second by Berndt to approve the minutes of October 1, 2007 meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

5. Review Recreational Officer's job description. Kevin distributed the Recreational Officer's position description, record of activities from May – October and a positive letter of park observations by Robert Towne, forestry worker. Chief Soucy explained that Travis' major job duties involve forestry issues but he may assist in the enforcement of non-forestry items if he encounters them in the normal course of his duties. Sheriff Jaeger clarified that there is flexibility in Travis' work schedule. Discussion followed. Frank asked to see language added to the job description to include flexible scheduling.

3. Review year to date budget report. Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.

4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. No comments.

6. Discuss proposed improvements to multi-use shelter. Joan Giusto, representing the Harrison Hills ATV Club, appeared to propose improvements for the multi-use shelter which include providing picnic tables, shelves and benches to be furnished by the Club. Discussion was held regarding establishing regulations, restrooms, signage, garbage, electricity, heating and liability issues. Kevin will contact Corporation Counsel and place this item on next months agenda.

(Frank left meeting at 9:50 a.m.)

7. Approve proposed Timber Sale Contract changes. Kevin distributed proposed Timber Sale Contract changes regarding FSC Certification. Discussion followed. Motion by Berndt, second by Short to approve proposed Timber Sale Contract changes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Discuss and take action regarding garlic mustard spraying. Kevin asked the Committee for approval to advertise for quotations, if necessary, for garlic mustard spraying. Discussion followed. (Frank returned to meeting at 9:55 a.m.) Motion by Rankin, second by Saal to approve advertising for quotations, if necessary, for garlic mustard spraying. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Discuss property for sale adjacent to County Forest land. Kevin presented maps of 2 parcels for sale that have been offered to the County. Discussion followed. The Committee expressed possible interest in one parcel, so Kevin will gather information and place this item on next months agenda.

10. Approve direct timber sale for utilization of non-merchantable tops. Kevin asked for approval to conduct a direct sale on a pine plantation to remove non-merchantable tops in order to eliminate DNR costs for burning and make planting easier. Discussion followed. Motion by Saal, second by Short to approve direct timber sale for utilization of non-merchantable tops. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Approve 2008 Annual Work Plan. The Plan was reviewed by the Committee. Discussion followed. Motion by Rankin, second by Berndt to approve 2008 Annual Work Plan and forward for approval to County Board of Supervisors. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. Report on Annual WCFA meeting. Kevin informed the Committee that Graham is the new alternate director for our area. Kevin also reported on available grant dollars, bi-laws, WCFA operations and a light utility vehicle pilot project. Discussion followed. Kevin will further research the utility vehicle project.

13. Discuss Normal Park/City Forest issues. Discussion was held regarding the City of Merrill's proposal to place a band shell/memorial at Normal Park. Kevin will talk to Corporation Counsel to find out which Committee oversees Normal Park and bring this item back to the Committee.

14. WDNR Wildlife Report – Rick Weide. Rick Weide, Wildlife Biologist, was not present at the meeting. Bill Groth reported that deer registration will not be done at the Ranger Station opening hunting season weekend. Instead, registrations will be conducted at Merrill Shell Station on Hwy. K or Viegut's Do-It-Express in Tomahawk.

15. WDNR Forester's Report – Bill Groth. Bill Groth, Forestry Liaison, reported on the State budget, MFL close fees, invasive species control and the Administrators Grant dollars funding part of WCFA dues. DNR foresters helped Lincoln County with sale marking. Bill Millis is working with private landowners regarding garlic mustard spraying to save money by cost sharing.

16. Review Administrator's Report. Richard had questions regarding Kevin's meeting with Spirit Falls ATV Club involving development of a new trail. Carl asked that if information is lengthy, it be sent to the Committee prior to meetings. The Administrator's report was reviewed and placed on file.

17. Close Timber Sales.

T025-05	Carpentier Forest Products	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T007-06	Futurewood Corporation	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T006-05	Futurewood Corporation	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T034-06	Greg Lukes	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T011-06	Smola Brothers	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

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

18. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2007 @ 8:00 a.m. in the Land Resource Center Meeting Room.

19. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Saal, second by Short to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.