

**LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND & PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Wednesday, December 12, 2007 @ 8:00 AM**  
**Land Resource Center Meeting Room**

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

Members Absent: James Alber

Visitors: Joan Giusto, Dan Wendorf, Bill Groth, Travis Watruba, Mike Soucy, Curtis Powell, Greg Schenzel, Rick Graap, Dean Bowe, Lee Rahlf, Kevin Kleinschmidt, Sherrie Zortman

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 in the Land Resource Center Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Graham Rankin. James Alber was excused.

2. Approve minutes of September 25 and September 29, 2007 meetings. Motion by Saal, second by Berndt to approve the minutes of September 25 and September 29, 2007 meetings as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes of November 6, 2007 meeting. Motion by Short, second by Rankin to approve minutes of November 6, 2007 meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

7. Merrill Park and Recreation 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan – Dan Wendorf. Dan Wendorf, City of Merrill Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Director appeared to seek approval for the City of Merrill's Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan correlates with the county's plan. Discussion followed regarding future projects. Motion by Saal, second by Short to approve Merrill Park and Recreation 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan and forward resolution to County Board for December meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Discuss Normal Park. Discussion was held regarding the City of Merrill's proposal to place a band shell/memorial at Normal Park at the previous Committee meeting. Kevin talked to Corporation Counsel to find out which Committee oversees Normal Park and was informed that the Forestry Committee reviews and approves all recreation projects and the Public Property Committee cares for and keeps all County-owned buildings and grounds in repair. Richard Berndt reported on the discussion held at the previous Public Property Committee meeting, and discussion followed. Kevin was instructed to place this item on next month's agenda.

11. Evaluate Recreation Officer position and forward recommendation to Law Enforcement Committee. Chief Soucy explained some revisions made to the Recreation Officer's job description as requested at the last Committee meeting. Discussion followed regarding the Forestry and Law Enforcement Departments working together and the positive impact made in the County by having this position. Motion by Berndt, second by Short to forward a favorable evaluation of Travis Watruba, Recreation Officer, to Law Enforcement Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

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

8. Property for sale adjacent to County Forest land. Kevin gathered information on a parcel offered for sale to Lincoln County, as instructed by the Committee at the last meeting and recommended not to purchase. Discussion followed. Motion by Saal, second by Short not to purchase property offered by Mike Waring in the Township of Wilson for sale adjacent to County Forest land. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Discuss proposed improvements to multi-use shelter. Discussion was held at the last meeting regarding proposed improvements for the multi-use shelter which included providing picnic tables, shelves and benches to be furnished by the Harrison Hills ATV Club. Kevin contacted Corporation Counsel and was cautioned

against accepting donations other than monetary. Ownership and safety concerns are the main factors. Discussion followed regarding restrooms, electricity, heating, overnight camping, garbage and locks. The Committee conveyed to Joan Giusto that it is a pleasure to work with her and thanked her for attending Committee meetings.

12. Access Permit – Section 20 T35N-R8E. Kevin distributed maps of Section 20 in the Township of Harrison depicting where a recent survey was conducted. He explained that the survey line shifted and suggested issuing the property owner an Access Permit, waiving the fee because of this line shift. Motion by Saal, second by Short to issue an Access Permit to Mark and Steven Voermans in Section 20, T35N-R8E waiving the fee. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. Request to fill vacancy of Assistant Administrator. Kevin requested that Dean Bowe, forester, be promoted to fill the Assistant Administrator vacancy, and advertise to hire a forester. Kevin stated that Dean is very qualified for this position. Discussion followed. Motion by Rankin, second by Berndt to promote Dean Bowe to Assistant Administrator and authorize to fill the forester position vacancy. All ayes. Motion carried.

14. Request to fill vacancy of Shop Foreman. Due to Jim Wendt's retirement, Kevin requested that the position of Shop Foreman be filled and explained the job duties. Motion by Saal, second by Short to authorize filling the vacancy of Shop Foreman. All ayes. Motion carried.

15. WDNR Wildlife Report – Rick Weide. Rick Weide, Wildlife Biologist, was not present at the meeting.

16. WDNR Forester's Report – Bill Groth. Bill Groth, Forestry Liaison, offered his support of Dean Bowe as Assistant Administrator. Bill also commended Travis Watruba, Recreation Officer, and offered his support for this position.

17. Review Administrator's Report. Discussion was held regarding garlic mustard, invasive species training programs, the Harrison Dam and handicapped hunters permits. The Administrator's report was reviewed and placed on file.

18. Close Timber Sales.

T008-05	Futurewood Corporation	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T022-05	Stora Enso North America	Close and refund Bond
T032-05	Carpentier Forest Products	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T040-04	Rick Graap	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T019-07	G & L Logging	Close

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

19. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2008 @ 9:00 a.m. in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center.

A break was taken at 9:35 a.m.  
Meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

10. Timber Sale Bid Opening – 10:00 a.m. Timber Sale bids were opened and read in the Land Resource Center Meeting Room. A total of 86 bids for 13 jobs offered were received. The total of bids received is \$517,766.20. Motion by Rankin, second by Saal to accept high bids as presented pending reference checks. All ayes. Motion carried.

20. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Saal, second by Short to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.