

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND & PARKS COMMITTEE
Minutes of Monday, April 3, 2006 @ 8:30 AM
Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elroy Schmidt, R. Wayne Plant, Frank Saal, Graham Rankin, David Fox

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

VISITORS PRESENT: Bill Groth, Norman Heckendorf, Jane Severt, Mike Lietz, John Bailey, Clark Wolfe, Joan M. Guisto, Diana C. Smith, Frank Trimmel, Kevin Kleinschmidt, Dean Bowe, Sherrie Zortman and several other visitors

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, April 3, 2006 in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Elroy Schmidt.

2. Approve minutes of March 8, 2006. Frank Saal had several questions about item #8, proposed ATV clubhouse, from the March 8, 2006 minutes. Discussion followed. Several people participated in the discussion of this item. Frank Trimmel suggested that the grant could be received for an open-air shelter and then the building could be modified by the club as had happened in Langlade County. Motion by Plant, second by Fox to amend the March 8, 2006 minutes, item #8, to direct Jane to apply for a State Grant to fund the construction of an enclosed shelter on the County forest and to hold future discussion as to the obligations of the County. The word "clubhouse" in the minutes shall be replaced with "shelter." All ayes. Motion carried. David Fox had questions about item #7, Theis Road Gravel Pit, from the March 8, 2006 minutes. Dave wants to make it clear that gravel will always be available from the pit to the Forestry Department free of charge, and he wants to be assured that Musson Brothers will be responsible for needed reclamation. Discussion followed. Motion by Fox, second by Plant to amend the March 8, 2006 minutes, item #7, to recommend to the Highway Department Committee that management of the Theis Road gravel pit be turned over to the Highway Department, gravel will always be available to the Forestry Department from the pit, free of charge, and Musson Brothers will honor their reclamation responsibilities. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Saal, second by Fox to approve the minutes of March 8, 2006 as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Review vouchers. Committee reviewed vouchers as previously paid.

4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. A) John Bailey-ATV Trail. John Bailey, owner of Bailey's Town & Country Inn, appeared to propose a new ATV trail, approximately 5-6 miles long, on County land. Mr. Bailey said the trail would connect Lincoln and Oneida County and end at his establishment. He stated that he would fund the trail and hire a private party to do the trail work. Frank Saal voiced concerns regarding private individuals doing work on public lands. Jane explained that maintenance work must be done on existing trails before adding new trails. The creation of new trails involves DNR approval, following Best Management Practices and specified guidelines. Other Grant Projects must be taken care of, and limited Forestry staff, certification and DNR approval are all factors to be considered. Dave Fox noted that the more trails available, the less damage there is, and said that this issue should not be put on the back burner. Diana Smith brought up the issue of the importance of a Recreation Officer, and concerns for staff safety. Several members of the public spoke in favor of the proposed trail, and further discussion followed regarding grant money and clubs. Motion by Saal, second by Plant to deny the request from John Bailey for a new ATV trail. Discussion followed. Motion withdrawn. Motion by Saal, second by Plant that the request from John Bailey for a new ATV trail be denied at this time but will be reviewed when new ATV trails are considered. Discussion followed. Jane said this subject can be included in the 5-Year Recreation Plan. Forestry Department staff will walk the proposed trail and begin to get an idea of how much work would be required. Chair called the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

12. Discussion regarding WCFA Spring Meeting. Dean Bowe, forester, is participating in the “Deer Steering Framework” representing the WCFA. He informed the Committee about several issues regarding T-Zone hunts, muzzle-loading, enforcement issues and other hunting concerns. Dean discussed the views that were expressed at the WCFA meeting. The Committee agreed that we should not support Rep. Gunderson’s proposed hunting season structure. All Committee members agreed that they received good information at the WCFA Spring Meeting.

5. City of Merrill tax delinquent property. City of Merrill Atty. Thomas Hayden was unable to attend the meeting, so this agenda item will be laid over until next month’s Committee meeting.

6. Authorize advertising for timber sale bid opening – May 18, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. Motion by Rankin, second by Saal to authorize Jane to advertise for the timber sale to be held on May 18, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Approval of budget modifications. Jane distributed copies of department budget modifications. Motion by Rankin, second by Schmidt to approve Forestry Department budget modifications as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Progress on MAPLE. Jane reported on MAPLE software, and that the updates have not been installed to date. Discussion followed. Motion by Saal, second by Plant to request Joel Lang, Administrator of Computer Services, appear at next month’s meeting to discuss the progress of MAPLE software. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Deed restriction removal policy. Mike Leitz, WDNR Area Team Leader, informed the Committee that he obtained some preliminary information, and several factors and methods are used by appraisers for the DNR to determine the value of access rights. Set values are not used, as all parcels are different. Jane stated she and Nancy may meet with a Wausau Papers representative for discussion/negotiations regarding the deed restriction on some parcels owned by Wausau Papers.

10. Approval of new balsam bough cutting permit and policy. Jane explained the new bough cutting permit/policy proposal to the Committee. Motion by Schmidt, second by Fox to approve the new balsam bough cutting permit and policy. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Approval of new timber sale contract language. Jane pointed out several changes and additions in the timber sale contract. Most changes are needed to address corrective action requests required by forest certification. Motion by Plant, second by Rankin to approve the new timber sale contract language contingent on review by Corporation Counsel. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. WDNR Wildlife Report – Rich Wissink. Bill Groth explained that Rich could not be present at the Committee meeting today because he is working on the Youth Turkey Hunt.

14. WDNR Forester’s Report – Bill Groth. Bill stressed the importance of a Recreation Officer.

15. Review Administrator’s report. The Administrator’s Report was distributed prior to the meeting.

16. Close Timber Sales.

T009-05	Richard Sosnovske	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T044-02	Stora Enso North America	Close and refund Bond
T002-02	Jeff Hanson	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T034-04	Rick Graap	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

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

19. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Land Resource Center Meeting Room.

17. Closed Session. Motion by Saal, second by Plant to convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stats. Evaluate County Forester, with Jane Severt authorized to remain for closed session. Roll call vote taken. Rankin-aye, Plant-aye, Schmidt-aye, Saal-aye, Fox-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Rankin, second by Plant to reconvene into open session. Roll call vote taken. Rankin-aye, Plant-aye, Schmidt-aye, Saal-aye, Fox-aye. Motion carried. 5-0.

18. Open Session. Take any necessary action on items discussed in closed session. Motion by Saal, second by Rankin, to approve the favorable evaluation of Dean Bowe, County Forester and authorize step increase to Step 8, Grade 8. All ayes. Motion carried. The Committee wished to convey thanks to Dean for his dedicated service.

20. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Rankin, second by Plant to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Jane Severt and Sherrie Zortman