

**Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee**  
**Minutes of Tuesday, July 8, 2008 @ 8:00 A.M.**  
**Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center**

**Members Present:** Graham Rankin, Carl Short, Richard Berndt and David Fox

**Members Absent:** Richard Eisenman

**Visitors:** Joan Giusto, Joel Wendt, Robert Lussow, Bill Groth, Rick Weide, Kevin Kleinschmidt,  
Sherrie Zortman

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Graham Rankin. Richard Eisenman was absent.

2. Approve minutes of June 2, 2008 meeting. Motion by Short, second by Berndt to approve minutes of June 2, 2008 meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Joan Giusto, representing the Harrison Hills ATV Club, apologized for a misquote in their Club newsletter and inquired about the new ATV map, which is in the final proof stage. Discussion was held regarding camping and ATV's on county roads.

5. Discussion/action on acquisition of property by the jail. Joel Wendt, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared to inform the Committee that a house by the jail has been offered by the owner to sell to the County. The house could be razed and used to fulfill parking needs. Discussion followed regarding funding and parking. Motion by Rankin, second by Short to direct Joel Wendt to conduct research into sale prices of other homes near the jail and report back to the Committee. Discussion followed. Motion by Fox, second by Berndt to amend motion to include the following: contact homeowners on block by jail to negotiate sales price along with homeowner presently in negotiations with. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Discuss sale of Annex. Joel Wendt spoke on several options for the Annex including selling the building or converting it into a maintenance shop. Discussion followed. Motion by Fox, second by Berndt to have a market analysis performed by a realtor on the Annex building. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

12. WDNR Report – Bill Groth. Rick Weide, Wildlife Biologist, reported on the openings program and bear bait, turkey/ruffed grouse and deer surveys being conducted. The summer intern has been working out well. Bill Groth, Forestry Liaison, reported that John Lazare, WDNR, is working on hunters walking trails. The opening of the new Ranger Station has been delayed and may take another month.

7. Normal Park. Kevin informed the Committee that the Park City Garden Club did some renovation work on the flower beds in Normal Park, replacing the old timbers with bricks. Joel Wendt distributed copies of the lease agreement with the City of Merrill. Discussion followed regarding policies and liabilities.

8. Update on vacant Forestry Department positions. Kevin reported that Mike Natzke has returned to his former position at the Landfill Department, and Jeff Weber, formerly employed at the Landfill Department has been hired to fill the forestry worker position

9. 2009 Budget. Discussion was held regarding the 2009 budget. Motion by Rankin, second by Short to approve the 2009 proposed Forestry budget and present to Finance. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Pichler T020-07 Timber Sale. Kevin informed the Committee that Pichler Timber and Land Management will not be fulfilling Timber Sale Contract T020-07 and will cancel and offer as a direct sale to another

contractor. Discussion followed. Motion by Short, second by Berndt to cancel Timber Sale Contract T020-07 with Pichler Timber and Land Management and offer to another contractor as a direct sale. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. County Board goals. Kevin distributed a list of County Board goals and requested direction on prioritizing these goals. Motion by Short, second by Berndt to instruct Forestry Department to inform the media, including newspapers and radio, that Travis Watruba's title is Recreation Officer, not Resource Officer. All ayes. Motion carried. Discussion was held and the goals were prioritized.

13. Review Administrator's written report. Kevin reported that the review of the Recreation Officer position was postponed at the last Law Enforcement Committee meeting because they are waiting for grant information. Discussion was held regarding Travis' job performance. The Administrator's written report was reviewed and placed on file.

14. Close timber sales.

T007-03	DeBoth Brothers Logging	Close and refund Bond
T004-07	Robert Anderson	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T030-05	Homer Van Meter	Close and refund Bond
T017-06	Lincoln County Forestry Department (Firewood Sales)	

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

15. Set next meeting dates. The next Forestry, Land and Parks Committee meetings are set as follows:  
Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center  
Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Forestry Meeting Room, Land Resource Center

16. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Berndt, second by Rankin to adjourn at 9:35 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.