

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of
Monday, July 6, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center, Room 257
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034**

Members Present: William Bialecki, Timothy Panfil, Don Friske, Jeremy Ratliff (via phone)

Members Absent: Nathan Peterson

Members Excused: None

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth (via phone)

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, July 6, 2020, in Conference Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bialecki at 9:02 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of June 8, 2020 meeting. Motion by Panfil, second by Friske to approve minutes of June 30, 2020 meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report. Motion by Bialecki, second by Panfil to place the report on file.
4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. None
5. Open and award land sale bids. No land sale bids received. Motion by Friske, second by Panfil to authorize re-advertising of Charles Street property minimum bid of \$80,000.
6. Open and award timber sale bids. No timber sale bids received. The committee will accept bids on the remaining sales at the August 10, 2020 Forestry Committee meeting.
7. Approve/Sign Forest Administrators Timesheets. Motion by Bialecki to approve Forest Administrators timesheets for 6/1/20-6/14/20 and 6/15/20- 6/28/20 second by Panfil. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Approve bench donation at Tug Lake. Dean indicated we will work with sponsors on a suitable bench. Motion by Friske, second by Panfil to approve donation of bench at Tug Lake. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Approve City of Tomahawk permit allowing encroachment on Hiawatha Trail. Dean explained City of Tomahawk has been working on a city trail project meeting up with the south end of the Hiawatha Trail. The contractors blacktopped and fenced approximately 18 feet of county owned property on the Hiawatha Trail without prior approval. Dean discussed with Corporation Counsel, decided county should get a Use Permit with the City of Tomahawk indicating Tomahawk is responsible for maintenance. Motion by Friske, second by Panfil to get a use permit. All ayes. Motion carried.
10. Authorize advertising for 15-year Plan open house. Dean discussed that we are almost near completion. He mentioned that an open house may not happen due to Covid-19. The Plan and comment forms will be available on the website as well as in-person at the Forestry Office. Motion by Friske, second by Bialecki to approve advertising. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Approve Iron Bull Race Event in New Wood. Dean explained that he had been contacted regarding the race called the “Red Granite Grinder” which starts in Wausau and goes through New Wood on a gated section of the Averill Creek Fire Lane. Motion by Friske, second by Panfil to approve race. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. Requesting approval to apply for Sustainable Forestry Grant for Jack Pine project. Dean indicated that there are 30 - 40 acres affected by Root Collar Weevil. He has contacted companies for quotes to mulch the standing pine. The plan is to replant but may take a few years and additional grant money to complete. He indicated that August 15th is the deadline to apply for the grant. Discussion followed. Motion to approve applying for grant by Panfil, second Friske. All aye. Motion carried.

13. Consider property for sale SE¼ SE¼ S12-T33N-R5E. Dean indicated that he got a call from a private landowner regarding some land that is adjacent to the County that they are looking to sell. Dean showed where the land is located in New Wood. This land is located within the County Forest Acquisition Boundary. Discussion followed. Motion by Panfil, second by Friske to have Dean gather more information on the property and get back to committee.

14. WCFA Meeting update – Verso Mill closing update. Dean handed out WCFA’s written reaction to the Verso Mill closing. 25% of raw materials harvested in Wisconsin goes to Verso. Discussion followed. WCFA Fall meeting is scheduled for September 23-25 in Wausau.

15. Forestry Department Shop Safety Inspection. Inspection was on June 17, 2020. Only one violation was found which will be corrected within the 60 day deadline. One recommendation for paint storage was also indicated.

16. Forestry Department vacant positions. Dean indicated that there are two positions open in Forestry. Assistant Administrator and full-time Forestry Worker. He will have those vacancies added to the A&L agenda for approval to fill those positions.

17. WDNR Report – Bill Groth. Bill reported that they are finishing marking timber sales for the state and county. Will be working on some bulldozing projects on the county forest. Wildlife position still has not been filled.

18. Review Administrator’s written report. Dean reported that he has showed the Charles Ave. property several times. Have been helping Land Fill spray Japanese Knotweed. Motion by Bialecki, second by Panfil to put the Administrators report on file.

Dean distributed the Recreation Officer’s report. The Administrator’s report was reviewed and placed on file.

19. Close timber sales.

T032-16	Jeff Litvinoff Forest Products	Close and refund bond
T010-19	Twin Forest Products	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

Motion by Friske, second by Bialecki to close sale per Dean’s recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.

20. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meeting is set as follows:
Monday, August 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156

21. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Bialecki, second by Panfil to adjourn meeting at 10:16 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Dean Bowe and Amy Krueger