

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of
Wednesday, September 9, 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), Norbert Ashbeck

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth (via phone), Nancy Bergstrom, Bill Smith, Heather Smith, Bill Wengeler, Zachary Garner (via phone), Mike Huth (via phone)

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, in Conference Room 156, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bialecki at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of August 10, 2020 meeting. Motion by Panfil, second by Friske to approve minutes of August 10, 2020 meeting as printed. All ayes, Norbert Ashbeck abstained. Motion carried.

3. Hiawatha Trail permit (1999) and new encroachments – Bill Smith property – Town of Bradley (N). Dean briefly explained the history of the Hiawatha Trail and that use permits had been issued for existing encumbrances. Dean explained that removal of new encumbrances has been requested previously and recommended requiring the Smiths remove the new encroachments not listed on their 1999 use permit. Discussion followed. Corp. Counsel, Nancy Bergstrom was on hand to answer legal questions of the committee. Motion was made by Friske to grant them a use permit for the play house, fire pit and wood shed, second by Panfil. All ayes. Motion carried. Friske made a motion for the committee to send a letter to the Board of Adjustment regarding the barn board shed with a second by Ratliff. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

5. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. None

6. Open and award timber sale bids. One timber sale bid was received. T010-20 was awarded to Malchow Logging for \$34,162.50. Motion by Bialecki, second by Friske to approve Timber Sale. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Approve/Sign Forest Administrators Timesheets. Motion by Friske to approve Forest Administrators timesheets for 8/10/20-8/23/20, second by Ashbeck. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. 15-Year Plan update on 30 day comment period. Dean indicated that three comments were received. The Plan will be forwarded to the DNR next for review and will come back to the committee at the November meeting.

9. 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan 2022-2026. Dean was contacted by Fred Heider of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. They will do most of the leg work on the plan for no charge.

10. Support state assistance to reopen Verso Mills and/or provide financial assistance for lost jobs. Dean indicated that the resolution was included in the pack and will be included in the County Board agenda for September. Discussion followed. Motion by Bialecki, second by Ratliff to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Set date and authorize advertising for fall 2020 timber sale. Fall timber sale is set for Monday, November 9, 2020. Motion by Bialecki, second by Panfil to authorize advertising for the November 9th Fall timber sale. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. WDNR Report – Bill Groth. Bill reported that they are continuing to work on marking timber sales for Lincoln County. They recently had the partnership meeting for the annual work plan.

13. WCFA Fall meeting agenda – September 23-24 in Wausau. Registration due September 11, 2020. Dean mentioned that the meeting has been scaled back. He needs final head count by September 11, 2020.

14. Riverbend Trail Extension Efforts Update. Dean reported that he talked with Corp Counsel about future trail easements and Nancy indicated they can be difficult and may need to be outsourced. Dean had a discussion about the trail in the city with Dan Wendorf. Dan indicated the River District Development Foundation has been good to work with and they do have the ability to raise money. Dean expressed concern for the amount of time the development of this trail will require of the forestry staff. No new meetings have been scheduled.

15. Field Trip date – Discuss Committee Tour. Tour date is set for Monday, October 5th, directly after the committee meeting.

16. Review Administrator’s written report. Dean reported that he met with Nokomis ATV group. Green Meadow Bridge was installed in August. Sustainable Forestry Grant was awarded in August for the Pine Plantation Reestablishment. The Recreation Officer’s report was included in the packet. The Administrator’s report was reviewed and placed on file.

17. Close timber sales.

T031-17 Above and Beyond
T002-19 Kleinschmidt

Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

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

18. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meeting is set as follows:
Monday, October 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., County Board Room 255, Service Center
Monday, November 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., County Board Room 255, Service Center

Friske requested further discussion on the Hiawatha Trail at the next meeting.

19. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Panfil, second by Friske to adjourn meeting at 10:20 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Dean Bowe and Amy Krueger