

**Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee**  
**Minutes of**  
**Monday, October 5, 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)

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, October 5, 2020, in Conference Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bialecki at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of September 9, 2020 meeting. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Panfil to approve minutes of September 9, 2020 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. None

5. Approve/Sign Forest Administrators Timesheets. Motion by Ashbeck to approve Forest Administrators timesheets for 8/24/20-9/6/20 & 9/7/20-9/20/20, second by Panfil. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Approve Annual Work Plan. Dean discussed a possible increase in planting site prep. Dean mentioned that County Forest roads didn't receive as much maintenance and culverts didn't get replaced this summer due to being short staffed. Dean talked about the grants that Forestry receives. Motion to approve the Annual Work Plan by Bialecki second by Ratliff. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Allowable cut goals. Dean discussed the marking and set-up of northern hardwood timber sales over the last 25 years. Total northern hardwood acreage "on paper" has decreased since 2005 due to improvements in mapping accuracy. The average northern hardwood established sale acreage over the last 16 years is 863 acres. Foresters have been finding that many stands are not ready for harvest and are being rescheduled. Northern hardwood acreage establishment goal will be reduced in subsequent years.

8. Authorize advertising for quotes for Jack Pine Plantation Clearing project. Dean explained that we have been awarded a sustainable forestry grant to reestablish 5 small plantations that have suffered severe mortality due to insect damage. There are 40 acres of pine on 5 different sites that need to be cut and mulched. Motion by Friske to authorize advertising, second by Bialecki. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Approve Underdown Bike Club Sign project. Dean indicated that he had been contacted by Chris Schotz about signage they wanted to put up. Dean explained that Forestry has a donations account that could be utilized to split the cost of the signage which would amount to \$600. Motion by Panfil, second by Ashbeck to split the cost of the Underdown signs. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Approve parking area for trucks and ATV trailers along Honey Road. Dean indicated that he had been contacted by one of the ATV clubs about having a parking area on Honey Road. Discussion followed. Dean will write up an agreement with the club. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Bialecki to approve parking area. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Hiawatha Trail Discussion. The committee requested a more in depth discussion on this property in the future. Items to be discussed include: trail maintenance, what other counties have done with similar property (Oneida Co.), what other permits have been issued, what we can or should do with the property, etc. Maps will need to be provided to the committee as well as examples of other permits issued.

12. Vacant positions update. Dean informed the committee that he had discussed the forestry worker position with Jason Hake and Dan Miller last week. Jason proposed splitting the forestry worker position with the Landfill as they are in need of a worker with heavy equipment operation abilities as well. With the way future budgets look, Dean agreed to give the split position with the landfill a try as it would be an improvement over not being able to fill the position at all. Dean explained to the committee that the department would need to contract out some work, vehicle and equipment repairs would also need to be hired out as well. The committee expressed concern over reducing our staff during the summer which is the busy time for our department. Dean also indicated that the Assistant Forestry Administrator position is also the agenda for the next A&L committee.

13. Consider request for Fall 2020 timber sale extensions with no increase in stumpage. Dean explained there are 12 extensions this fall and wanted input from the committee want to proceed with the normal increases or renew contracts without an increase. Discussion followed, no action taken.

14. DNR Report – Bill Groth. Bill reported that they continue to mark timber sales for the County. DNR timber sales went well. Bill indicated that if it get too dry they may have to staff for potential fires.

15. Review Administrator’s written report. The Recreation Officer’s report was included in the packet. The Administrator’s report was reviewed and placed on file. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Panfil to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

16. Close timber sales.

T027-18	Wiitala & Vozka	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit
T029-18	Wiitala & Vozka	Close and return Irrevocable Letter of Credit

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

17. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meeting is set as follows:  
Monday, November 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257  
Monday, December 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257

18. Field Trip – picnic lunch provided. No action taken during field trip.

- Shop
- Underdown Parking Area
- Green Meadow Snowmobile Bridge
- Pine Planting Site
- Jack Pine Clearing Site

19. Adjourn meeting. The committee toured the sites and returned to Merrill. Motion by Bialecki , second by Friske to adjourn meeting at 3:45 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.