

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, October 9, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center, Room 257
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034**

Members Present: , Greg Hartwig, Norbert Ashbeck, Don Wendorf, Ken Wickham

Absent:

Members Excused: William Bialecki

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth, Jeni Burton (virtual), Dave Bethel, Cory Nowak

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, October 9, 2023, in Conference Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Ashbeck at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of September 11, 2023. Motion by Wendorf, second by Hartwig to approve minutes of September 11, 2023 meeting as printed. All Ayes. Motion Carried. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. Dean reported that the Highway Department may be raising what they charge for equipment rates. This will impact the Forestry Department budget because the Highway Department grades and plows the Forestry gas tax roads and does other work for us. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.
4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Cory Nowak spoke about the Jeep ride that took place recently. They had over 80 Jeeps start the ride. This is the fifth year the event has been held. Mr. Nowak would like to work with the county to continue the event. This item will be put on the December agenda for discussion.
5. Open and award Tax Delinquent Land Sale Bids. Dean announced bid opening procedure, bids were opened and read. We received 1 bid on 5 tax delinquent parcels and 3 parcels received no bids.
P3-23: Two bids received. Motion to award highest bidder for \$36,501.00 by Hartwig, second by Wendorf. All ayes. Motion carried.
P9-23: No bids received.
P12-23: No bids received.
P14-23: No bids received.
6. Discuss and set new minimum bids on unsold tax deed properties.
P9-23 Price reduced \$5,000 to \$12,000. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Hartwig. All ayes. Motion carried,
P12-23 Price reduced \$5,000 to \$24,000. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Ashbeck. All ayes. Motion carried,
P14-23 Price reduced by half to \$9,000. Motion by Wickham, second by Hartwig. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Approve re-advertising leftover tax delinquent properties for sale. Motion by Ashbeck to advertise unsold parcels to sell at November meeting with bids due the Friday before, second by Wickham. Discussion followed. All Ayes. Motion carried.
8. Discuss and approve Highway 8 ATV trail location to pursue, if any. Dean explained three options Discussion followed. Motion by Hartwig to contact multiple engineering firms for an estimate of what they would charge to engineer the trail and oversee the project, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion carried.

9. Approve organized Event Permit for Red Granite Grinder – October 14, 2023. Dean explained that this is a 100 mile bike race from Rib Mountain through a portion of Lincoln County Forest and back. Motion by Wendorf to approve with a second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion carried.
10. Approve Moore Access Permit off of Hess Road. Dean explained that a new person had purchased a property off the end of Hess Road and that the previous owner had an access permit. The segment of woods road to be used for the permit is open to motorized use. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickhan to approve with a second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion carried.
11. Update on Merrill to Wausau River Bend Trail Extension. Dean informed the committee that he had met with several others regarding connecting the River Bend Trail to Wausau. The group included representatives from Marathon County, the DNR, the River Bend Trail group and others. The River Bend Trail Group will pay for an entity to draft a master plan for the project, identifying potential trail locations, amenities, issues, etc. The DNR supports the project and is willing to work on easements etc. to establish a location for the trail. Discussion followed.
12. Approve well drilling. No bids received. Dean will work with Corporation Counsel on getting estimates for the well projects. Discussion followed.
13. Approve update to timber sale contract. Dean stated that a few updates are needed to clarify portions of the contract regarding lock box tickets and returning mill scale to the county. Motion to approve updates by Wickham and second by Hartwig. All Ayes. Motion carried.
14. Approve re-advertising for Hiawatha Trail resurfacing. Motion by Hartwig with a second by Wickham to approve using \$90,000 of ARPA money to create a stockpile. All Ayes. Motion carried.
15. Approve Administrators timesheets. Motion to approve timesheets by Ashbeck, second by Wickham.
16. WDNR Report. Bill reported that they worked with the Forestry Department to mark a 100 acre sale. He also mentioned that there were a couple of wildfires last week.
17. Review Administrator’s written report. Dean reported ARPA project progress. Written report placed on file.
18. Close timber sales.

Johnson Brothers	T032-18	Close and refund bond.
Johnson Brothers	T009-21	Close and refund bond.
Flannel Fleet	T018-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Flannel Fleet	T023-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Twin Forest	T002-23	Close and refund bond.

Motion by Ashbeck, second by Wickham to close sales per Dean’s recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
19. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meeting are set as follows:
Monday, November 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257
Monday, December 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257
20. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Ashbeck, second by Wickham at 10:45 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried