

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, November 13, 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, Ken Wickham

Absent:

Members Excused: William Bialecki, Don Wendorf

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth, Jeni Burton (virtual), Nick Behrens, Dave Hilgendorf, Ron Kammer, Jeff Weber, Jeremiah Oftedahl, Lance Meier, Hesston Meier, Dean Johnson, John Raviolo (virtual) Karry Johnson, Lee Rahlf

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, November 13, 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 October 9, 2023. Motion by Wickham, second by Hartwig to approve minutes of October 9, 2023 meeting as printed. All Ayes. Motion Carried. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. Dean stated that it appears we are going over budget but that the annual transfer of leftover funds from last year shows up as almost a \$500,000 expenditure to the budget but is really not. The department is still operating under budget. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.
4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. None
5. Open and award Timber Sale Bids. Dean announced bid opening procedure, bids were opened and read. We received 38 bids on 15 timber sales totaling \$585,243.81. Three timber sales received no bids. Motion by Ashbeck second by Wickham to approve awarding sales to the highest bidder pending checking for mathematical or other errors. All ayes. Motion carried.
6. Closed Session. Convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1) (g), WI Stats. Easement road/property access at Garvin Place and claims made by neighboring landowner regarding improvement and costs. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Hartwig to go into closed session allowing Dean Bowe, Forest Administrator, Lee Rahlf, Assistant Administrator and Karry Johnson, Corporation Counsel to remain. Roll call vote: Wickham, aye; Hartwig, aye; Ashbeck, aye. Motion carried.
7. Open session. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Hartwig to reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Wickham, aye; Hartwig, aye; Ashbeck, aye. Motion carried.
8. Take any necessary action on items discussed in closed session. Motion by Wickham, second by Hartwig to
9. deny Notice of Claim submitted by Masun Brandon and Brendan Mahner (by email dated October 26, 2023) and to authorize Corporation Counsel to take whatever action is necessary to ensure access to the properties Lincoln County owns and is attempting to sell. All ayes. Motion carried.
10. Open and award Tax Delinquent Land Sale Bids. Two bids were received on the remaining properties. Bids were opened and read. P# 14-23. One bid received. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Wickham to award bid for \$16,500.00. All ayes. Motion carried. P# 9-23. One bid received. Motion by Hartwig, second by Wickham to award bid for \$12,101.10. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Discuss and set new minimum bids on unsold properties. Dean suggested that the committee not re-evaluate or advertise the remaining property and hold it until the 2024 tax deed sale next summer. Discussion followed. No action taken to re-evaluate remaining property.
12. Approve re-advertising leftover tax delinquent properties for sale. No action taken to re-advertise remaining property.
13. Approve Blackcloud 7 Access Permit. Dean explained some of the history behind the request for this access agreement and recommended approving the request. Members of the Blackcloud 7 group were in attendance and stated that they believed they had an easement all this time and want to do things correctly. Discussion followed. Motion by Hartwig second by Wickham to approve the Blackcloud 7 access permit request. All ayes. Motion carried.

14. Approve advertising for tree planting services for spring 2024. Dean explained that 58,000 trees were ordered for planting in the spring of 2024 and requested approval to advertise for a contract planter. Motion by Hartwig, second by Wickham to advertise for a contract planter. All ayes. Motion carried.
15. Approve submitting application to Lumberjack RC&D for \$10,000 (50/50) to spray garlic mustard in spring 2024. Dean explained that he would like to apply for another grant from Lumberjack RC&D to help with the cost of hiring a contractor to spray garlic mustard. Discussion followed. Motion by Hartwig, second by Wickham to authorize applying for a \$10,000 (50/50) from Lumberjack RC&D to assist spraying garlic mustard. All ayes. Motion carried.
16. Approve creating a non-lapsing account for future Forestry Shop building major repairs with funding from timber sale revenue. Dean stated that he would like to establish an account for making future major repairs on the forestry shop building. He explained that the shop was constructed around 1975 and there are a few leaks and other places where the outer steel sheeting has started to rust through. The plan would be to set aside timber sale revenue from high revenue years (this being one) to have some money on hand to make major building repairs. Discussion followed. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Wickham to forward the request to the finance committee for discussion.
17. Approve repairs on truck #4 (truck from Highway Dept.) Dean presented estimates for the cost of making repairs to the truck purchased from the Highway Department this past the summer. Dean stated that the truck has worked well and saved a lot of time but is in need of significant repairs and a new dump box. Discussion followed. Motion by Hartwig, second by Wickham to approve making repairs to truck #4. All ayes. Motion carried.
18. Approve replacing funds to Forest Access account back to \$50,000 from 2023 timber sale revenue. Dean stated that the Forest Access account had been depleted to approximately \$16,000 after replacing culverts and repairing an access road to the county forest north of Highway CC west of Tomahawk. Dean also stated that there are other roads open for public access that are in need of repairs. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham, second by Hartwig to increase the Forest Access account to \$75,000 and authorize replenishing the account to \$75,000 through timber sale revenue from 2023. All ayes. Motion carried.
19. Approve Hiawatha Trail Aggregate bid. Dean reviewed bids received for delivery of aggregate to resurface the Hiawatha Trail. Discussion followed. Motion by Hartwig, second by Wickham to award the bid to Lincoln County Highway Department for 3,006 yards of material delivered. All ayes. Motion carried.
20. Approve Administrators timesheets. Motion to approve timesheets by Ashbeck, second by Wickham. All ayes. Motion carried.
21. WDNR Report. Bill reported that DNR dozer operator had completed a scarification project for oak regeneration east of B in Harrison and they are marking on another county timber sale.
22. Review Administrator's written report. Dean asked if there were any questions. Discussion followed. Written report placed on file.
23. Close timber sales.

Flannel Fleet	T022-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Wilson Forestry	T024-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Kleinschmidt Logging	T004-20	Close and Return Letter of Credit.
Futurewood	T028-22	Close and refund bond.
Futurewood	T015-22	Close and refund bond.
24. Dean stated that a few of the timber sales were very near their volume estimates, the jobs looked good and recommended closing and refunding bonds. Motion by Hartwig, second by Wickham to close sales per Dean's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
25. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meeting are set as follows:
Monday, December 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257
26. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Ashbeck, second by Wickham at 11:15 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried