

**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, William Bialecki, Don Wendorf

**Absent:**

**Members Excused:**

**Visitors:** Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth, Jeni Burton (virtual), Don Nelson, Aaron Wallner, Joe Kafczynski

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, December 11, 2023, in Conference Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Bialecki at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of November 13, 2023. Motion by Wickham, second by Hartwig to approve minutes of November 13, 2023 meeting as printed. All Ayes. Motion Carried. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. Dean stated there was a large expenditure for well abandonment paid from the Parks account that will be reimbursed at 50%. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.
4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Don Nelson from Domtar introduced himself and indicated that he would be attending meetings frequently to help answer any forest products market questions.
5. Open and award Timber Sale Bids. None
6. Award Truck Dump Box bid. None. Dean will look into getting quotes from manufacturers for a replacement dump box.
7. Approve Organized Event for February 3, 2024 – IAT Snowshoe Hike. Dean mentioned that this is also the Free Pass weekend. Motion to approve by Ashbeck with a second by Wickham. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Approve Organized Event for February 24, 2024 – Ironbull Fat Bike and Snowshoe Race. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham with a second by Wendorf. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Approve working with Corporation Counsel on reciprocating road easement with Tomahawk Timberlands. Dean informed the committee that Tomahawk Timberlands owns a large area of property in the western side of the county and has proposed a reciprocating easement for accessing an area from Bridge Road. A reciprocating easement would benefit both and potentially provide long term access for the County regardless of the property being sold. Discussion followed. Motion to approve working with Corp Counsel on an easement by Hartwig, second by Wickham. All ayes. Motion carried.
10. Approve Letter of Consent for the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway to apply for National Water Trail designation. Dean informed the Committee that the group has requested a letter supporting the application for the waterway to be designated a National Water Trail. Giving the area more exposure on a national level. Dean provided a FAQ sheet from the National Park Service website. Discussion followed. Motion by Wendorf to approve Letter of Consent with a second by Hartwig pending review by Corporation Counsel. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Approve Mutual Access Agreement between Lincoln County and David F Jackson Revocable Trust, Daniel Jackson-Trustee. Dean explained this is renewing an agreement between Lincoln County and an adjacent landowner that has been in effect for many years with the only change being the Trustee of the property. Discussion followed. Motion by Ashbeck to approve with a second by Wickham. All ayes. Motion carried.
12. Discuss Engineering Expense Quotes for development of Highway 8 ATV Trail. Dean explained that he had requested quotes from three local engineering firms to provide engineering cost estimates for two potential routes for a proposed ATV trail. Dean stated said that Becher Hoppe and MSA had submitted similar quotes but is still waiting for a quote from REI. Dean explained that he had attended a Town of Bradley meeting a few months back and that they would support a trail from Rapel Road to Essex Road or a trail from Derleth Rd to Highway U. The trail from Rapel Road to Essex Road would be approximately 1000 feet long the trail from Derleth Road to Highway U would be approximately 1.4 miles long. It is unknown if the ORV Council would provide development and maintenance funding for either trail There are many additional issues to consider with the longer trail. Discussion followed. Committee request that Town of Bradley chair be invited January meeting. Motion to table until next month by Hartwig with a second by Wendorf.

13. Update on ARPA Projects. Dean updated the committee on the status of the projects. Shop crew has been working on the road and sites in New Wood Campground and it is coming along. Armstrong Gravel crushing did site did not produce as much gravel as we had hoped for so there is money left to spend. Would like to contract with private contractor to purchase and haul gravel with some of the remaining funds. Working on the Prairie Dells bridge project with Zoning, surveyor and DNR. Looked at Otter Lake walking trail reroute. Worked on getting quotes for drilling wells at New Wood and Otter Lake.
14. Update on River Bend Trail connection to Marathon County. Dean explained the groups involved in working on this potential trail have received 5 quotes from engineering firms interested in developing a master plan for the connecting trail. The River Bend Trail group had stated that they would pay for the development of the master plan for the trail. Main objectives for the master plan include locating possible routes, trail design, identification of private ownership, wetland issues, water crossing issues and potential solutions. Discussion followed
15. Approve Well Drilling and Pump Installation proposals for Otter Lake and Camp New Wood. Dean informed the committee that two quotes were received. Dean calculated the estimated costs for each well based on a specified depth and they were very similar in price. Jelenik did not provide a quote for the well in New Wood. His recommendation is to have Jelinek for the Otter Lake wells and Brunner to do New Wood. Motion by Hartwig with second by Wendorf to approve per Dean's recommendation.
16. Approve Snowmobile Trail License with Tomahawk Timberlands, LLC. Dean explained that a large area of private forest was purchased by Tomahawk Timberlands last year at this time which prevented a major snowmobile trail connector to Taylor County remain closed last season. Dean stated that he had received the proposed license from Tomahawk Timberlands last Monday. He forwarded the document to Corp Counsel for review and no major issues were found. Dean recommended accepting the license for this year and work on minor changes for the future. Motion by Hartwig to approve the snowmobile license, second by Wickham. All ayes. Motion carried.
17. Approve Administrators timesheets. Motion by Ashbeck with a second Wickham. All ayes. Motion carried.
18. WDNR Report. Bill said they finished scarification project and finished marking the last timber sale.
19. Review Administrator's written report. Most of the monthly activities had been discussed as part of the agenda. Dean stated that he was unable to make time to work on the proposed jeep ride for this month's meeting. Report placed on file.
20. Close timber sales.

Wesley Bushor	T018-19	Close and refund bond.
Wiitala & Vozka	T006-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Schenzel	T004-19	Close and refund bond

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 Wickham, second by Wendorf to close sales per Dean's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried
21. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Meeting are set as follows:  
Monday, January 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257  
Monday, February 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257
22. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Ashbeck, second by Hartwig at 10:55 a.m.