

MINUTES OF May 13, 2024 IRON COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Larry Youngs, County Board Chair, at the Iron County Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534. Forestry/Parks Committee members present include P. Hanson, W. Thomas and S. Erickson, T. Hiller, M. Loreti and Eli Ladwig, Logger Representative. Others present during the meeting included: Eric Peterson, Forest Administrator; Tara Krall, Office Manager; Larry Youngs, County Board Chairman; Katy Broquard & Ryan Peasley, WDNR.

Tara Krall verified proper public notice of the meeting.

Elect Forestry and Parks Committee Chair. L. Youngs called for nominations for Committee Chair. Motion by T. Hiller supported by W. Thomas nominating S. Erickson for Committee Chair.

There were two more calls for nominations. No more nominations.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for S. Erickson as Committee Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Elect Forestry and Parks Committee Vice Chair. S. Erickson called for nominations for Committee Vice Chair. Motion made by W. Thomas supported by T. Hiller nominating P. Hanson for Committee Vice Chair.

There were two more calls for nominations. No more nominations.

Motion by T. Hiller supported by W. Thomas to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for P. Hanson as Committee Vice Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by P. Hanson supported by W. Thomas approving the minutes from March 5, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

Introductions of those present was made.

Public Comment: None

Chairman report: None

Administrator Report: Current stumpage is \$529,522.97 versus \$619,941.42 at this time last year.

See attached for remaining Administrator Report.

DNR Report: Katy reported WDNR is about 87% complete with the current year time standards. She participated in a marking lab with GCC students and presented at an Earth Day event at the Mercer School Forest. The CDAC committee is going to recommend no antlerless hunt, except for youth in Iron County this year.

Ryan added the team is short 2 forester positions and plan to hire in September/October. A plan is in place to meet the time standards. The Mercer Ranger Station is scheduled to be completed in mid-July. Fire season continues. It has been quiet in Iron County with 3 fires in the Mercer area.

WCFA Board Member: Eric explained the WCFA Board is in need of members. The bylaws have been changed to include all County Board Members as eligible to sit on the board but preference is given to Forestry Committee members. If anyone is interested in sitting on the board they should contact Eric.

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Discuss developing a stump dump for Town use. P. Hanson said contractors had contacted him about developing a stump dump. He said this could be a source of revenue and the fire departments could burn during the winter. An area off of Hwy 122 in Upson and old dump in Mercer were identified. T. Hiller said Mercer already has one at the Hadley Brush Pit. Eric is going to look more into the feasibility. No action was taken.

Resolution: Support of Forecastle Timber, LLC, Application to the USDA Forest Legacy Program. Motion by W. Thomas supported by T. Hiller approving Resolution: Support of Forecastle Timber, LLC, Application to the USDA Forest Legacy Program and move to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

Grant permission for Run for a Vet event at Mecca on July 4. Motion by T. Hiller supported by W. Thomas granting permission for the Run for a Vet event at Mecca on July 4, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

Grant permission to the Saxon Harbor Boating Club to hold a fishing tournament at Saxon Harbor May 31-June 2, 2024. Motion by W. Thomas supported by M. Loreti granting permission to the Saxon Harbor Boating Club to hold a fishing tournament at Saxon Harbor, May 31-June 2, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by P. Hanson supported by W. Thomas approving the bills as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

The bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Forestry Conference Room.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 5:00 pm at the Forestry Conference Room.

S. Erickson called the meeting adjourned.

tlk

Administrator's Report

Forestry Committee Meeting – May 13, 2024

2024 YTD Timber Sale Receipts -- \$529,522.97 vs. \$619,941.42 in 2023 Difference - \$90,418 (-14.6%)

Forestry Activity

- 5 Logging Crews working on ICF.
- 6 active sales (hauling, closeouts, etc.)
- Crews got an early start due to lack of snow & frost.
- Still early so production is slow to avoid rutting woods and roads.
- Carbon project is active. Listed April 10th and is currently included in an RFP package for sales.

Spring Timber Sales

- 22 sales currently offered for bid.
- Sales include 2,225 acres with 574 MBF & 34,976 cords.
- Minimum sale value of \$777,067.00.
- Bid Opening is May 30th @ 9am.

County Parks

- Lake of the Falls, Saxon Harbor, & Weber Lake Campgrounds all opened May 3rd.
- Docks were installed April 30th and the marina also opened May 3rd.
- Schomberg Park will open May 17th.
- New concrete in Schomberg pavilion is being finished this week.
- Lake of the Falls expansion graveling to be completed later this summer / fall.
- Saxon Harbor marina FEMA reimbursement check received in mid-April officially closing the project.

County Forest Roads

- Brush mowing completed on Camp 7, Game Road, and Gerry Road.
- Summer grading is upcoming this month.
- Road maintenance & upgrades to be limited this year due to budget constraints.

Recreation

- ATV Trails officially closed March 27th and reopened April 24th.
- ATV / Snowmobile grants applied for in April.
- Bridge over Hurd Creek on Chippewa Firelane.
- Bridge and trail reroute on Trail 182 near West Road in Springstead.
- Trail 8 reroute off Island Lake Road in Knight.
- Trail 8 reroute off Cramer Lake Road in Mercer.
- Acquisition of Railroad Grade from Union-Pacific in Mercer (49 ac, \$91,000)
- Trail 2 new miles to connect from Cedar to Ashland Co. (snow only)

Miscellaneous

- Continuing work with Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on grant for Harbor Drive Lake Superior project with Town of Saxon. WI Coastal Management Grant planned for approximately \$90,000 project (50% match required).
- Iron County was awarded \$4.1 million 100% funded grant (NOAA) to acquire 1,055 acres around the Gile Flowage.

- Hosted the Iron County Rec Council spring meeting.
- Sat on interview panel for new Onieda County Forest Administrator.
- Had safety inspection by Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.
- Conference call with Anew to discuss next steps and marketing for Carbon Project.
- ICF Staff presented at Earth Day program at Mercer School Forest with Zach Wilson, Iron Co. LWC.
- Hosted GCC Timber Harvesting class to teach timber sale write ups, accounting, and paperwork.
- WCFA Executive Committee monthly conference call.
- Completed Iron Co. job description workgroup.
- Discussion with GLTPA about possible Class A route through Iron Co. in anticipation of Copperwood Mine operations.