

MINUTES March 5, 2024 IRON COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting called to order at 10:30 am by T. Thompson, Chair, at the Iron County Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534. Forestry/Parks Committee members present include T. Thompson, S. Erickson, P. Hanson, and W. Thomas. Others present during the meeting included: Eric Peterson, Forest Administrator; Tara Krall, Office Manager; Joe Pinardi, County Board Chairman; Katie Broquard & Jenna Malinowski, WDNR; and Hannah Panci, GLIFWC. Tanner Hiller was absent.

Tara Krall verified proper public notice of the meeting.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson approving the minutes from January 9, 2024 as written. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Phenology Presentation, Hannah Panci, GLIFWC: Hannah Panci, GLIFWC presented a PowerPoint presentation on a plant phenology study being conducted on the County Forest. The phenology project is entering its 9th year.

Chairman report: None

Administrator Report: Stumpage currently is \$377,067.22 versus \$368,565.70 last year at this time – up 2.3%.

See attached for remaining Administrator Report.

DNR Report: Katie reported the WDNR team has completed 78% of their time standards for the current year with 535 hours remaining. There have been some staff changes. The new building is on track for an early June completion date.

Jenna added that she has completed otter and carnivore tracking surveys. Beaver trapping has increased, and it appears WDNR will meet the harvest goals for otter statewide. The CDAC meeting is scheduled for May 2 in Mercer.

Discuss Adjustments to 2024 Forestry & Parks Budget: Eric identified some budget items that could possibly be cut for this year including gravel crushing, pickup purchase, filling vacant position, CFI plot measuring and \$20,000 in the parks budget.

Also discussed was an application to the ADLP Stewardship program for a new bathroom shower building at Lake of the Falls in 2025. The grant is 80%/20% split but the building alone is \$293,000. The committee agreed to hold off on that application.

Eric also mentioned the summer LTE and staff will be performing the caretaking duties at Weber Lake this summer.

Consider correspondence received from Town of Carey: The letter from the Town of Carey regarding what work they expected Iron County Forestry to do on Gerry Rd was included in the meeting packet.

Motion by S. Erickson supported by W. Thomas directing Eric not to sign the letter and to offer to complete the brushing using the highway tractor and mower although the Town of Carey will be required to pay for the equipment use and ICF will help with gravel hauling. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve 2023 Forestry & Parks Annual Report: A draft of the 2023 Forestry & Parks Annual Report was included in the meeting packet. Eric outlined the highlights.

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Motion by S. Erickson supported by P. Hanson approving the 2023 Forestry & Parks Annual Report as written and move to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

Discuss selling 32 acres of County Land in Sec 30, T1W, R46N, Town of Gurney: An offer to purchase 32 acres in Sec 30, T1W, R46N, Town of Gurney was received from David Kretzschmar. This tract is land locked.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by S. Erickson to advertise in the Iron County Miner for one week for bids for the sale of 32 acres in Sec 30, T1W, R46N, Town of Gurney with a minimum bid of \$30,000. All in favor, motion carried.

Permission to Advertise for the 2024 Spring Timber Sale: Motion by S. Erickson supported P. Hanson granting permission to advertise for the 2024 Spring Timber Sale. All in favor, motion carried.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 10:30 am at the Forestry Conference Room.

T. Thompson declared the meeting adjourned.

tlk