

MINUTES OF December 11, 2024, IRON COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by Scott Erickson, Chair, at the Iron County Courthouse, 300 Taconite St, Hurley, WI 54534. Forestry/Parks Committee members present include P. Hanson, W. Thomas, S. Erickson, M. Loreti, and Eli Ladwig, Logger Representative, Conner Saari and Elaina Jackson, Student Supervisors. Others present during the meeting included: Eric Peterson, Forest Administrator, Tara Krall, Office Manager, Larry Youngs, County Board Chair, Katy Broquard, Casey Baye, Jenna Malinowski, and Ryan Peasley all from WDNR, Roxanne Lutgen, Kurt Wolff. Tanner Hiller was absent.

Tara Krall verified proper public notice of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes. Motion by P. Hanson supported by W. Thomas approving the minutes from October 10, 2024 as written. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: S. Erickson introduced the Student Supervisors Elaina Jackson and Conner Saari.

Chairman report: S. Erickson explained cancellation of the committee meeting last week due to inclement weather.

Administrator Report: Current stumpage is \$1,572,659.57 versus \$1,534,704.12 at this time last year.

See attached for remaining Administrator Report.

DNR Report: Katy reported the team time standard hours are currently at 785 hours (31%). Teams from other counties have been helping out. Dozing was done on the Schomberg snowshoe trails. Katy has been planning a grouse and woodcock demonstration area off Casey Sag. WDNR is advertising for two LTE Forester positions one to work out of either Mercer or Mellen.

Jenna reported that 260 deer were harvested last year with 333 so far this year, 30 of them antlerless. She feels deer harvesting has gone down due to less hunters including youth and aging population in addition to people hunting elsewhere since Iron County does not have an antlerless hunt. Yearlings look really healthy this year. Twenty CWD samples were taken. The carcass disposal sites are available until the end of the month. She has begun tracking surveys. Jenna is also looking for bear dens and asked if anyone sees a live one to let her know.

Review and approve Special Use Permit. Eric explained the Special Event Application and the Permit that was included in the packet.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by M. Loreti approving the Special Use Application and Permit as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution: Authorization to update the Iron County Forestry and Parks 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson approving the Resolution: Authorization to update the Iron County Forestry and Parks 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan as written and move to the Iron County Board of Supervisors for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

Discuss and approve timber sale contract extensions for contracts expiring December 31, 2024. Motion W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson to extend the following sales for one year with no increase if 50% of the sale value is paid or with a 5% increase if 50% of the sale value has not been paid.

Contractor	Contract #	Tract
Bay Logging, RM	2859	19-21
Corullo Forest Products	2862	23-21
Henning Logging	2833	CL1-20
Sappi North America	2858	18-21
Sappi North America	2864 direct	20-20
Tank LLC, William	2737	13-17
Tank LLC, William	2803	22-19
Tank LLC, William	2828	8-20
Tank LLC, William	2855	15-21
Woody Bros Logging	2852	12-21
Woody Bros Logging	2854	14-21

All in favor, motion carried.

Review and approve appraisal and title quotes for the Gile Flowage property acquisition. Following federal procurement guide lines the following appraisal quotes were received: LandVest - \$28,500, J.C. Norby & Associates, Inc - \$11,300, Valbridge Property Advisors - \$15,000. Following federal procurement guide lines the following title quotes were received: Associated Title & Closing Services Agency, Inc - \$18,040, Gowey Abstract & Title - \$27,223.

Motion by M. Loreti supported by P. Hanson to accept the quote from J.C. Norby & Associates, Inc for \$11,300 for appraisal services for the Gile Flowage property acquisition. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by M. Loreti to accept the quote from Associated Title & Closing Services Agency, Inc - \$18,040 for title services for the Gile Flowage property acquisition.

Grant permission to obtain quotes for gravel crushing in 2025 at Pine Lake and O'Brien Lake pits. Eric would like to get quotes along with the Highway Department for gravel crushing at the Pine Lake pit for about 5,000 yards and O'Brein Lake pit for about 10,000 yards. He will also work with the towns that want crushing done.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson granting permission to obtain quotes for gravel crushing at Pine Lake and O'Brien Lake pits in 2025. All in favor, motion carried.

Move to closed session pursuant to Sec 19.85(1)(c) Wis Stats., to conduct Forest Administrator annual performance evaluation. Motion by M. Loreti supported by P. Hanson to move to closed session pursuant to Sec 19.85(1)(c) Wis Stats., to conduct Forest Administrator annual performance evaluation. S. Erickson, aye; M. Loreti, aye; P. Hanson, aye; W. Thomas, aye; L. Youngs, aye.

Motion by M. Loreti supported by W. Thomas to move back into open session. S. Erickson, aye; M. Loreti, aye; P. Hanson, aye; W. Thomas, aye; L. Youngs, aye.

No action.

Approval of Bills. Motion by W. Thomas supported by M. Loreti approving the bills as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 5:15 pm at the Mercer WDNR station.

S. Erickson called the meeting adjourned.

tlk

Administrator's Report

Forestry Committee Meeting – December 11, 2024

2024 YTD Timber Sale Receipts -- **\$1,572,659.57** vs. **\$1,534,704.12** in 2023 Difference - \$37,955.45 (2.5%)

Forestry Activity

- 5 Logging Crews working on ICF.
- 8 active sales (hauling, closeouts, etc.)
- Winter pulpwood markets look poor for contractors.
- 1st carbon credit sale was recorded in November. \$1,010,000 gross sale.
- After expenses and Anew's share Iron Co. should receive approximately \$575,000.
- Iron Co. project 1 of 5 selected to be part of special international marketing campaign.

County Parks

- All parks closed for the season and winterized.
- Lake of the Falls campground expansion work completed.
- 15 new campsites added. Minor touchup work to be completed in the spring.
- Sites will not be available on the reservation system until next summer when that work is completed.

County Forest Roads

- Boomer Creek Road graded.
- No snowplowing is anticipated for this winter.

Recreation

- Completed Trail 8 redevelopment project (grant) and submitted closeout paperwork.
- Constructed new Trail 8A reroute around beaver ponds near Moser Road & Cty G.
- Replaced gate on Trail 17 through Theilen property.
- Met with WisDOT and Cooper Engineering to discuss construction needs for ATV trail in Springstead.
- Met with White Thunder Riders & Mercer Sno-Goers for winter planning.
- Met with Mercer Dusty Loons about possible trailhead parking lot on Powell Road.
- DNR Dozer leveled snowshoe loops at Schomberg Park.
- ORV Council voted to fund the railroad grade purchase in Town of Mercer.

Miscellaneous

- Participated in WCFA Executive Committee calls.
- Participated in other WCFA conference calls.
- Attended DNR open house at the new Ranger Station.
- Submitted Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant application for Lake Superior Shoreline Restoration project.
- Conference call with Wisconsin Emergency Management about other grant opportunities for Harbor Drive / Lake Superior project.
- Communication with Senator Baldwin's office about Lake Superior Harbro Drive project. Possible submittal for direct Congressional funding.
- Signed grant agreement for NOAA grant for Gile acquisition. Purchase funds will be released when appraisal, title work, survey, etc. is completed.
- Hosted Iron County Recreation Council meeting.