

MINUTES OF March 12, 2025, IRON COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Scott Erickson, Chair, at the Iron County Forestry Conference Room, 607 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534. Forestry/Parks Committee members present include P. Hanson, W. Thomas, S. Erickson. Others present during the meeting included: Eric Peterson, Forest Administrator; Tara Krall, Office Manager; Larry Youngs, County Board Chair; Katy Broquard, WDNR. M. Loreti, T. Hiller and Eli Ladwig, Logger Representative, Conner Saari and Elaina Jackson, Student Supervisors were 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 February 5, 2025 as written. All in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Chairman report:** S. Erickson announced another carbon credit sale has occurred.

**Administrator Report:** Current stumpage is \$301,391.59 versus \$400,220.20 at this time last year.

See attached for remaining Administrator Report.

**DNR Report:** Katy reported the team time standard hours are currently at 1451 hours (58%). An LTE Forester Technician has been hired. He will be working on the Iron County and Ashland County Forests. The team as attended preseason fire training and meetings as well as working on timber sales.

**Logger Representative Report.** Eli was absent.

**Resolution: Approving a Road Use Permit to Tanner & Rachel Dechert.** Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson approving the Resolution: Approving a Road Use Permit to Tanner & Rachel Dechert and move to the Iron County Board of Supervisors for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution: Approve Iron County Forest Gravel Pit Maintenance/Reclamation Fund Reserves.** Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson approving the Resolution: Approve Iron County Forest Gravel Pit Maintenance/Reclamation Fund Reserves and move to the Iron County Finance Committee for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution: Supporting the Submittal of a Direct Congressional Spending Request for the Saxon Harbor Lake Superior Shoreline Restoration Project.** Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson approving the Resolution: Supporting the Submittal of a Direct Congressional Spending Request for the Saxon Harbor Lake Superior Shoreline Restoration Project and move to the Iron County Board of Supervisors for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

**Review & possibly award bids received for SESE, Sec 7, T45N, R2E and SESW, Sec 7, T45N, R2E Town of Pence.** The sale of this property was advertised in the Iron County Miner for 2 weeks. One bid was received for \$32,040 for each 40.

Motion by W. Thomas supported by P. Hanson awarding the sale of SESE, Sec 7, T45N, R2E and SESW, Sec 7, T45N, R2E Town of Pence to John Hilgemann for \$32,040.00 for each 40 acres, totaling \$64,080.00 and move to the Iron County Finance Committee for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

**Update on Iron County Motorized Recreational Trails and Routes Ordinance.** The draft ordinance was reviewed. Discussion was held on defining "big game hunting" and off trail riding. More discussion will take place at the Iron County Recreation Council meeting on March 17, 2025. No action.

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**Review Iron County Parks, Navigable Waters and Forests and Large Public Gatherings Ordinance.** In conjunction with Motorized Recreational Trails and Routes Ordinance this ordinance will also be updated. Discussion took place regarding a fine for those that don't pay for camping or park use. No action.

**Permission to advertise the 2025 Spring Timber Sale.** Motion by P. Hanson supported by W. Thomas granting permission to advertise for the 2025 Spring Timber Sale. All in favor, motion carried.

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

**Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm at the Forestry Conference Room.

S. Erickson called the meeting adjourned.

tlk

## Administrator's Report

### Forestry Committee Meeting – March 12, 2025

2025 YTD Timber Sale Receipts -- **\$301,391.59** vs. **\$400,220.20** in 2024      Difference - \$98,828.61 (24.7%)

#### Forestry Activity

- 5 Logging Crews working on ICF.
- 12 active sales (hauling, closeouts, etc.)
- Spring road restrictions were put in place March 10<sup>th</sup>, halting most logging operations.
- 13 – 16 timber sales planned for spring bid offering.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> carbon credit sale was recorded in late February.
- After expenses and Anew's share Iron Co. will receive \$198,400.00.
- Video marketing project is not yet completed.
- Anew is awaiting guidance from ACR on conversion to 2.1 protocol for RP2 and RP3 credits.

#### County Parks

- Saxon Harbor has 2 – 24' and 1 – 28' slips available for 2025 season.
- 3 people have not yet returned deposits.
- Campground reservations continue to fill for this summer.
- Advertising for a summer intern for park mowing and light maintenance.

#### County Forest Roads

#### Wildlife Openings

- Foresters are frost seeding winter logging roads and landings.

#### Recreation

- Officially closed snowmobile trails for the season on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Trail closed briefly in late February due to abnormally warm weather and low snow conditions.
- 20" of snow allowed for reopening and 1 last good weekend before closing.
- ATV trails will reopen when conditions improve and dry. Typically mid-May.
- ICF crew completed bridge construction for Hurd Creek Bridge ATV project.

#### Miscellaneous

- Participated in WCFA Administrator's Quarterly Conference Call.
- Participated in WCFA Legislative / Certification Committee meeting in Merrill.
- Participated in WCFA Executive Committee call.
- Working on the 2024 Annual Plan. Been waiting for final 2024 numbers.
- Conference call about Gile Flowage acquisition – Land survey needs and identifying parcels to add or remove from the project.
- Gile title work is pending some survey work completion.
- NOAA funding falls under President Trump's Executive Order's review. DEI language in grant agreement.
- Larger issue with NOAA is potential staffing reductions as federal workforce reductions are occurring.
- ICF staff covered Courthouse maintenance and plowing while B. Nasi is on medical leave.
- Beginning work on the new Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan.