



MINUTES

FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 8, 2011

9:00 a.m.

Marinette County Courthouse

1926 Hall Ave., County Board Room – Third Floor

Marinette WI 54143

Members Present: Supervisors William Walker, Russ Bousley, Ken Mattison, Allen Mans, and Laurence Nichols

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Forest and Parks Administrator John Scott, Public Works Director Mark Desotell, Assistant Forest Administrator Pete Villas, Assistant Parks Administrator Erik Aleson, DNR Joe Schwantes & Dave Halfmann, Forestry Secretary Lynn Swiatnicki and Peshtigo Times

1. Call to Order

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Agenda

MOTION (Mans/Mattison) to approve the agenda. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote.

3. Minutes

MOTION (Nichols/Mans) to approve the minutes of August 12th, 2011 with a correction of minutes item #12 to read **MOTION** (Nichols/Bousley) and approve minutes of August 30th, 2011. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote.

4. Public Comment

Dunbar landowner Earl McGregor spoke regarding trails closure in Dunbar area due to requests of ATV/Snowmobile clubs. Mr. McGregor stated all motorized vehicles should share the roads/trails as they have been for 70 plus years. He also stated when talking to DNR and Marinette County Sheriff personnel that there have not been any recorded accidents on these particular roads.

Administrator Scott stated Pat Mullarky, President of Dungood ATV Riders & Snowmobile Club, brought to Forestry office a request along with a map identifying certain sections of trail to be used by recreational vehicles only because of safety reasons. There are 211 miles of woods trail (not county forest roads) available for public use in Dunbar – 13 miles of which have now been closed. Opening and closing trails is always controversial with safety, environmental concerns and issues with user groups not being compatible with other user groups.

4. Public Comment continued:

Pat Mullarky, President of Dugood ATV Riders & Snowmobile Club, stated it was DNR's decision to combine trail systems (snowmobile and atv). Since atv's have different issues than snowmobiles this was done by putting filled mats, culverts and bridges in. The hills, curves associated with ATV trails are not conducive to vehicular traffic. Marinette County has approximately 250 miles of ATV trail, the largest funded ATV system in whole state. This form of tourism continues to be improved upon to have business come into county.

5. Informational: Wayne Wilke to address committee regarding access to county forest land in Camp 10 area

Wayne Wilke, Cat & Coyote Club member, stated club members kept woods trails open for years by doing maintenance and now ATV trail use threatens closure of trails to other user groups.

6. Discuss/Consider Propane Bids for Amberg shop

MOTION (Mans/Bousley) to accept Naser Propane Company bid of \$1.78 per gallon for Amberg Shop propane. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote.

7. Discuss/Consider 2012 work plan for the Forestry Division

MOTION (Nichols/Mans) to approve 2012 Forestry Annual Work Plan and forward to county board for approval. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote.

8. Request approval for Direct Sale of storm damaged timber

Due to tornado damage, a timber sale was established north of Wausaukee near Long Lake to cut all blown down and severely damaged trees. **MOTION** (Mans/Mattison) to authorize direct timber sale in SENW and SWNE S22, T34N, R20E, Town of Wausaukee. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote.

9. Discuss/Consider Resolution from Forest County requesting U.S. Forest Service manage lands according to plan

MOTION (Bousley/Nichols) to authorize Administrator to proceed with drafting of Resolution requesting proper management of Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest by U.S. Forest Service. Motion Carried, No NegativeVote.

10. Discuss/Consider request from NE Asphalt to use gravel from Spikehorn Pit for municipal project for Dickinson County

NE Asphalt requested purchase of approximately 3,500 tons of gravel from Spikehorn Pit. **MOTION** (Nichols/Mattison) to approve NE Asphalt use of gravel for municipal project for Dickinson County at rate of \$2.00 per cubic yard. Motion Carried 4-1, Supervisor Walker opposed.

11. Discuss/Consider request to amend Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to address pay for employees who volunteer for emergency services

MOTION (Mattison/Nichols) to amend the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to include fire department service to section 1.30 (f) with employee called to serve on volunteer department to be entitled to employee's regular pay and upon receipt of any volunteer payment, the employee shall immediately submit the check to the County Treasurer and forward to Personnel Committee. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote. Distributed amendment attached.

12. Discuss/Consider request to establish equestrian trail on county forest land in Section 4, T35N, R19E and Sections 28 and 33, T36N, R19E

Administrator stated request was made by Northern Saddle Club to establish equestrian trail in north part of county. Current plan would use an approximate 3 mile loop consisting of county forest roads 510, 511 and existing woods trails. **MOTION** (Mans/Walker) to allow establishment of equestrian trail on county forest land S4, T35N, R19E and S28 & S33, T36N, R19E, Towns of Athelstane and Dunbar. Motion Carried, No Negative Vote.

13. Update on Town of Stephenson request for land for Deer Lake Road relocation

John Scott stated Town of Stephenson was back to original request to acquire additional land for Deer Lake Road relocation. Motion was approved at July 7th, 2011 Forestry meeting.

14. Correspondence

Administrator Scott informed committee of NewPage Corporation filing Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Marinette County currently has two timber sale contracts with NewPage. The company will be reorganizing and will honor current contracts.

15. Report on Forestry Division Activities field accomplishments of Forestry Crew & Foresters

Pete Villas presented the Forestry Division Office August 2011 Activity Report. Distributed report attached.

16. DNR Forestry Liaison Officer Report on DNR activities on County Forest Land

Joe Schwantes reported 640 county forest time standard hours completed of 3,313 budgeted. He also reported Sustainable Forestry Grant has been denied, Annual DNR Partnership meeting will be held on September 14th and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant for Kirtland's Warbler has been awarded for the top 2 sites. The 112 acre Town of Peshtigo peat fire is worked on every day by 10-20 people with ½ dozen wells and points driven to supply water. Dave Halfmann reported on public meetings in Rhinelander and Oshkosh regarding beaver management plan, forest openings maintenance completed in wildlife habitat sites 1-8 and oak regeneration projects in fecon areas.

17. Discuss/Consider Schedule of Invoices

Committee reviewed August schedule of invoices totaling \$19,157.52. No action taken.

18. Distribute Monthly Revenue Report

Revenue for the month of August totaled \$234,917.56. Revenue is \$417,368.80 less than 2010 revenue at this time. Distributed report attached.

19. Schedule next meeting date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

20. Recess

Recess at 11:00 a.m. Reconvene Parks Meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Lynn Swiatnicki
Administrative Secretary Forestry