

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 27, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Mark Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, John Robinson, Terry White, Robert Mock. Absent – Mary Lou Bergman. Others present – Sylvia Miller, Jori Walt, Mick Salmen, Judy O’Brien, Dave Cizmas, Jon Harris, Dan Corbin, Mark Schroeder, Dale Rochon, Terry Asleson, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Robinson, second White, to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2016, meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Included with members’ meeting packet. Nicoski reviewed the budget for the period ending January 31, 2017.

Forest Management Operations: Cizmas reported 4 harvesting operations; 3 hauling. Douglas County Highway Spring Weight Limits were posted February 21st. Earliest spring weight limits have been posted in the last 30 years of available records.

Parks and Recreation: Schroeder reported seasonal park recruitment in progress; working on recently funded capital improvement projects; and approximately 90% of winter trails closed now.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Banner Display at Lucius Woods County Park (Lucius Woods Performing Arts Center): Refer to Executive Committee.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Liebaert, second Mock, to refer to Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Off-Season Camping at Lucius Woods County Park (German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America): Sylvia Miller distributed flyer for the GWPCA Nationals to be held October 5-12, 2017, in Solon Springs, WI, utilizing the Community Center and the Douglas County Wildlife Area. (Public attendance is welcome.) Request is for approximately one dozen RV units to camp in Lucius Woods County Park for up to 7 days during the event when the park is normally closed. No water is needed, only electric and sanitary dump station waste facilities. Fees would be \$15.00 per night (free sanitary dump station use for those individuals staying in the park); or \$5.00 for those individuals not staying in the park.

ACTION: Motion by White, second Mock, to approve request from GWPCA group to utilize the Lucius Woods County Park for off-season camping for up to 7 days, for a fee of \$15.00 per night, and \$5.00 per use for the sanitary dump station if not staying in the park. Approval granted for participants in the event only, coordinating with staff member, Mark Schroeder. Motion carried.

2016 Budget:

Carryover Reserves and Release of Funding: Summary of budget carryovers totaling \$978,245 reviewed; of which \$438,963 are for projects identified for immediate release of funds.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to approve carryover reserves and releases as identified, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Year-end Transfer of Excess Revenue to General Fund: Year-end summary of transfer to the general fund of excess revenues in the amount of \$1,785,000 reviewed. This is in addition to the budgeted direct levy offset transfer of \$858,000. Largest transfer on record in the department's history.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Robinson, to approve transfer of \$1,785,000 to General Fund, and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

7.2 Land Recreation Ordinance Amendment: Changes compiled from over a five year period based on feedback from the Sheriff's Department deputies.

ACTION (REFERRAL/ORDINANCE): Motion by Mock, second White, to approve 7.2 Land Recreation Ordinance Amendment and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

2017 Annual WDNR Recreational Trail Grant Program Participation: Annual approval required by state for WDNR Recreational Trail Grant participation.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Mock, to approve 2017 Annual WDNR Recreational Trail Grant Program participation and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Timber Appraisal Parcels #GO-012-00819-00 and #PA-024-00194-00: Reviewed.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by White, second Mock, to approve timber appraisals and refer to Land and Development Committee. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Wildlife Update (WDNR Wildlife Biologist): Scheduled for the March 27, 2017, meeting.

2016 Wisconsin Act 170 (WDNR Off-Highway Motorcycle Program): Public comments accepted on this issue until March 3, 2017; updates to follow.

Extended Timber Sale Contracts: Active 4+ year contracts spreadsheet reviewed. Some contracts on final extension will not be completed by deadline.

Temporary Response to Poor Balsam Fir Markets: As a result of current poor markets for balsam fir products, Douglas County implemented temporary timber sale contract modification language (see letter in packet). Only one contractor has exercised this option to date.

2016 Wisconsin County Forest Certification Audit Report: Findings discussed (minor and major non-conformances).

Washburn County, Oak Wilt Distribution: Map in packet showing generally infested counties and oak wilt confirmed in 6-mile squares. Oak wilt was detected last year in 2 Washburn County townships directly adjacent to Douglas County's southern border. It is expected to eventually impact Douglas County if not already present.

2016 Public Land Timber Sale Report: Reviewed.

2016 Timber Sale Revenue Record: Reviewed. 5 Year Winter Season Harvesting Record distributed.

2016 Town Severance Payment Record: Reviewed.

SUSPEND THE RULES: Motion by White, second Mock, to extend meeting beyond two-hour limit. Motion carried.

2017 Spring Logger's Discussion Forum: Harris to move forward with forum – contact him with content ideas.

March 7, 2017, Timber Sale Reminder: Timber sale scheduled for 6:00 p.m. March 7, 2017.

Reports:

Wisconsin County Forest Association: Robinson reported attending an audit and Board of Director's meeting recently in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Asleson reported FY2017 county time standard hours are being successfully met at the current time.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mock, second Robinson, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk