

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 29, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, John Robinson, Terry White, Robert Mock, Mary Lou Bergman. Others present – Kent Makela, John Deterling, Matt Hughes, Neil Mathison, Doug Finn, Greg Kessler, Steve Olson, Jack Byrd, Ryan Magana, Bob Hanson, Doug Nagle, John Kiel, Brad Volker, John Shupe, Terry Asleson, Dale Rochon, Jane Anklam, Mark Liebaert, Andy Lisak, Jon Harris, Judy Nicoski, Cathy Khalar, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mock, second White, to approve the minutes from the December 28, 2015, meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Included with members' meeting packet. Nicoski reviewed the budget for the time period ending January 31, 2016.

Forest Management Operations: Hager reported 18 sales being cut; 11 hauling.

Parks and Recreation: Schroeder reported majority of snowmobile trails open; park seasonal staff recruitment and snowmobile/ATV grant writing for trail upgrades commencing.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

SUSPEND THE RULES: Motion by Mock, second White, to take up item 5(l). Motion carried.

2015 Annual Department Law Enforcement Report (Sheriff's Department): Steve Olson distributed 2015 Summary for Douglas County Forestry Department showing citation issue types (total revenue \$14,372.90) and incident call categories.

Car Show Event at Lucius Woods County Park (AAD Shriners AAONMS, Duluth): Group requesting permission to hold car show (200+ vehicles) in or around Lucius Woods Park on August 6, 2016, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve request from AAAD Shriners and AAONMS, Duluth, to utilize Lucius Woods County Park, for a car show event on August 6, 2016, contingent on coordinating event planning with Lucius Woods Performing Arts Center and event plan approval from Forestry Department staff. Motion carried.

Bird Sanctuary Clubhouse Rental Fee Waiver Request (Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association): Organization requesting waiver of \$75.00 fee for rental of Bird Sanctuary Clubhouse for event on May 21, 2016. No action taken.

New Winter Trail Establishment Request (Brule River Riders Snowmobile Club): Club requesting re-opening of "Trail F" that previously linked Trail 4 to the Tri-County Corridor at Blueberry/County Road O in the Town of Maple.

ACTION: Motion by White, second Robinson, to approve non-funded winter trail establishment by the Brule River Riders Snowmobile Club, working with department staff for final location approval. Motion carried.

Electric Transmission Line Utility Easement Request - Dahlberg Light & Power Company: Dahlberg Light & Power requesting new 2.45 acre easement for an underground electric transmission line right-of-way and maintenance rights on County Forest Land to service the Canadian National Railroad rail line. Most current Utility Right-of-Way Per Acre Compensation Formula rates presented.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Bergman, to approve request and grant an electric transmission line right-of-way easement to Dahlberg Light & Power Company, and apply the most current Utility Right-of-Way Per Acre Compensation Formula rates to request ($\$3,278 \times 2.45 \text{ acres} = \$8,031.10$), and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Electric Transmission Line Utility Easement Request - Solon Springs Airport Commission: Commission requesting Douglas County and WDNR grant additional easement space to ATC allowing them to move a portion of the existing power line to allow for runway length expansion. A significant portion of the involved county land is currently leased to the WDNR as part of the Douglas County Wildlife Area and also designated as the Solon Springs Barrens State Natural Area. WDNR is in favor of request if determined to be most practicable alternative for airport commission.

ACTION: Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to provide letter of support to the Solon Springs Airport Commission, for moving transmission line and future consideration for granting new easement to ATC contingent upon determination of project specific details and coordination with WDNR. Motion carried.

2016 Annual WDNR Recreational Trail Grant Program Participation: Annual approval required by state for WDNR Recreational Trail Grant participation.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second White, to approve participation in 2016 annual WDNR Recreational Trail Grant Program and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Tree Stand Use Regulation on WDNR Owned or Managed Lands (Fish & Game League of Douglas County): Resolution in packet supports changing the tree stand use regulations on WDNR owned or managed lands located north of State Highway 64 to allow for longer-term, overnight placement of portable, non-permanent tree stands.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Mock, to approve resolution as presented, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2006-2020 Amendments: Updates included in meeting packet revising plan to incorporate current updates to Chapter 500 and 900 to better meet requirements from recent forest certification findings dealing with High Conservation Value Forests (FSC) and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values (SFI).

Special Management Areas (Chapter 500): Reviewed.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Robinson, to approve amendments to “Special Management Areas”, amend Chapter 500 of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

State Natural Areas and Exception Resource Areas (High Conservation Value Forests) (Chapter 900): Reviewed.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Mock, second White, to approve amendments to “State Natural Areas and Exceptional Resource Areas (High Conservation Value Forests)”, amend Chapter 900 of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Designation of Wisconsin State Natural Areas Memorandum of Understanding (WDNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation State Natural Areas Program) (Chapter 900): Reviewed.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to approve entering into new MOU with WDNR, amend Chapter 900 of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Five Mile Barrens Forest Management Plan (Chapter 900): Reviewed.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Mock, second Bergman, to approve “Five Mile Barrens Forest Management Plan”, amend Chapter 900 of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Five Mile Barrens Forest Management Plan Extended Zone (Chapter 900): Reviewed.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Robinson, to approve “Five Mile Barrens Forest Management Plan Extended Zone”, amend Chapter 900 of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Gift of Property:

Property Acceptance: Landowner is proposing gifting two 40 acre parcels located on Stewart Road in Dairyland to Douglas County for public use purposes. Parcels border county forest land on three sides and would improve access opportunities to adjacent county lands and the Spruce River.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Mock, second Robinson, to approve accepting the gift of two 40 acre parcels (#DA-010-01184-00 and #DA-010-01185-00) to Douglas County and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Release of Capital Reserve Funding (Land Acquisition): Release of up to \$4,000 of capital reserve funding requested for closing related costs of this land acquisition.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to approve release of capital reserve funding in an amount not to exceed \$4,000 for closing related costs in this land acquisition, refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Application for County Forest Law Entry: Parcels to be entered in county forest management upon ownership.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second White, to approve application of #DA-010-01184-00 and #DA-010-01185-00 into County Forest Law Entry, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Upper St. Croix Forest Land Conservation Project (The Conservation Fund):

Property Acquisition: Maps in packet identify parcels for potential acquisition. Many are of high interest due to timber and access. A WDNR stewardship grant would be sought to cover half of purchase costs, plus additional grants to cover portion of remaining half; leaving contribution by the county not to exceed \$230,000 for a maximum of 1,480 acres currently (may be reduced). Acquisition would be assisted and facilitated by The Conservation Fund.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Bergman, to approve partnering with The Conservation Fund, moving forward with property acquisition as presented, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Contract for Sale of Real Estate Purchase Agreement or Option Agreement: Approval of either option requested to best facilitate transaction with The Conservation Fund.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Mock, second Robinson, to approve entering into either a contract for sale of real estate purchase agreement or option agreement with The Conservation Fund and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Program Grant Application: Requesting approval to move forward with USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Program Grant Application in an amount of \$400,000.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Mock, second White, to approve grant application and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Application: Requesting approval to move forward with WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Application.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to approve grant application, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Release of Capital Reserve Funding (Land Acquisition): Release of capital reserve funding for land acquisition in an amount not to exceed \$230,000 requested.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Bergman, to approve release of up to \$230,000 from funding reserves and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Application for County Forest Law Entry: Requesting approval of application for county forest law entry of property upon acquisition.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to approve application for County Forest Law regular land entry, upon acquisition of property, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Open 2016 Tree Hand Planting Bids: Bids received as follows:

Northwoods Forestry	\$31.89 per acre
Superior Forestry Service	\$33.80 per acre
Express Forestry Services	\$37.00 per acre

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Mock, to approve bid from Northwoods Forestry, in the amount of \$31.89 per acre, upon meeting all bid criteria specifications. Motion carried.

2015 Budget:

Carryovers/Reserves: Summary of budget carryovers reviewed (reports distributed).

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Robinson, second Bergman, to approve 2015 carryovers and reserves as presented, and forward to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Year End Transfer of Excess Revenues to the General Fund: Year-end summary of transfer of excess revenues to the General Fund reviewed.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by White, second Mock, to approve year-end transfer in the amount of \$1,510,000, of excess revenue to the General Fund, and forward to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by White, second Mock, to extend meeting beyond two hour time limit. Motion carried.

Release of Reserve and Capital Reserve Funding: Summary reviewed.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Mock, to approve release of reserve and capital reserve funding in the amount of \$683,552.00 for projects identified, and forward to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Hank Land Protection Project (West Wisconsin Land Trust): Landowner again reduced acreage offered for sale by an additional 10 acres, cutting off public access from Hank's Road.

ACTION: Motion by Robinson, second Mock, to withdraw any further county interest in pursuing acquisition project as currently proposed. Motion carried.

Bird Sanctuary Estates Land Protection Project (West Wisconsin Land Trust): No valid offers to purchase currently exist.

Proposed WDNR Land Sales: Current state budget directs the WDNR to sell off 10,000 acres by 2017; two parcels identified in Douglas County. Potential offering with more details from the WDNR expected in the future.

Verso Corporation Chapter 11 Bankruptcy: Verso has filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection. Immediate financial risk to Douglas County forestry operations minimal. Long-term outlook unknown.

Northern Long-Eared Bat Final Rule: Federal bat protections final rule was issued in January - one known site in Douglas County.

Option for Amendment to Right-of-Way and Pipeline Utility Easement Grant (Enbridge): Enbridge requested to exercise their rights in the previously approved Option for Amendment to Right-of-Way and Pipeline Utility Easement referred to as the "southern route" for the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 Replacement Projects.

Non-County Forest Douglas County Owned Parcels County Forest Entry Request (North County Trail Association): Land & Development Committee and County Board approved county forest entry of 4.1 acre parcel in the Town of Gordon, and Land & Development Committee approved granting easements for trail on the other two previously requested 40 acre parcels in the Town of Solon Springs.

Regulation of Non-County Forest County-Owned Lands (Granting Exclusive Administrative Authority upon Forest Management Request – Memorandum of Agreement): Draft memorandum approved by Land and Development Committee, contingent upon review by Corporation Counsel.

2015 Public Land Timber Sale Report: Reviewed. Highest grossing, single year timber sale revenue record achieved and second highest harvested volume figure.

2015 Timber Sale Revenue Record: Reviewed.

2015 Town Severance Payment Record: Reviewed.

2016 Spring Logger's Discussion Forum: Tentatively scheduled for mid-April – need ideas for discussion topics.

March 8, 2016 Timber Sale Reminder: Reminder to attend March 8, 2016 (6:00 p.m.) timber sale meeting.

Reports:

Wisconsin County Forest Association: Robinson attended three WCFA meetings: audit, Board of Directors and strategy/planning session.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: No updates.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bergman, second White, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk