

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, July 25, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Mark Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, Terry White, Robert Mock, Mary Lou Bergman. Absent – John Robinson. Others present – Dan Corbin, Christine Ostern, Terry Asleson, Judy Nicoski, Jon Harris, Mark Schroeder, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mock, second White, to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2016, regular meeting and June 21, 2016, timber sale meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Included with members' meeting packet. Nicoski reviewed the budget for the period ending June 30, 2016.

Forest Management Operations: Harris reported 12 active sales; some hauling.

Parks and Recreation: Schroeder reported working with dam controls in several areas due to recent severe rainstorms; and on other recreational activities.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Proposed WDNR Land Sales:

Property Acquisition: Letter detailing potential sale of lands presently owned by WDNR to Douglas County: parcel and restrictions/reservations included with members' meeting packet. WDNR asking price for #PR 40184 is \$27,000 (58 acres) and for #WM 60212 is \$20,000 (20 acres), and is non-negotiable. Best use would be expanding current forestry blocking areas.

ACTION: Motion by White, second Bergman, to refer item to next month's meeting. Motion carried.

Release of Capital Reserve Funding (Land Acquisition): No action taken.

Application for County Forest Law Entry: No action taken.

September 26, 2016 Committee Meeting: Change meeting date due to several members attending WCA Conference.

ACTION: Motion by White, second Mock, to change September meeting date to September 19, 2016. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Additional Patrolling Law Enforcement Assistance Program (Sheriff's Department): An incident on May 28, 2016, at Gordon Dam Campground required additional patrolling due to camper complaints about an unruly group at a campsite. This is a good example of why the additional Sheriff's Department patrolling is needed and working well.

Upper St. Croix Forest Land Conservation Project (The Conservation Fund): The USFS Community Forest grant application from Douglas County for \$400,000 to fund a portion of this project was denied. Alternative funding sources to be explored by The Conservation Fund. Harris to keep committee updated.

Application for Pesticide Ordinance Exemption Request DRAFT: Reviewed. Applicant would work through County Clerk's Office for approval. Suggestion made to add language to item #5, detailing options available by name.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Mock, to approve application for pesticide ordinance exemption request Draft with recommendations as discussed. Motion carried.

School District's Letter of Support for use of Certified Paper Products: Sample letter sent by Forestry Department encouraging (six) local school districts to purchase certified paper products.

Electric Transmission Line Utility Easement Request (Solon Springs Airport Commission): Letter from WDNR to Solon Springs Airport Commission advising that easement relocation request is premature and WDNR review would require a viable project proposal being advanced through the appropriate approval process.

Verso Corporation Chapter 11 Bankruptcy: Verso bankruptcy continues to move forward and as currently written, plans to repay all administrative claims in full.

WDNR FY2016 Time Standards Results: Annual hours outlined as follows: original goal = 3905 hours; reduced goal – 3355 hours; actual = 3675 hours.

Logging Contractor Public Roadway Use: Concern continues for logging equipment and truck use occurring on public roads; county to strive to facilitate communications, as well as maintaining a paper trail of notifications to municipalities; and encourage better cooperation among all interested parties impacted by logging activities.

Department Staffing: Harris advised another long-time forester left employment with the county. The position has been advertised and interviews have occurred, hoping new forester to be in place within a few weeks.

Reports:

Wisconsin County Forest Association: No report.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Asleson reported that current vacancies of permanent WDNR positions will continue for at least a year due to hiring freeze.

Future Agenda Items: WDNR parcel purchases; department addition tour.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bergman, second White, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk