

FOREST, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday June 8, 2021, 6:01 p.m., Solon Springs Community Center
11523 S Business 53, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, Mary Lou Bergman, Steve Long, Joseph Moen and Nick Baker. Others present – Derek Essen, Jim Latvala, Jon Harris, Craig Golembiewski, Logan Jones, Keb Guralski, Justin Holmes, Clint Meyer, and Cheryl Larson, Acting Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Harris announced that tract numbers were drawn randomly and will be opened and read in the order they were drawn. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to opening any bids for that individual tract.

OPEN AND READ TIMBER BIDS: Bids were opened and read aloud.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to accept the high bids most advantageous to Douglas County after they are checked for accuracy and qualifications. Motion carried.

Forestry Department Winter Trail and Summer Trail Reroute Request: Department requesting to consolidate an existing winter only snowmobile/ATV trail and summer only ATV trail to a single, newly constructed dual winter and summer use trail in the Town of Gordon adjacent to the Highway 53 corridor. Map included in agenda packet. Consolidation would reduce motorized use conflict with cross-country ski trails and improve efficient connectivity of existing trail system. Recreational trail club to be responsible for all future maintenance after Forestry Department constructs the trail.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve the Winter trail and Summer trail reroute request. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035:

Draft Plan: Draft version of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035 has been completed. Plan is required under state law for all counties with lands enrolled in the County Forest Program. This 2021-2035 version is the 6th generation of the Douglas County Forest Land-Use Plan. Committee members were all provided a hardcopy of the large plan document a couple weeks prior to the meeting. Plan serves as the foundation for Forestry Department operations and policies concerning management of the forest over the next 15 year term. Plan approval process requires committee approval of final draft after public comments have been received and referral to County Board and WDNR for final plan approvals, anticipated by the end of the year.

Public Comments: A 30 day open public comment period is required during plan development. Department proposing to make the draft plan available for public review on the county website and offer an online 30 day public comment period from June 9, 2021 to July 9, 2021. Committee will be provided a summary of all comments received at a future meeting.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve the initial version of the Draft Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035 and officially open the 30 day public comment process from June 9, 2021 to July 9, 2021 under the proposed online structure. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Baker, second Long, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Cheryl Larson