

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, June 24, 2019, 9:30 a.m., Forestry Headquarters
9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert, Joseph Moen, Mary Lou Bergman, Nick Baker. Absent – Steve Long. Others present – Margaret Howard, Candy Holm Anderson, Logan Jones, Mick Salmen, Julie Demgen, Jim Latvala, Keb Guralski, Craig Golembieski, Jon Harris, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019, regular meeting and June 4, 2019, timber sale meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Distributed at meeting. Anderson reviewed the budget for the time period ending May 31, 2019.

Forest Management Operations: Golembieski reported 8 active sales; 3 hauling. Received \$5,000 Little Drummer Grant from Ruffed Grouse Society to be used for timber stand improvement on oak stand; provided recent timber sales updates; and partnering with Highway Department on an 8 acre reclamation project.

Parks and Recreation: Harris reported in Meyer's absence. Campgrounds open, full seasonal staff on board, with Meyer working on the following: ATV gravel surfacing project; Highway Department making pavement repairs in Lucius Woods and Gordon Dam; reconfirming snowmobile trail mileage numbers for the WDNR.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Battle of the Bands Event at Lucius Woods County Park Request: Request from Margaret Howard, senior at Northwood High School, to hold a Battle of the Bands event at Lucius Woods County Park on Friday August 9 or Friday, August 16 in the evening, to raise funds for the music department as part of her senior exit project. Music will be open to a variety of genres. Will charge entry fee for bands. No entry fee for attendees. Request to vend food and beverages. No alcohol will be sold. Will provide sound equipment and respect park quiet hour rules. Liability insurance required – may be attained through the county.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve request from Margaret Howard to hold the Battle of the Bands event at Lucius Woods County Park, either August 9 or August 16 (coordinate with Forestry Department Staff), charging normal rental fee, with vending on site, and providing proof of liability insurance, Motion carried.

Off-Highway Motorcycle Trail Use Designation Request (Straight Arrow Enduro Riders): Change proposal by Ken Fastner, Straight Arrow Enduro Riders (SAER), Offroad Chairman, in meeting packet. Three trail segments (see map) requested to be open to registered off-highway motorcycles (OHM) use. Two segments located on the Gandy Dancer Trail. Updated trail signage would need to be designed and installed. Segments would close to OHM use October 31st annually to be consistent with the existing OHM trail system. Local trail club supports proposal. Gandy Dancer Recreational Trail Master Plan (1990) would need to be amended to reflect the new use. County would secure the signage and the club would install and maintain.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve request from the Straight Arrow Enduro Riders to open three trail segments as identified on the map to off-highway motorcycle use, to amend the Gandy Dancer Recreational Trail Master Plan, for annual use update to be presented to committee as part of the Straight Arrow Enduro Rider's report and refer to County Board. Motion carried unanimously..

50th Annual Duquette Moose Run Enduro Use of County Forest Land Request (Straight Arrow Enduro Riders): Straight Enduro Riders requesting approval to hold 50th annual Duquette/Moose Run Enduro using County Forest land on August 24th and 25th.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve 50th annual Duquette/Moose Run Enduro the weekend of August 24th and 25th, with proof of general liability insurance coverage provided to the Forestry Department. Motion carried.

Pesticide Ordinance #1.17 Exemption Request (Forestry Department): Application in meeting packet – Black Locust trees found (20-30 trees covering about 300 square feet) on forest access roads, (see map) in the Town of Summit. Keb Guralski provided PowerPoint presentation - two timber sales are established in the area that could promote the spread into new areas. The project will include initial cut stump treatment of established locust trees and follow-up treatments in subsequent years through a combination of chemical and mechanical means. Follow-up monitoring will take place for a minimum of 5 years following initial treatment, with continual monitoring in area for years beyond complete eradication.

ACTION: Motion by Moen, second Baker, to approve Pesticide Ordinance #1.17 exemption request from Forestry Department as outlined above for a 5 year term. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES/REPORTS:

Friends of the Bird Sanctuary Annual Report – Presentation: Refer to a future meeting.

Park Creek Pond Dam Improvement Project: Harris reported dam water level down about 6 feet so far, pulling about one board daily; with July 15th anticipated construction start date and substantial construction completion by end of August. Clint Meyer will head up this project.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Detection: EAB identified in Highland near Beauregard Lake on private land, and it has appeared to spread through the immediate area around the lake.

2016-2018 WDNR County Forest Audit: WDNR e year audit to be held June 26th at Forestry headquarters starting at 9:30 a.m., and is primarily record keeping and financial. (Final report from last audit in meeting packet.)

2019 County Forest Certification Audit: Audit to be held August 7th from 8:30 to 5:00, primarily field operations. Three auditors to be on site and will be auditing the Douglas County Forestry program as part of the larger annual County Forest Program certification audit. Previous year audit report included in meeting packet.

Department Staffing Update: Logan Jones, new Forester, introduced.

WDNR County Forest Liaison: Latvala reported work 95% complete on two blade scarification projects (80 acres); other dozer projects in the works. WDNR new fiscal year starts today, over 4,000 time standard hours anticipated by WDNR employees in county forest work.

Future Agenda Items: Friends of the Bird Sanctuary Annual Report; FY2019 WDNR time standards report.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk