

FOREST, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, August 30, 2021, 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, Mary Lou Bergman, Joseph Moen, Nick Baker. Absent – Steve Long. Others present – David Thomassen, Brian Rusk, Tim Hawkinson, Jerid Rankila, John Johnson, Jon Harris, Al Horvath, Clem Larson, Dan Corbin, Candy Holm Anderson, Craig Golembiewski, Shelley Nelson, Clint Meyer, Jim Latvala, Keb Guralski, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2021, regular, and June 8, 2021, timber sale, meetings. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Anderson reviewed the budget ending July 31, 2021.

Forest Management Operations: Golembiewski reported 8 active sales, 3 hauling. He provided reforestation updates; review work for October timber sale auction in progress; limited term forester employees are now gone. Harris provided area paper mill closure updates.

Parks and Recreation: Meyer reported on Mooney Dam Park, Gordon Dam Park, Bird Sanctuary horse area, Lucius Woods Park, and Wild Rivers Trail improvement projects and work completed. Ten year dam inspection at State Line Dam went well. Decreasing numbers of seasonal park staff starting to occur as some staff are returning to school.

Department Staff: Brian Rusk, Forestry and Parks Technician, and Tim Hawkinson, Forestry Equipment Operator, introduced. Both began in April of 2020 with the Forestry Department.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Campground End of Season Closing Date and Off-Season Camping Policy: Temporary policy recommendation proposes Lucius Woods, Gordon Dam, and Mooney Dam campgrounds to officially close for the season on Monday, October 4, 2021. Proposal would extend the 2020 closing date by 1 week and the standard traditional closing date by 3 weeks. Off-season camping in Gordon Dam Campground to resume as normal as of Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve temporary 2021 campground end of season closing date and off-season camping policy as proposed, extending the season to Monday, October 4, 2021. Motion carried.

Land and Development Forest Management Services Request: Reviewed – two parcels to be considered by Land and Development for timber sale potential. Any provided services to follow standard terms and conditions of the existing MOA for Forest Management Services. Maps in packet.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve forest management service request (timber sale establishment) for the 2 identified parcels if requested by Land and Development Committee. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035: Draft plan has been available for public review on the county website since early June. 30 day public comment period was open June 9, 2021 to July 9, 2021.

One public comment was received (enclosed in packet). Final draft plan will be presented to committee for approval and referral to County Board and WDNR when available, anticipated by the end of the year.

2022 Budget:

Review: Summary budget reviewed by Anderson and Harris. No significant changes from the 2021 operating budget. Reforestation program is the one operational expense that can dramatically fluctuate from one year to the next without much notice depending on harvesting activity and past seedling/regenerating survival. Increased regeneration program needs proposed for 2022 at additional expense due to increased 2021 harvests. Rather than include all of these additional expenses in the 2022 operating budget, the reforestation reserve will be targeted or the necessary funding. Capital outlay budget reviewed totaling \$412,500.

Non-Profit Funding Requests:

Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee: \$500 – Clem Larson provided overview of request (Dan Corbin is citizen representative.)

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to approve 2022 funding request from Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee for \$500 (organization and purpose of request meets non-profit funding request criteria). Motion carried.

Tri-County Recreational Corridor Commission: \$6,000 – Dan Corbin provided overview of request.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve 2022 funding request from Tri-County Recreational Corridor Commission for \$6,000 (organization and purpose of request meets non-profit funding request criteria). Motion carried.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates: \$2,500 – Al Horvath provided overview of request. Also requesting support from committee/board to split Douglas County into 3 separate deer management units (1, 2, and 3) to optimize management of the county's deer population (map included).

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to approve 2022 funding request from Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates for \$2,500 (organization and purpose of request meets non-profit funding request criteria), and approve letter of support from committee to split Douglas County into 3 separate deer management units, and sponsor supporting resolution to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve 2022 budget as presented and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

September 27, 2021 Meeting Date: Due to Chair attending WCA conference that date, moving meeting to October 4, 2021, suggested.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Moen, to move meeting to October 4, 2021. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL/REPORTS:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Douglas County: Map distributed showing new EAB detections with 5 mile buffer radius identified. New Clevedon Road detection in Town of Brule is first confirmed EAB detection on County Forest Land after initial 2013 detection in City of Superior. USDA APHIS also had a recent detection on County Forest Land off the Degerman Road in Town of Maple, 6 miles from Clevedon Road detection. Department plans to offer a limited number of pre-salvage timber sales in the

immediate area, targeting stands with larger average diameters to maximize marketability. APHIS to bring future study proposal to committee now that an active site has been identified on the forest.

Extended Timber Sale Contracts: Reviewed. There are 28 high priority active 4th year (13), 5th year (14), and 7th year (1) contracts going into the 2021/22 winter harvesting season. Letters will be sent out to all contractors this fall reminding them of importance of completing these sales over the winter harvesting season to avoid penalty. Monthly updates will be provided to committee.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to extend the meeting beyond the two hour time limit. Motion carried.

County Forest Acreage Share/PILT Payments Increase: Increasing from \$0.30/acre to \$0.63/acre in 2022.

2021 County Forest Certification Audit: Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire and Polk Counties selected for 2021 audit. Official audit results to be shared in the future.

International Dark Sky Park Designation for the Douglas County Wildlife Area: Updated map of proposed boundary included in meeting packet (approximately 21,000 acres of Douglas County Forest Land to be included in application).

52nd Annual Duquette Moose Run Enduro Use of Douglas County Forest Land (Straight Arrow Enduro Riders): Annual event successfully held August 22, 2021.

9TH ANNUAL RUDY RUN USE OF COUNTY FOREST LAND: Event to be held September 11, 2021, with 4 to 5 portable toilets on county land off West Mail Road. Trail ride fundraiser launched in 2013 in memory of Rudy LaJoie supporting Superior Youth Organization.

WDNR FY2021 Time Standards Report: WDNR time standards history report distributed (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) totaling 4051 hours. WDNR successfully met the required 4,051 hours. Latvala reported things went well through COVID19 lockdown and provided updates on WDNR projects for Douglas County.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bergman second Baker, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk