

FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Monday, October 4, 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 Liebert, Mary Lou Bergman, Joseph Moen, Nick Baker. Absent – Steve Long. Others present – Candy Anderson (remote), Ann Doucette, Al Horvath, Keb Guralski, Alex Rowe (remote), Logan Jones (remote), Carolyn Pierce, Clint Meyer, Craig Golembiewski, Jim Latvala, Justin Holmes, Forrest Gibeault, Greg Kessler, Shelley Nelson, Jon Harris, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Baker, second Moen, to approve the minutes from the August 30, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Budget: Harris reviewed the budget ending August 31, 2021.

Forest Management Operations: Golembiewski reported 10 active sales; preparing for October 27, 2021, timber sale (24 new sales); reforestation work busy; Log-A-Load October 7 and 8 in Sawyer County Forest; Oak wilt being found in many new areas of the forest.

Parks and Recreation: Meyer reported campgrounds closing for the season today, Gordon Dam campground open for off season camping only after today; attended off-road vehicle and snowmobile council meeting at state level, in which all of the 2022 requested projects were tentatively approved. Working on the 2022-23 grant cycle projects, and with WDNR on various trail projects. Seasonal part time parks staff done at end of next week, Mooney Dam Park play area being installed this week, and Lake Minnesuing boat launch repair project starting today.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

SUSPEND THE RULES: Motion by Liebaert, second Baker, to take up item 4b. Motion carried.

Douglas County Deer Management Unit Split Request (Douglas County Deer Advisory Committee): Horvath 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. (Approved at August 31, 2021, meeting, but not listed correctly on agenda in order to take action.)

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to support resolution from committee to split Douglas County into 3 separate deer management units, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Forest Carbon Program and Carbon Credit Markets Presentation (Steigerwaldt Land Services): Gibeault provided presentation on topic. Currently, four county forests of the thirty in Wisconsin are participating in a forest carbon program. Having certified lands (SFI, FSC, ATFS) is a program requirement. Program requires a 40-year project period/commitment to the American Carbon Registry. A project developer would inventory, monitor, and market forest carbon credits held by the forest retaining a commission for their services. A carbon credit is equal to 1 metric ton of CO²e (carbon dioxide equivalent) emission. Credits would be sold on a world-wide market. Potential for significant additional revenue for the county. Project would require contracting with a specific project developer for a term length of years (10 years is common). Contract specifics would be negotiated with project developer. The global market demand for forest carbon credits is currently very strong. Only forested lands would qualify for a project and a project area footprint would need to be identified. About 80% of the current county forest land base exists in forested cover types. Credit inventory available for sale is based off baseline and annual

growth data of trees in the project areas. Time line estimated at 12 to 18 month from initial planning to having a signed contract for a ready to go project, about 24 months before any credits would be sold. If interested in further evaluation of project potential, first step would be to work with a project developer to complete an initial project scope and feasibility analysis. This service would be free and would give the county a much more detailed look at what a potential project, and estimated revenue projections, would look like on the county forest.

ACTION: Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to authorize Harris to move forward with feasibility analysis for Douglas County to participate in a forest carbon forest program. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035: Final Draft version of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035 has been completed. The public comment period and initial WDNR review have concluded. Plan approval process requires committee approval of Final Draft document and referral to County Board and WDNR for final plan approvals. Committee members will all be provided a hardcopy of the large plan document prior to the board meeting. The Final Draft version of the plan will also be available for review on the department's website prior to the board meeting.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Baker, second Bergman, to approve the final draft version of the Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land-Use Plan 2021-2035, and refer to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/UPDATES/REPORTS:

Wildlife Update Report (WDNR Wildlife Biologist - Presentation): Kessler provided updates on activities: Deer season currently open; testing for CWD; bear hunting update distributed (2021 Wisconsin Bear Permit Drawing Summary); and 2021 wolf depredations map distributed.

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

2021 Land and Development Forest Management Services Request: Land and Development approved forest management service request (timber sale establishment) for the 2 identified parcels at their August 31, 2021, meeting.

October 27, 2021, Timber Sale Reminder: Timber Sale meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. on October 27, 2021, at the department office headquarters in Solon Springs.

Future Agenda Items: Forest Carbon Program.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bergman, second Baker, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk