

AGENDA
County Of Eau Claire
Committee On Parks & Forest
Tuesday, April 25 – 5:00 p.m.
Ag & Resource Center
227 1st St West, Altoona WI 54720

Members note: Please call or email the committee chair or office if you will not be attending the meeting.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice
2. Approval of minutes from April 11, 2017 Meeting – Discussion/action
3. Public Input
4. Chippewa Valley Disc Golf Association Entrance Fee Request – Discussion/action
5. Lake Eau Claire Association Dredging Project Sand Disposal Resolution 17-18/014 – Withdrawal of 40 Acres from County Forest Law – Discussion/action
6. Resolution 17-18/011 – Support for a segregated funding source for forestry programs in Wisconsin – Discussion/action
7. Lake Altoona Master Plan – Discussion/action
8. County Forest Camping policy – Discussion/action
9. Lowes Creek Park Reclamation Project Update – Discussion/action
10. Expo/Curling Club Lease Extension - Discussion
11. Stewardship Committee report – Discussion/action
12. Correspondence
13. Staff and committee reports
14. Advisory Committee Input/Assignments
15. Future and pending items

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, tty: use relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON PARKS & FOREST**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 5:00 p.m.
Ag & Resource Center, Altoona WI 54720

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Tami Schraufnagel, Kevin Stelljes and Bruce Willett

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Ludwig, WDNR Forester; Jay and Laura Plummer, Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association; Laura, Bryce, Kyler, and Caden Hurd, Liz and Jacob Collis, Katie Neer and Dominic Heiderscheid, Boy Scout Troop 124

STAFF PRESENT: Bobbi Barone, Josh Pedersen and Jacob Tumm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:00 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
2. Approval of minutes from March 28, 2017 Meeting – Kevin made a motion to approve minutes from the March 28 meeting; motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Input – No one was present to speak on this item.
6. Lowes Creek Park Reclamation Project Update – Josh stated there was nothing to report. A draft agreement was sent to Commonweal Development March 10. As of the meeting, there had been no response from them. Josh will discuss with Kathryn and ask for an amendment to the agreement to include “Committee approval required on agreement”.
5. Boy Scout Troop 124 Proposal for Adopt-A-Park – Laura Hurd from Boy Scout Troop 124 said the troop definitely has an interest in Pinter Pines and wondered what the expectations from the county would be. She said a chimney in the rear of upper cabin has been leaking which would need repair or closing off. After discussion, Bruce made a motion to waive county forest camping restrictions at both Pinter Pines and the Lions Youth Camp sites. Kevin suggested permission could be granted on a case-by-case basis. Josh suggested the Boy Scouts could do small amount of cleanup and trail maintenance. Tami asked if Laura could come up with a plan for the summer and she said she could. Kevin amended Bruce’s motion to have a one-year trial period to allow camping at Pinter Pines and Lions Youth Camp to particular groups, with permission given by the Parks & Forest Committee and/or the Parks & Forest Department Director and to draft policy; motion carried 5-0.
4. Timber Sales Approval – Kevin asked about oak wilt restriction being lifted July 15. Brooke and Jake stated the date is set by scientific evidence that shows the beetle is not active after that date. Tami moved to approve the timber sales as distributed; motion carried 5-0.
7. Expo/Curling Club Lease Extension – Josh stated they would be meeting the next day so nothing to report.
8. Stewardship – Kevin reported they met. Nothing much new as they are waiting on a property. The event the Stewardship Committee was planning for the Fitz Property this spring has been postponed until later. Josh and Jake may have a grant opportunity from the Turkey Foundation. Tami suggested the Stewardship Committee should appear at Farm Technology Days to be held in Eau Claire County in 2020.

9. Correspondence – Josh said the Forestry Mill Tax is being looked at by Wisconsin County Forest Association and asked if the committee would want to introduce a resolution stressing the importance of a segregated forestry fund that does not revert back to the general funds? There was no consensus. Josh reported Deputy Staber reported issues with ATVs on prohibited trails and other vehicle traffic and hunters and asked if the committee would want to enforce the county code. If so, how to sign it. Gary felt it should be signed, “No vehicles allowed”.
10. Staff and Committee reports – Josh reported there was a Ski Sprites meeting held. Their lease will expire in 2018. He also said the budget process is beginning and capital requests are due May 5. The committee felt the list from last year should be used.
11. Advisory Committee – Current members with terms expiring will be sent letters inviting them to renew their terms. Otherwise, an advertisement will appear in the Leader-Telegram. The committee will then meet after the recruitment period and can then elect officers.
12. Future and pending – Nothing additional to report.

Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone
Committee Clerk

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4 - WITHDRAWAL OF APPROXIMATELY 36 ACRES (MORE OR LESS) FROM
5 COUNTY FOREST LAW; DIRECTING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO
6 MAKE APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
7 WITHDRAWAL OF SAID COUNTY LAND FROM THE COUNTY FOREST LAW -

8 WHEREAS, under Article VIII. A. of the 2013 dredge spoils site agreement between Eau
9 Claire County and the Lake Eau Claire Protection Rehabilitation District "Lake District" the
10 county proposes to withdraw Site 5 consisting of approximately 36 acres (more or less), also
11 known as the Troubled Waters site as county forest land; and

12 WHEREAS, the land withdrawn is described as:

13 T26N R05W Section 06, SWSW and T26N R05W Section 07 N1/4 of the NWNW,
14 Town of Bridge Creek, Eau Claire County. This parcel (hence forth known as (Troubled
15 Waters) is surrounded by county forest; and

16 WHEREAS, unless the land is withdrawn any dredge deposits can only be used for
17 public works purposes; and

18 WHEREAS, withdrawal will allow the district to enter into an agreement to use the
19 dredge spoils as reclamation material; and

20 WHEREAS, the thirty-six acre (more or less) "troubled waters" site will allow continued
21 use for future dredge spoils for approximately 25 years; and

22 WHEREAS, any proceeds gained from the sale of forest products or spoils shall be
23 deposited into the non-lapsing Forest Land Acquisition account.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Eau Claire County Board of
25 Supervisors that it hereby approves withdrawal of the "troubled waters" parcel consisting of
26 approximately 36 acres (more or less) from the county forest law.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parks & Forest Director is hereby directed to
28 make application to the Department of Natural Resources for withdrawal of said county land
29 from the County Forest Law.

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36 Committee on Parks & Forest

37 KRZ/yk

38 Dated this _____ day of _____, 2017.

4 - SUPPORT FOR REINSTATING THE FORESTATION STATE TAX-

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6 WHEREAS, the Forestation State Tax (mill tax) was enacted in the 1930's for the purpose of
7 acquiring, preserving and developing the forests of the state and has served as a segregated funding
8 source for the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and for grants and assistance to
9 county forests and other programs that support, enhance and protect forest management, forest health
10 and the timber industry; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Mill Tax has served to support the state's \$24 billion forest products
13 industry and helped support the state's \$20 billion tourism industry; and

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15 WHEREAS, the 2017-2019 Wisconsin State Budget proposal includes a provision to
16 eliminate the Mill Tax and replace this forestry funding source with state General Purpose Revenues;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, it will likely be difficult to fully fund necessary forestry programs in the
20 future when competing against transportation, education, health care, and other programs for
21 limited General Purpose Revenue funds.

22
23 WHEREAS, a stable source of funding is necessary for maintaining our public lands in
24 Wisconsin; and

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26 WHEREAS, an adequate fire program is critical for protecting Wisconsin's forests; and

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28 WHEREAS, the forestry account funds a significant portion of Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson
29 Stewardship Program debt; and

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31 WHEREAS, the forestry account funds a significant portion of Wisconsin's Payment In
32 Lieu of Tax on state owned lands purchased under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program;
33 and

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35 WHEREAS, Wisconsin County Forests have relied on forestry funding to meet the state's
36 statutory obligation to "compensate counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these
37 lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which
38 such lands lie."

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40 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors
41 supports reinstating the Forestation State Tax but at a level more appropriate to funding Wisconsin's
42 core forestry services as identified in Wis. Stat. § 70.58 (1).
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors would
2 support alternatives to the mill tax that are a segregated, permanent revenue source to help fund
3 Wisconsin's vitally important forestry and timber industries and directs the county clerk to forward
4 this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County and
5 the Wisconsin Counties Association.
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16 Committee on Parks and Forest Committee

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20 KRZ/yk Dated this ____ day of _____, 2017.

ORDINANC/17-18/011