

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center (2nd floor meeting room)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Bert Moritz, Tami Schraufnagel, and Kevin Stelljes

OTHERS PRESENT: Jed Kaurich, WDNR Forester; Laura and Jay Plummer, Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association and Chippewa Valley Trail Runners; Dustin Walters, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department; Kurt and Kris Grimm, Chad Bergman, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association; Chuck Wendt and Larry Barsamian, sportsmen.

STAFF PRESENT: Josh Pedersen, Jody Gindt, Jake Tumm and Bobbi Barone

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chair Stelljes at 5:30 p.m.
2. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
3. Approval of minutes from April 26, 2018 meeting – Tami moved to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2018 meeting; Pat LaVelle said a correction was needed to the minutes as he declined the nomination of chair and the vote on Stelljes for Chair was 4-1 with Gibson voting Nay. Tami moved to approve minutes as amended; motion carried.
4. Public Input – No members of the public were present for this item.

Chair Stelljes asked permission to alter the agenda with the committee; no objections.

7. Request to place a Memorial Bench at Lowes Creek Park – Jay and Laura Plummer were present as representatives of the Chippewa Valley Trailrunners (CVTR). Funds were raised by the CVTR to place a bench to memorialize Thomas Draz who recently passed away. He was an accomplished athlete who donated all his race prizes to international organizations. Pat moved to approve the request and Gary seconded the motion stating he supports honoring people like Thomas Draz who make a difference. The bench is Parks & Forest approved. Motion carried.
9. ATV/UTV Trail Regulations – Josh stated he was contacted by Cathy Burrows from the State of Wisconsin in answer to his questions. Not all were answered but the main question she answered was that the ATV/UTV Trails are grandfathered in and can allow all vehicles but will be paid at the rate of \$700 per mile and not \$800 if other vehicles are prohibited from the trail. She also said rehabilitation grant funds would still be available. Gary said he felt Channey, Whitetail and River Trails should be grandfathered as it has been this way for a while. This will require a code change to reflect the trail status and also require signage informing users it is a multi-use trail. Josh said during winter months only snowmobiles and ATVs are allowed and all other vehicles are prohibited. Once a legal opinion is received from the state, the

committee will meet as soon as practical to try to resolve the issue and present an ordinance to the County Board.

6. Timber Sales – Jed passed out a map of Tract 4-18. Jake went over the timber volume being offered and answered Kevin’s questions on the maps. Gary moved to approve timber sales; motion carried.
10. Special Use Area policy recommendations – Staff was directed to draft a final ordinance to cover Group Camp. It was suggested to the committee to include recent changes in special event policy. An ordinance will be drafted and sent back to the committee for approval.
11. Review recreation pass policy for group homes, day care centers, etc. – After discussion, the committee left the policy as is currently.
15. Future committee meeting dates – The committee agreed to meet once a month. Pat said he would want the meetings prior to monthly County Board meeting. After discussion of members availability, it was agreed to meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 5 p.m. The next meeting will be June 11 with the timber sale bid opening being held June 8th.
13. Timber Sale Report – Bobbi passed out copies of timber sale activity for April.
8. Potential County Forest Land Acquisition – Gary was opposed to looking at many properties and wanted information such as aerial photos prior to deciding on which properties to tour. This item will be brought back to another committee meeting for discussion.
12. Director’s Report – No report.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone
Committee Clerk

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