

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• **Committee On Parks & Forest** •

Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Webex Events

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code:

**please remain muted when not speaking*

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Ali Moe at ali.moe@co.eau-claire.wi.us at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Roll Call
3. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes - **Discussion/Action**
 - a. April 13, 2020
4. Public Comment
5. Election of Committee Officers
 - a. Parks & Forest Committee Chair – **Discussion/Action**
 - b. Parks & Forest Committee Vice Chair – **Discussion/Action**
 - c. Appointment of Clerk – **Discussion/Action**
6. Approval of Timber Bids – **Discussion/Action**
7. CORBA's Request for Temporary Storage Unit on Lowe's Creek/Expo Center Grounds – **Discussion/Action**
8. Eau Claire Youth Cycling Proposal for Storage Trailer on Expo Center Grounds – **Discussion/Action**
9. Expo Center Event Season 2020 – **Discussion/Action**
10. Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association letter of request – **Discussion/Action**
11. Eau Claire County Forest CDAC Resolution – **Discussion/Action**
12. Discussion of 2 Year Goals

Prepared by: Ali Moe, Parks & Forest

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals 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) 8391669 or (TDD) 8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

13. Director's Report

14. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Meeting – June 8, 2020 at 5 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Prepared by: Ali Moe, Parks & Forest

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MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• **Committee On Parks & Forest** •

Monday, April 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Webex Events

Members Present: Gary Gibson, Pat LaVelle, Bert Moritz, Tami Schraufnagel, Kevin Stelljes

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Jake Tumm – Forester, Ali Moe – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – DNR Liaison

Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 16, 2020 meeting. Moritz motions to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor, minutes were approved 5-0.

No members of the public were present.

Jake Tumm briefly discussed the current status of the timber markets and introduced each timber tract for sale. Lavelle moved to approve the spring timber sales as presented. The sales received a unanimous approval, 5-0.

Director Pedersen provided information on the amendment of Ordinance 20-21/012 regarding Public Health Emergency refunds for Eau Claire County reservable facilities. Schraufnagel moved to approve the Ordinance change, 5-0, to allow full refunds for any canceled events at the time the Public Health Declaration is in place.

Pedersen provided a general update on the increased volume of inquiries regarding vehicle entrance fees being waived during the Public Health Declaration. Upon further review and discussion with the Committee, no action was taken at this time to waive the County Park entrance fees.

Gibson addressed concerns regarding the deer population in the County Forest and harvest quotas. Jake Tumm and Kyle Johnson provided concerns on the correlation between densely populated areas of deer in the forest and the struggle to regenerate the timber crop, specifically oak. Higher deer quotas in heavily dense areas of the forest would allow for successful crop regeneration in the future. Action: Draft a resolution favoring higher annual deer quotas to boost the restoration of mature timber in the forest and use as an objection in the 15 year plan.

Pedersen provided the committee with a department wide update on the outlook of the upcoming park season. The department is currently on a hiring freeze, and expect revenue loss due to the Declaration.

The Lake Eau Claire dam project is in the final stages of prep with Dorner, and the actuators are about ready to be installed.

The Tower Ridge Skills Park is moving along with the tree and stump work finished for the most part. Hauling sand into the area is expected to start soon.

The next meeting date was set for May 11th at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ali Moe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest



Executive Committee:

Bruce "Sparky" Enstrom President Menominee, MI	Matt Jensen WI Vice President Crandon, WI	Dave Slater MI Vice President Gwinn, MI	Troy Brown Secretary/Treasurer Antigo, WI	Guy Longhini Member at Large Toivola, MI	Mark Huempfer Member at Large Wausaukee, WI	Max Ericson Past President Minong, WI	Henry Schienebeck Executive Director Rhineland, WI
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April 14, 2020

Board of Directors:

Jeff Bean
Arpin, WI

Scott Bowe
Madison, WI

Aaron Burmeister
Seymour, WI

Mike Elenz
Kingsford, MI

Kevin Haustein
Bessemer, MI

Dave Johnson
Quinnesec, MI

Scott Koerner
Oshkosh, WI

Tim Lee
Mellen, WI

Larry Lloyd
Homewood, IL

Rebekah Luedtke
Rhineland, WI

Todd Penrose
Ishpeming, MI

Todd Pond
Tomahawk, WI

Todd Shamion
Crystal Falls, MI

Jordan St. John
Spalding, MI

Tony Siverling
Eau Claire, WI

Mike Sturgill
Onaway, MI

Allan Suzan
Ojibwa, WI

DJ Zellar
Germfask, MI

Dear Ms. Luedke,

Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) greatly appreciates the efforts of Wisconsin's County Forest professionals to keep timber sales operating in this time of uncertainty.

As you are aware, the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak is causing widespread disruption in the economy, wood products are no exception to this. While we do not yet know how long this outbreak will last and should there be considerable disruption in wood flow, GLTPA respectfully requests that WCFA member counties consider taking steps wherever possible to ensure that purchasers of county timber remain viable during this pandemic. There are several areas over which none of us have control however, there are some opportunities which can be of value in helping recovery begin much faster once this pandemic is under control.

With that in mind GLTPA is asking WCFA member counties to consider taking the following actions to assist GLTPA member companies and the forest products industry as they manage this disruption.

First, provide timber sale contract holders with a no cost one-year extension on all county timber sales due to expire between now and the end of 2020.

To the extent practicable, release deposits and bonds within 20 working days of timber sale completion allowing purchasers to retain and conserve cash for future operations.

It is also critical that county forest personnel continue preparing and advertising new timber sales. Current conditions will undoubtedly have a long-term impact on wood consuming markets. In order to shorten the length of this negative impact, GLTPA is asking that counties consider eliminating minimum bid requirements or having an overall sale minimum as opposed to tree species or product specific minimums. This will allow market conditions to utilize raw fiber value as a means of helping loggers and industry recover more rapidly once this pandemic is stabilized.

Finally, GLTPA is asking that consideration be given to reducing bid bonds and performance bonds to 5%. Doing so will allow contractors to have additional credit lines and cash available for business operations in these uncertain times.

GLTPA believes taking these suggested steps will help ensure that timber purchasers remain viable by not having to comply with contract provisions which no longer align with current market realities. Hopefully WCFA members agree retaining viable forest management capacity is critical to reducing the risk of large-scale fires, insect outbreaks on Wisconsin's forests, and maintaining the health of our rural economies.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director

Bruce "Sparky" Enstrom, GLTPA President

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) is a non-profit organization representing loggers, truckers, sawmills, paper manufacturers, private and commercial forest landowners, forestry professionals, school districts and outdoor recreation enthusiasts in Michigan and Wisconsin. GLTPA's mission is to "Protect a Multiple-Use Forest for Future Generations".

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3 ENCOURAGING THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY DEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
4 ESTABLISH HARVEST QUOTAS AND POPULATION LEVELS THAT PROMOTE
5 FOREST HEALTH AND DIVERSITY, SUSTAIN FOREST REGENERATION, AND SLOW
6 THE SPREAD OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) ON THE PUBLIC LANDS
7 WITHIN THE CENTRAL FOREST DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT OF EAU CLAIRE
8 COUNTY
9

10 WHEREAS, the Central Forest Deer Management Unit in Eau Claire County is made up
11 of over 50% public land, with approximately 47,500 acres owned by Eau Claire County and
12 managed as a forest ecosystem. This area represents approximately 93% of the public lands in
13 the Central Forest Management Unit within Eau Claire County; and
14

15 WHEREAS, healthy forests depend on forest diversity and deer are selectively reducing
16 this diversity; and
17

18 WHEREAS, high deer populations are currently preventing the forest from regenerating,
19 negatively impacting future yields and forest benefits; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the County receives approximately \$1,000,000 annually in direct income
22 from the sale of timber; and
23

24 WHEREAS, an annual harvest goal of 125 antlerless deer is not adequately controlling
25 the deer population; and
26

27 WHEREAS, restricted deer harvests do not provide adequate samples to test for Chronic
28 Wasting Disease (CWD); and
29

30 WHEREAS, high deer populations promote increased deer to deer contact possibly
31 increasing the spread of CWD.
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33 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of
34 Supervisors support the County Deer Advisory Committee establishment of harvest goals that
35 promote forest health, encourage forest regeneration, provide adequate samples size to test for
36 CWD, and populations that prevent the spread of CWD within the public lands of the Central
37 Forest Deer Management Unit.
38

39 ADOPTED:
40

41 I certify that the foregoing correctly represents
42 represents
43 the action taken by the undersigned committee
44 commission
45 on May 11, 2020 by a vote of _____ for,
46 _____ against.
47
48
49

I certify that the foregoing correctly
represents
the action taken by the undersigned
on May 18, 2020 by a vote of _____ for,
_____ against.

50 Kevin Stelljes, Chair
51 Committee on Parks & Forest

_____, Chair
Land Conservation Commission

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