

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• Committee On Parks & Forest •

Monday, January 11, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code 145 977 6142

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Winnie Parker at Winnie.Parker@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. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. December 14, 2020
5. Public usage of Tower Ridge Chalet for 2021 winter season - **Discussion/Action**
6. Free ski nights at Tower Ridge for 2021 winter season (request of Jan 24 and Feb 7) - **Discussion/Action**
7. County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15-year plan) chapters review - **Discussion/Action** [Link to chapters 100-400](#)
8. 2020 Timber Revenue Report – **Discussion Only**
9. 2021 Work Plan review - **Discussion/Action**
10. Director’s Report
11. Committee Updates
12. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Meeting – February 8, 2021 at 5 p.m.

13. Adjourn

Prepared by Winnie Parker, 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.

MINUTES
Eau Claire County
Committee on Parks and Forest
Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Present: Joe Knight, Kevin Stelljes, Tami Schraufnagel, Missy Christopherson, Gary Gibson

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Acting Committee Clerk, Winnie Parker – Committee Clerk, Josh Pedersen, Jacob Tumm, Alyssa Sickler (health department), Ryan Lowry, Kyle Johnson, Jody Gindt, Chris Gorzek (Kickin Kids), Erika Gullerud

Public: Dane Zook – County Board Supervisor

Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

Verbal roll call was taken by the acting committee clerk and is noted above under present.

The following public comments were submitted to the committee prior to the start of the meeting:

- Dave Cutsforth in full support of the proposed designation of a wayside trailhead at the north end of Riverview road.
- Tom and Kelly Hanson in full support of the wayside.

Supervisor Knight provided two amendments to the minutes in paragraph “Supervisor Christopherson.... All in favor, none approved” approved changed to opposed and in the paragraph beginning with “Dale Zank” after motion by Supervisor Schraufnagel, remove the duplicated word motion. Supervisor Knight motioned to approve the minutes as amended. No further discussion. All were in favor, minutes approved as amended.

Ryan Lowry, Eau Claire Warden introduced himself to the committee.

Jacob Tumm provided information on timber bids. 9 sold and 5 were unsold. 11 logger bids (around average.) Total value on the 9 sold was approximately \$530,000.00. Josh Pedersen provided an overview of sales on screen for the committee to review. Motion by Supervisor Christopherson, also authorizing the staff to sell unsold timber at advertised value. Roll call vote was taken (5 yes, 0 no), timber sales were approved.

The committee discussed ordinance 20-21/091: Designation of Riverview Road Wayside. Chair Stelljes provided background information and further details for the proposed ordinance. Motion by Supervisor Stelljes to approve. The committee discussed the ordinance. Roll call vote was taken (5 yes, 0 no.)

Chris Gorzek gave a presentation on the Kickin Kids program. Ali Sickler from the Health Department was in attendance to provide further information as requested. The committee discussed the request. Supervisor Stelljes motions to close the main chalet for the entire ski season (until further notice), leaving restroom open and bring in additional portable toilets. Verbal roll call vote was taken (3 yes (Stelljes, Christopherson, Schraufnagel) and 2 no (Knight, Gibson.))

Chair Stelljes motions to approve the request from Kickin Kids to hold the meeting while having all guidelines in place as described to the committee. Supervisor Stelljes motions that the Eau Claire Parks & Forest Department will support activities of the Striders and Kickin Kids based on outbreaks of the coronavirus and work closely with the Health Department and if numbers are realistic (in the yellow phase (5%-10% positivity) as designated by the City-County Health Department) the events can proceed provided the start January 15 or later and has a designated health monitor (a non-coach). Verbal roll call was taken (5 yes, 0 no.) motion passes.

The committee discussed Resolution 20-21/093: Adopting 2021 Annual Work Plan and County Forest Administrator grant application. Josh Pedersen provided information on the resolution. Supervisor Christopherson amends the resolution to include the Eau Claire County Fair and Expo Center under the administrative objectives. Motion by Supervisor Knight to approve the resolution. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

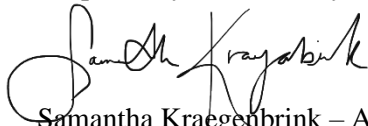
Josh Pedersen offered to print and provide a paper copy of the 2021-2036 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Review Draft Chapters 100-400. The committee will discuss the plan at the next regular meeting.

Agenda for the next meeting:

- 2021-2036 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Review Draft Chapter

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Kraegenbrink". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Acting Committee Clerk

From: [Josh Pedersen](mailto:Josh.Pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us)
To: [Winnie Parker](mailto:Winnie.Parker@co.eau-claire.wi.us)
Subject: FW: Free Tower Ridge Days
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:11:19 AM

From: Bob Schwartz <bob@bobschwartz.us>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Josh Pedersen <Josh.Pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us>
Subject: RE: Free Tower Ridge Days

WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.

Hi Josh, yes, we'd like to request some Open House days. Put us down for Sun Jan 24th and Sun Feb 7th.

If you need me to appear virtually let me know. What we're looking for are a couple of target dates to arrange for adult ski lessons. This year especially it feels like a coin flip whether the snow will cooperate. But that's what we're hoping for.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Free Tower Ridge Days
From: Josh Pedersen <Josh.Pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us>
Date: Wed, December 23, 2020 8:40 am
To: Bob Schwartz <bob@bobschwartz.us>

Bob,

Those are usually approved with the kickin kids nights I think. We just spoke about that last meeting, but did not really touch on the free nights. So, for right now, I would say that we do not have any official free nights set up. This could be something we could add to the agenda for our January meeting though. Is this something you would like for me to request as an agenda item?

Thanks,
Josh

From: Bob Schwartz <bob@bobschwartz.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Josh Pedersen <Josh.Pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us>
Subject: Free Tower Ridge Days

WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.

Hi Josh,

Is the county planning any free parking days at Tower Ridge this year. We're coordinating adult ski lessons and that's the starting point.

Thanks,

Bob

This communication constitutes an electronic communication within the meaning of the Electronic Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510 and its disclosure is strictly limited to the recipient intended by the sender of this message. This communication is confidential and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient does not constitute waiver or loss of the confidential or privileged nature of the communication. If the person receiving this message is not the intended recipient or you have received this message in error, any review, publication, copying or other distribution of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately at the email address above, return the original message to me by mail, destroy any copies you may have made and delete the communication from any computer and/or storage media. Thank you for your cooperation.

2021 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARKS AND FOREST DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN

I. ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECTIVES

(Accomplished primarily by director, supervisor, and administrative specialist)

A. ITEMS:

- Create county forest comprehensive land use plan for 2021-2035
- Create Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2021-2025
- Continue implementation of reforestation plan for the county forest
- Continue department Facebook page for interacting with the public
- Establish date, advertise, and coordinate free ski day at Tower Ridge Recreation Area with Ski Striders
- Coordinate June 5-6 "Open House" free access, National Trails Day in parks (first Saturday in June annually),
- Maintenance agreement with Ski Striders for Tower Ridge Recreation Area chalet
- Contact Boy Scouts or other group to consider involvement with camping development/Adopt-A-Park agreement for L.L. Phillips Park
- Utilize UWEC and CVTC student interns/Service-Learning students on various projects (including park surveys, tallying, etc.)
- Coordinate volunteer efforts including Adopt-A-Park projects: Coon Fork and Harstad with Augusta Area Schools students; Lowes Creek Park with area scouting groups and Lowes Creek trails with CORBA; Big Falls Park with UW-EC student organizations; Lake Altoona Park with Ski Sprites; Tower Ridge with Ski Striders, Chippewa Valley Disc Golf Organization and Chippewa Valley Trailriders; secure adopt-a-park group for Lake Eau Claire Park; Guettinger Woods & Wildlife Area with The Adventurers 4-H Club; and the Augusta ATV Club for ATV trails, including litter pick up and minor maintenance.
- Facilitate and support usage of Expo Center grounds by Eau Claire County Fair and Curling Club.
- Promote use of Guettinger Woods hiking/snowshoe trails through The Adventurers 4-H Club
- Attend WPRA and WCFA meetings as necessary
- By January 31 forward 2021 work plan and director's wages and fringe benefit costs to DNR to be eligible for forest administration grant
- By April 15 make annual application to DNR for ATV and snowmobile trails maintenance and development
- By May 1 apply to DNR for cost sharing any qualifying park development projects (Stewardship funds)
- By December 15 apply to DNR for County Conservation Aids
- Monitor and report to committee on tenth year for free skiing at Tower Ridge on Monday nights in January and February 2021 for continuation
- Spot check CVDGO disc golf tournaments at Tower Ridge to assure all vendors are paying fees to county
- Assess/initiate opportunities for energy conservation and reducing costs relating to electricity use, vehicle use, heating, cooling, and other energy uses at all locations and operations
- Review old files and put them in compliance with County Code regarding record retention

B. ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS (for Director and Administrative Specialist positions):

Administration of recreation area entrance fees including sales, receipting revenues, compliance checks, issuance and handling of violation notices, notice to Sheriff's Dept. for suspension of vehicle registration for unpaid fines; purchase equipment/supplies per budget (writing specifications, pricing, bidding); drafting and sending of news releases; spring and fall timber sales and fall firewood brochures and advertisements; contracted service bids/quotes for garbage pickup, campground firewood, septic pumping, ice vending; timber stand improvement work; recruit for seasonal positions; encourage park attendants to get hepatitis B shots from Health Department; timber sales record keeping, extensions, marketing, supervision; schedule and conduct quarterly staff meetings; coordination of staff training opportunities; apply for and process reimbursement claims for state/federal funding including park development, snowmobile trails maintenance (#S-5481/\$54,360), ATV/UTV trails maintenance (#ATV-4207-summer/\$19,630.70; #ATV-4247-winter/\$2,051; #ATV-4272T-troutes/\$816.72); and County Conservation Aids (#CC20-18WM/\$2,723) Tower Ridge Maintenance Recreation Trails (RTP-972-19D/\$24,890); and Tower Ridge Skills Park Development (RTP-954-19M/\$43,500) conduct summer park user surveys at Coon Fork, Lake Altoona, and Lake Eau Claire parks; develop 2022- budget and work plan; recruit for Advisory Committee members (April); tally camping statistics and park user surveys (November); land acquisition contacts and negotiations as directed by Committee on Parks & Forest; consider alternative ATV route in Fairchild to try to get out from payment to Union Pacific Railroad for ATV trail lease (November); coordinate random drug testing for employees; update ski and snowmobile trail conditions on phone message, Facebook and Travel Wisconsin website regularly; train staff regarding locations of survey markers near county forest roads to ensure monuments are not disturbed when doing road maintenance or other projects on the forest.

C. CONTRACTUAL ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED/BID/NEGOTIATED/AGREED WITH OTHER PARTIES:

- Firewood from processor for resale at campgrounds
- Blacktop sweeping/bridge inspections/snow plowing by Highway Department (as needed)
- Refuse and recyclable collection at parks
- Rental of portable toilet at Lake Altoona Park (April 1 – May 15 and October 15 – November 15)
- Ice vending machine at Coon Fork
- Pumping of vault/pit toilets and septic tanks
- Fire extinguisher checks
- Asphalt sealing for various parking lots
- Nature Programs at Coon Fork Park by Beaver Creek Reserve staff and volunteers
- Plant seedlings in prepared sites
- Timber stand improvement tracts
- Gravel overlays for forest roads
- Parks and Forest equipment and vehicles
- Rental of Portable toilets from (May 1st – September 15th)

II. FIELD STAFF WORK PLAN

(Maintenance technicians, forester, park rangers, seasonal laborers, and park attendants)

A. ONGOING TASKS:

Remove hazard trees in all parks and intensive recreation areas and grind or pull stumps as needed; vehicle/equipment/building maintenance and repair; timber sales establishment, compliance checks, monitoring, scaling of forest products, forest reconnaissance updating; brush and maintain signs; forest regeneration planning/implementation; park supervision & maintenance; groom ski trails; maintenance of all recreation trails; culvert installations; grading and snowplowing 18 miles of forest roads, winter recreation parking areas including Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area, Coon Fork, Tower Ridge, Evergreen, and Lowes Creek.

B. Parks General:

- Refurbish picnic tables and upright grills
- Install replacement shop door
- Maintain deposit boxes as needed
- Canoe landing improvements for Highway D access
- Treat park and other intensive use areas for poison ivy including canoe landings
- Grass seed bare spots
- Grind stumps as needed
- Seasonally open/close building water lines
- Repair and maintain ATV and snowmobile trail signs including ATV junctions
- Replace signposts as needed
- Fertilize turf areas
- Seasonally install/remove swim buoys and boat docks
- Replace seals and gaskets on hand pumps as needed
- Utilize Huber Program and Community Service Program as much as possible on maintenance projects
- Repaint park entrance and other signs as needed; re-establish/sign park boundaries
- Add wood chips as needed to playground areas
- Maintenance at all boat landings, including sweeping sand and gravel from ramps, putting rubber bumper guards around docks, and filling in potholes with gravel or blacktop and parking lot striping.

C. Big Falls Park

- Pruning along north and south entrance trails as needed

D. Coon Fork Park/Dam:

- Add base course and level campsite pads as needed
- Printing of reservation forms, handouts, revenue records, rental agreements, etc.
- Special attention to maintaining Judge Peplau memorial plantings
- Raise fire rings in campsites to avoid “flooding of fire rings” as needed
- Prune branches along campground roads

- Develop canoe access below dam and develop take out and access off NE spur of Shepherd's Crook
 - Plant trees in D Loop
 - Provide dock on south boat landing
 - Add gravel to main parking lot to prevent ponding and flooding of office area
 - Assess playground structures in campground area for improvement or replacement
- E. Harstad Park:
- Replace traffic signs as needed
 - Level and repair campsite pads with base course as necessary
 - Assess large shelter in day use area for improvement or replacement
- F. Lake Altoona Park/Dam:
- Installation of new septic system -beach restrooms
 - Replace 1 picnic grill
 - Replace bathroom partitions
 - Continue water, septic, and utility studies for park improvements
 - Repair beach parking lot potholes as needed
 - Concrete ADA picnic areas, sidewalks as needed
 - Replace timbers around playground areas as needed
 - Lime beach to reduce bacteria levels as needed
 - Replenish beach sand as needed
 - Test the Emergency Action Plan for Lake Altoona Dam
 - Plan for beach parking lot replacement
 - Repaint change house
 - Prune existing park trees
- G. Lake Eau Claire Park/Dam:
- Replace turf, trees, topsoil, under oak wilt areas
 - Repair boat landings with Highway excavator/or rent other for department use
 - Swing set improvements and replacement items as needed
 - Repaint interior/exterior of two toilets
 - Brush canoe portage
 - Test the Emergency Action Plan for Lake Eau Claire Dam
 - Removal of oak wilt trees and landscaping stump holes as needed.
 - Sidewalk repairs
- H. L.L. Phillips Park:
- Plan replacement shelter building construction
- I. Lowes Creek Park:
- Mow trails for WORS "Firecracker" bike race within two weeks prior to race
 - Repair/replace signs, posts, picnic tables, and shelter boards as needed
 - Re-treat invasive species with herbicide utilizing WISCORPS
 - Winter/Summer Recreational Trail maintenance and grooming
- J. County Forest Area:
- Controlled burn on Black Creek
 - Install canoe landing at Highway D with Highway Department assistance
 - GIS recon updates
 - Purchase and install culverts as needed
 - Pick up dump sites on county forest as discovered/reported
 - Survey for Karner Blue Butterflies prior to any development in county forest areas
 - Maintain the forest access plan, reberm and repair gates as needed, install control measures immediately after completion of timber sales on new timber access trails
 - Spray poison ivy areas as needed
 - Brush around information signs on the forest
 - Relocation of canoe landing further downstream on Eau Claire River at Eisberner Memorial; add chips for access downbank
 - Install signs at Coon Fork and Southfork Barrens (if signage is approved by DNR)

- Install signs at the Hathaway, Horse Creek and Wilson Wilderness Areas
- Maintain rock ford crossing on ATV and forest access trails
- 20 hours assistance from DNR dozer
- Oak scarification of 80 acres of oak sites
- Assistance from DNR Wildlife management on various projects as time allows
- Brushing of trails and parking lots to maintain public access
- 25 acres of oak TSI
- Prescribed forest burn on oak on Black Creek Forest Road
- Site Prep and plant 25 acres of red pine
- Aerial seed 39 acres of jack pine
- Review for sale approximately 1,096 of timber (annual allowable cut) in the following timber types:

2020 Schedule of Harvest Treatments		
Forest Cover Type Offered For Sale	Total Acreage on The County Forest	Establishment Acres
Aspen	8,812	234
Red Maple	2,649	54
Oak	16,464	461
Red Pine	3,946	162
Jack Pine	4,296	56
White Pine	5,075	125
Bottomland/Central Hardwood	2,718	4
Non-Forested/Not scheduled for management	8,710	0
Total Eau Claire County Forest Land	52,670	1,096

- Develop a kiosk at horseback trailhead on CTH "G"
- Brush and mow Pea Creek Flowage dike

K. Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area:

- Coordinate with educational institutions for inventorying of various biological species and soil types
- Work with Adventurers 4-H Club on adoption of area

L. Shop Area:

- Refurbish county forest and park signs
- Construct educational signs on forest management practices
- Clean up garbage and recycle tires and scrap iron

M. County Forest Roads (18 miles):

- Monitor improvement needs and document grading and repairs to the county forest roads per certification requirements
- Grade and sand/salt to qualify for state aid
- Construct small parking areas along county forest roads
- Gravel roads and replace culverts
- Replace signs as needed
- GIS inventory of all culverts and sizes on all forest roads and recreational trails

N. Wildlife Projects:

- Mow all/part of 36 acres of wildlife trails and openings with 4x4 tractor/disc & drag
- Seed and gate/berm closed logging access trails and fertilize seeded areas
- Karner Blue Butterfly inventory and monitoring
- Beaver control in problem areas

O. Tower Ridge Recreation Area:

- Install “glass prohibited” signs at Trailheads
- Install erosion control measures on hills
- Sign for no disc golf tournaments allowed without prior county approval, include county contact information
- Maintain maintenance agreement with Ski Striders Cross-Country Ski Club
- Plant seedlings along recreation trails with donated funds and volunteers
- Continue removing the trail edge stumps east of the lighted trail
- Winter/Summer Recreational Trail maintenance and grooming

P. Public Outlots:

- Acquired through Federal Floodplain buyout – designate county boundaries, especially on Porterville Road and sign county land to prohibit vehicles and dumping
- Work with Rock Falls Sportsman’s Club for club to do maintenance of Porterville Road Chippewa River Access