

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, January 11, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

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

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Erika Gullarud – Fiscal Associate, Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator, Bob Schwartz – (Kickin Kids)

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Chair Selljes called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

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

No members of the public were present.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting. Supervisor Christopherson moved to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes passed unanimously.

The committee discussed the 2021 public use of Tower Ridge during the winter season. There was deliberation on the merits of renting port-a-potty units, limiting the use of the chalet to only the vestibule to be able to access the bathroom facilities, limiting the number of individuals in the bathrooms at any given time, adding hand sanitizer to the vestibule, posting additional signs, and closing the drinking fountain. Supervisor Christopherson motioned to close the chalet, except for the vestibule to allow for restroom use, only allowing one person to use the restroom at a time except permitting an immediate family to assisting those in need of help, add signage requiring mask in all county buildings and following all recommended guidelines current with the CDC and county standards. A roll call vote was taken (5 in favor, and 0 opposed).

Bob Schwartz presented a request for two free days of skiing. Kickin Kids would provide volunteers to give lessons for adults on January 31, and February 7, 2021, between the hours of 1-4 p.m. The committee discussed how it was a good idea to encourage adults and older children to participate in skiing, how historically, when there was the regular entrance fee of \$6, individuals would park on the road, and equipment rentals are difficult to come by during this time of year. Supervisor Schraufnagel moved to have two free ski days January 31, and February 7, 2021, weather and conditions permitting, whereby Kickin Kids would provide volunteers to give lessons from 1-4 p.m., using all Covid restriction recommended by the CDC and the county, requiring the instructors to wear a buff and participants required to wear face mask recommended for proper protection (knit wear which does not allow sufficient protection) and for Josh and Winnie to work with Bob to facilitate the event. All in favor, non-opposed.

In the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15-year plan) it was suggested that some structural and grammatical corrections were needed, and the committee could drop off their

comments in the lobby of the Parks and Forest office. Josh Pedersen posted the completed chapters to the Augusta Times, Leader Telegram, Face Book, and on the county's website to allow for public comments. Public participation has been minimal. Furthermore, six more chapters have been posted to the county website. Josh Pedersen plans to complete the final two chapters by the end of January to be available for the next committee meeting. The committee requested paper copies of the latest chapters to be mailed to each member. Finally, because the 15-year plan calls on the advisory committee to take a significant roll in reviewing the plan, the advisory committee will be contacted to reconvene. Josh Pedersen gave an update on the 15-year plan.

The committee reviewed the 2020 Timber Revenue Report. Timber sale revenue, after all the accounts have been reconciled for 2020, to be just a little under budget from the original budgeted target amount of 1.060,000 million. The 2021 year has started out with lots of timber cuttings taking place.

Further discussion was made regarding the 2021 Work Plan which was approved during the last committee meeting. Chair Stelljes commented on Lake Eau Claire Handicapped boat landing project and how to utilize the Huber Program for future projects. Josh Pedersen and Jody Gindt are planning to refresh the plantings in the garden area around the sign and bench named after Judge Peplau. It was mentioned that Josh should take more credit for improving the horse trails, and for mowing and making the Expo Center ready for the fair. Additional discussion was made regarding priorities going forward and it was decided to add these priorities as a topic of discussion for another meeting (things like upgrading the restroom partitions, a temporary fix, vs building a new restroom and upgrade the septic system).

Josh Pedersen read, in his Director's Report, a heartfelt letter from Roger King of the Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association (CVGDA) thanking the Parks and Forest Department and the committee for the continued support of their organization. CVGDA has donated \$1,000 for road improvements on Channey Road and Canoe Landing Road. Over the last few years, the Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association has donated over \$4,500.

Committee Updates: Josh has been directed to follow up on the draft for the long-term agreement with the fair which is currently being reviewed by our legal counsel. Chair Stelljes will forward a guide on climate change for Wisconsin forest to all members for their information. Chair Stelljes will send a card to the family of former member Bruce Willett on behalf of the committee extending their condolences.

The next meeting date was set for February 8, 2001, at 5:00 PM virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker  
Committee Clerk  
Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest