

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks & Forest •

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Members: Kevin Stelljes, Joe Knight, Missy Christopherson, Gary Gibson

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Jacob Tumm – EC County Forester, Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Greg Leonard – Land Conservation Manager, Rod Eslinger – Planning and Development Director, Matt Michels – Senior Planner, Regan Watts – Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator

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Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 5 pm 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 May 10, 2021, meeting. Supervisor Knight moved to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes passed unanimously.

**Carbon Credits** – The Committee discussed and reacted to the April 12, 2021, presentation by Forest Gibeault of Steigerwaldt Land Services on Carbon Credits. Given the county's carbon neutral goals, more information is needed to assess appropriately whether this program fits with these goals. The workload on staff up front is an issue, but this opportunity should still be considered. A cost/benefit analysis should be conducted as the value of credits may outweigh the cost involved. It may be beneficial to hire someone to do the field studies. Knight motioned to have Director Josh Pedersen proceed with an inventory of the county forest not to exceed \$7,000.50. All in favor, none opposed.

**Stewardship Parcels** – Director Josh Pedersen presented three (3) parcels for acquisition. See attachment.

*Parcel #1 Mine Site* – This parcel has great potential due to its size, river frontage on both sides of the river, and may fit in with the county's carbon neutral goals.

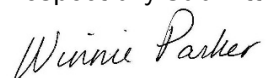
*Parcel #2 North Center Road* – The Black Creek snakes through this property, and it is connected to existing county forest land near Coon Fork.

*Parcel #3 Black Creek* – This parcel has the greatest potential to harvest timber and the Black Creek also runs through it. The Committee should consider these and any occasion to acquire land when the opportunity presents itself. It was decided to charter a sub-committee of interested parties to go out and start a discussion with property owners without making a commitment. A stewardship meeting should convene as soon as possible to discuss the county's options.

The next meeting date was set for June 14, 2021, at 5:00 pm virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker

Committee Clerk

Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest