

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, October 11, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members: Kevin Stelljes, Joe Knight, Missy Christopherson, Gary Gibson, Tami Schraufnagel  
Ex Officio Member: Nick Smiar

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Jacob Tumm – EC County Forester, Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Kathryn Schauf – County Administrator, Debbie Kitchen – Eau Claire County Fair Representative, Letecia Papke – Eau Claire County Fair Representative

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Chair Selljes called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 September 13, 2021, meeting. Supervisor Christopherson moved to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes passed unanimously.

Debbie Kitchen and Letecia Papke made a request to put a storage shed on the premises to use not only as storage but as an office for the 4-H Fair as well because they have outgrown the space provided. After some discussion, it was decided that Josh and Debbie would explore all possibilities of where to add an office space on the premises that would work for all parties involved. It was requested that at the next meeting, Missy Christopherson and Tami Schraufnagel would report on their findings of the structure and flow chart of those involved in the 4-H Fair.

Jacob Tumm presented the 2021 Fall Timber sales for approval. Of the eight (8) sales presented, two are sales presented in the past that did not sell. Tract 10-20 was adjusted by a 10% drop in the minimum bid. Also noted, Tract 15-21 is a one-year contract with no extensions since this is a small overstory removal. Tami Schraufnagel moved to approve the bids as they were presented. All in favor, none opposed. Bid opening will be November 3, 2021.

Ordinance 21-22.005 was presented by Josh Pedersen, Parks and Forest Director. There were three (3) items in the County Code that needed more clarification, 1) When referring to “State Funded ATV Trails and Routes,” the word Routes needs to be changed to Hybrid Trails: which better reflects the type of trails being used; 2) In the portion that addresses where camping is permitted in the county, the Expo Center and dispersed county forest camping were added; 3) An addition was made that an access permit is required for those wanting to enter their private landlocked parcels with any motorized vehicle. Joe Knight motioned to approve the Ordinance 21-22.005 as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

The discussion of the Carbon Credits will have to be tabled until next Committee Meeting as the third-party report from Bluesource was not available at this time.

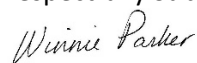
There are three (3) potential land acquisitions that are being considered: the Five Star Mine, the Anderson Land, and a new possibility of the Heartwood Forest Land in Bridge Creek. The appraisal of the Five Star Mine came back at \$550,000 or around \$3,500+/acre, the property is currently listed for \$895,000. The Committee will delay on any action until after the Stewardship Committee has had an opportunity to meet and discuss this parcel. The Anderson Land appraisal from Steigerwaldt is expected in the next two (2) weeks. It was suggested that the Committee put a placeholder in the 2022 Budget for these acquisitions by October 27, 2021. The third parcel to consider is the Heartwood Forest Land of Bridge Creek, which recently came up for sale. This land is divided into 13 different tracts of land and is worth considering given the fact that one is very close to Coon Fork and protect a portion of the river corridor and watershed, and the possible timber revenue would eventually pay for the properties. Josh will continue to inquire about this acquisition possibility. All three (3) mentioned possible land acquisitions will be presented to the Stewardship Committee at their next meeting by Josh Pedersen, Parks and Forest Director.

Directors Report: The Steering Committee will help with the next steps in the Outdoor Recreation Plan. A committee of 8-15 members will convene to help with this, and Josh would like at least two (2) of the members from the Parks and Forest Committee to sit on this committee. There have been some negative comments made on a local Facebook page regarding Harstad Park and those who have been camping there. As of this morning, three (3) of the five (5) problematic sites have vacated the park. The Committee will wait to hear the suggestions from the Advisory Committee once they have had the opportunity to meet. The Parks and Forest staff have been working closely with the sheriff's department on this issue. Josh has a wonderful outreach opportunity to speak with the Society of American Foresters at Tower Ridge this month highlighting the multi-use recreation trails and the skills park.

The next meeting date was set for November 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker

Committee Clerk

Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest