**MINUTES**Eau Claire County
• **Committee on Parks & Forest** *•*

Monday, February 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center – Rooms 103 and 104

Members Present: Joe Knight, Tami Schraufnagel, Jodi Lepsch, Dane Zook

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Michele Skinner – Lake Altoona District Chair

**Call to Order Committee on Parks & Forest and confirmation of meeting notice.**

Chairman Knight called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

**Public Comment**

Kevin Stelljes commented via email regarding the Airport Commission voluntarily mitigating the tree removal, with the aim of reducing wildlife habitat to improve airport safety.

**Placement of Lake Altoona Bedload Machinery**

The Committee on Parks and Forest discussed the pros and cons of where to allow the Lake Altoona District to place and store bedload machinery they recently acquired. Supervisor Zook motioned to approve that the Lake Altoona District store the bedload collector portion of the machinery at the upper section of the Highline Canoe Landing Site, while storing the rest of the equipment at the Sand Spoil site. Supervisor Schraufnagel and Supervisor Zook voted in favor while Chairman Knight and Supervisor Lepsch opposed. Motion did not pass. Supervisor Lepsch motioned to approve the Lake Altoona District to store all the bedload machinery at the Sand Spoil site. Supervisor Schraufnagel, Supervisor Zook, and Supervisor Lepsch voted in favor while Chairman Knight opposed. Motion passed 3:1.

**Request from Beaver Creek for Free Parks Week during Earth Week**

After a brief history of the Beaver Creek Earth Week, the request to have a Free Parks Week during this year’s Earth Week was presented. Supervisor Lepsch motioned to approve the Free Parks Week to coincide with Beaver Creek’s efforts to honor Earth Week during April 17-23, 2023, provided that Beaver Creek volunteers would put up and take down signage. All in favor, none opposed.

**Director’s Report**

Director Pedersen highlighted that Ski Striders - Kickin’ Kids were wrapping up their season in the next couple of weeks. Although the City of Eau Claire has stopped their grooming efforts, Parks and Forest Department will continue to groom while weather permits, and we are able.

**Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion**

Committee on Parks and Forest Meeting - March 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment**

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Winnie Parker

Committee Clerk

Administrative Specialist III