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

Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center

227 1st Street West., Altoona – Rooms 103 and 104

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

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Todd Johnson – Parks and Programs Manager, Nick Smiar – Ex Officio Member, Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Angie Engstrom – Ski Sprites Representative, 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**

No members of the public wished to make a comment.

**Review of March 13, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes**

Supervisor Christopherson motions to approve the minutes from March 13, 2023. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**Ski Sprites Request to waive park entrance fees at Lake Altoona Park June 17 and 18th.**

Ski Sprites representative Angie Engstrom presented two free programs they offer to the public: Adaptive Ski held June 17 and Learn to Ski held June 18. Ski Sprites are requesting that we provide free parking passes to those participating, and in return they will add Eau Claire Parks and Forest Department as a sponsor on the t-shirts given to participants. Supervisor Lepsch moved to approve providing free parking passes to the 50 participants for the Adaptive Ski and Learn to Ski programs being held on June 17 and 18, respectively. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**Presentation by Michele Skinner on Lake Altoona dredging**

The Lake Altoona District Chair, Michele Skinner, gave a presentation on the bedload machinery that is currently being stored at the sand spoil site (see presentation). This summer the DNR is conducting a survey via volunteers at the park and boat landings to get a better idea about who is using Lake Altoona and the Eau Claire River, and how often and how much they are being used, to evaluate the financial impact for Lake Altoona Park participants year-round. There was a meeting held with key stakeholders to explore the idea of partnering with the Corps of Engineers to conduct a four-stage study on the sedimentation of the Eau Claire River and how this impacts the environment now and in the future.

**2023 Spring Timber Sales**

Supervisor Lepsch moved to approve 2023 Spring Timber Sales as written except for the lobe mapped out on tract 2-23, which juts into the Willet Wilderness Area. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**2023 Spring Extensions**

Supervisor Schraufnagel moves to approve extensions as presented. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**Resolution 23-24/001- Approve entering into landowner agreement and certificate of inclusion into the Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan; authorizing the county administrator to sign the agreement and submit this document to the WI DNR**

Supervisor Schraufnagel moved to approve Resolution 23-24/001 as written. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**Update - Land Stewardship Sub-Committee on donated lands along Chippewa River**

Chair Knight updated the Committee on the donated lands along the Chippewa River. The Ayres family (owners of Red Flint Sand and Gravel) made a generous land donation to Eau Claire County. The Land Stewardship Sub-Committee recommends honoring their request to name the lake on the property Fred Lake in honor of their dad and that the area be called Red Flint Recreation Area, named after their business. This committee would need to designate monies in the budget to study expanding the pond to create shallow water habitat. While there is ample access along the bike trail, an easement from the DNR for road access is required. A formal list of recommendations is forthcoming. Signage is needed immediately, and an informational panel would be welcomed in the future.

**Director’s Report**

Director Pedersen reported that all summer seasonal employee positions were filled except two. Cleanup in the parks is well underway in anticipation of the parks opening May 1. After a few edits were made, the survey from Ayers went out and he anticipates presenting their findings along with edits made to the master plan next month.

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

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for May 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment**

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Winnie Parker

Committee Clerk

Administrative Specialist III