

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, October 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center

227 1st Street West, Altoona – Room 120

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

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Kimberly Watnemoe – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Jake Tumm – Forester, Erika Gullerud – Financial Analyst, Kevin Stelljes – Land Stewardship Committee Member, Jason Symanski – Finance Director

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 Anderson Property for Potential Offer to Purchase

Stelljes spoke about the history of the land and gave some additional background as to why we called this special meeting. He proposed the Parks and Forest Department make an offer on the western half of the Anderson Property for \$584,725. Not only would it allow the county forest land to grow, but it would also allow for better blocking of the existing county forest land and access to land that is currently landlocked. Now that the eastern half has sold, Stelljes believes the appraised value and the asking price would be within a similar ballpark figure.

Director Pedersen spoke about the potential revenue that would come from upcoming timber sales on the property, which contains high value Red Pine plantations. Stelljes also covered a plan for how the project could be funded, by utilizing the Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant, applying for an interest free County Forest Loan, funds from forest land acquisition fund, and donations and funds from the Land Stewardship Fund.

Supervisor Lepsch motions to approve allowing Stelljes to present a draft offer to the seller with Director Pedersen allowed to make small offer letter changes. Any larger changes (i.e., price and earnest money changes) would need to be returned to the Committee on Parks and Forest; with the formal offer reviewed and final draft sent to the Corporate Counsel for final review. Motion passes 3 to 1 with 1 absent.

Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for November 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 5:54 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kimberly Watnemoe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III