

**BAYFIELD COUNTY FORESTRY AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
January 13, 2020
County Board Room**

Members Present: Fred Strand, Chairperson; David Zepczyk and Jeffrey Silbert

Members Absent: Larry Fickbohm and Harold Maki

Staff in Attendance: Jason Bodine, Administrator; Lindley Mattson, Office Manager; Steve Probst, Assistant Administrator

Others in Attendance: Joseph LeBouton, DNR Liaison

1. Call to Order of Forestry and Parks Committee Meeting.

This meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

2. Public Comment.

Chairperson Strand called for public comment. After repeating the call no one came forward. Closed public comment.

3. Approval of the December 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: (Zepczyk, Silbert) to approve the minutes as presented. All: Yes. Carried.

4. Monthly Reports. Discussion of general activities, events, issues and accomplishments. Possible action on report(s) only.

a. Forestry (all updates):

a) 2019 Budget. Timber sale revenues in 2019 totaled \$4.172 million. About \$850,000 more than the budget. Expenses are slightly under budget, but the additional money sent to towns will bring us close to the budgeted amount. Will most likely end up \$20,000-\$30,000 under budget. At this point there is no reason to amend the budget, but that could change.

b) Red Cliff Land Acquisition (210 Acres). J. Bodine went over the Red Cliff land acquisition project proposal as a refresher for the committee. The committee approved this potential project in February 2018, but Red Cliff chose to do something different with their funds. In summary: the project would entail the tribe purchasing 210 acres of county forest land across from Frog Bay Park, within the reservation boundaries. Value was determined \$1,500/acre. They are looking to apply for a grant for funding. If they choose to go ahead with this project, it would come back to the committee for withdrawal from CFL.

b. Parks: Nothing new to update

c. Trails and Recreation:

a) Motorized Trail Updates: Snowmobile trails are open and in good condition. The rain and warmer temps the end of December and early January caused some wet spots on some of the trails. Everything is now freezing up nicely.

b) Non-Motorized Trail Updates:

i. Fire Hill. This project closed as of December 27. The land was conveyed to Landmark Conservancy who then sent the reassignment documents and the deed to the title company. Final documents should be here this week. We will need to begin to develop short term goals for the property in 2020.

- c) Yurt Updates: Evergreen was at 58% for December and currently 35% for January. Terra Cotta was 45% for December and 39% for January. Cable, 26% in December and 45% for January.
- d) Events. Mt. Borah Epic, mountain bike race in Cable and the Summit Cross Country Ski Race, at Mt. Ashwabay were both recurring events that were approved over the past month.

***MOTION:** (Silbert, Zepczyk) Receive and place on file. All: Yes. Carried.*

5. 2020 Forestry and parks Department Annual Work Plan.

J. Bodine presented a final draft of the plan as well as an executive summary. Sustainable timber harvest goal for 2020 is 5,262 acres. About a 7% increase, mostly due to swamp hardwoods and the imminent EAB threat. Slow acceleration of aspen and red pine as we address the Barnes Barrens. Jack pine will start to come down over the next couple years naturally as well. There will be a substantial decrease in goals in 3-4 years.

Parks and Recreation: Siskiwit Falls and Fire Hill will be a big part of 2020. An RFP will be put out this spring for Siskiwit Falls. Otherwise parks will be business as usual, with projects going on throughout the year.

Some committee discussion on work plan: chemical treatments, swamp hardwood harvesting regarding EAB and also the CFI project.

J. Bodine notified Committee of the conservation aid grant we recently received for Perch Lake. The plan is to improve the existing road, create a parking area and a walking trail to the lake.

***MOTION:** (Silbert, Zepczyk) Approve the 2020 Forestry and Parks Work Plan and recommend approval to the full county board. All: Yes. Carried.*

6. Comprehensive Land Use Plan

J. Bodine presented the general comments we have received from the public. There are 33 people now signed up to receive notifications when there are chapters for review.

J. Bodine provided timeline for the next year in regards to the plan:

January: Table of contents – presented today

February: Review draft chapters 100-300

March: Approve chapters 100-300; review draft chapters 400-600

April: Approve chapters 400-600; review draft chapter 700, roads and access management

May: Approve chapter 700; review chapter 800, forest management (largest section of the plan)

June: Continue review of chapter 800

July: Approve chapter 800; review chapter 900, recreation

August: Approve chapter 900; review the various appendixes: contracts, permits, charts, ordinances etc.

September – November: Reviewing chapters, discussion etc. Use these months to finalize/approve a final draft of the plan

November: Have a final plan ready to present to the full board

End of November – December: Send final Board approved plan to the DNR

December – January 2021: Prepare the website for the new plan

Committee discussion on how to address public comments received. Committee decided to keep public comment limited to 3 minutes for attendees.

7. Joseph LeBouton, DNR Liaison – no comments

The next Forestry and Parks Committee meeting has been rescheduled for **Monday, February 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.** at Bayfield County Courthouse, County Board Room, Second Floor, 117 E. 5th Street, Washburn, Wisconsin.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM

Submitted by,
Lindley Mattson