

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, October 13, 2025 @ 8:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center, Room 156
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034**

Members Present: Andy Zelinski, Nobert Ashbeck Greg Hartwig

Absent:

Members Excused: Ken Wickham, William Bialecki

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Lee Rahlf, Robbin Gigl (virtual) Nick Behrens (virtual), Jeff Weber, Zach Hylinski, Chuck McCrory, Lucas Williams, Jordan Truitt, Jackson Beck

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, November 10, 2025, in Conference Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Hartwig at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of October 13, 2025. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Zelinski to approve minutes of October 13, 2025 meeting as printed in the packet. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.
4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. None.
5. Open and Award Timber Sale Bids. Dean announced bid opening procedure, bids were opened and read. We received 22 bids on 12 timber sales totaling \$403,518.00. Three bids were rejected due to no bond checks received. Five timber sales received no qualifying bids. Motion by Ashbeck second by Zelinski to approve awarding sales to the highest bidder pending checking for mathematical errors. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
6. Open and award Tax Delinquent Land Sale Bids. Dean stated that the tax deed sale was not properly advertised in the newspaper for October and November. Correction of the October sale is being made and bids for the November sale must be rejected and the bond checks returned. The two properties will be re-advertised in the November 19th Tomahawk Leader and bids will be opened at the Committee meeting on December 8th. Motion by Hartwig second by Zelinski to keep minimum bids the same as last advertised. All ayes, Motion carried.
7. Discuss and set new minimum bids on unsold properties, if needed. Keep minimum bids on properties the same.
8. Approve advertising to replace 2017 pickup truck. Dean stated 2017 truck needs to be replaced and explained previous repair history with trucks over 80,000 miles. Discussion followed. Motion by Hartwig to approve advertising to replace truck, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion carried.
9. Approve Advertising for one galvanized steel arch culvert to replace an existing culvert on the County Forest. Dean explained the need for replacing a culvert west of Highway T. Estimated cost of \$8,000. Discussion followed. Motion by Zelinski to approve advertising, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion carried.
10. Approve Advertising for mowing game openings in eastern side of County Forest. Dean explained working with the DNR on mowing game openings using Turkey Stamp Grant funding. Discussion about mowing openings. Motion by Ashbeck to approve, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion carried.

11. Award overhead door bid. Dean said three bids were received and provided a spreadsheet of the bids. Dean recommended to accept lowest bid by Badgerland Overhead Door LLC. Motion by Zelinski to approve, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
12. Approve closure of a secondary road known as Hess Road, on the border of Lincoln and Oneida Counties Sec 1 T35N – R5E Town of Wilson, Lincoln County. Dean explained that the private land owner in Oneida County reached out to request closing Hess Road due to trespassing and garbage dumping. The property line (county line) is located in the middle of the road, north half is private, south half is Lincoln County Forest. Neither Township collects gas tax on the road. Lincoln County Forestry has done maintenance on the road in the past. BMP violations by the public in wetlands. Forestry Department has also cleaned up garbage dumped in this area. Gary Bartz with the DNR spoke about the DNR property east of the County property. Motion to install a gate and signage by Hartwig, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
13. Approve organized event Permit for the Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail to host a trail hike in the Underdown on February 7, 2026. Dean explained the Northwoods Chapter hosts a hike when we have our free Underdown Weekend the first full weekend of February of each year. Need to change the year to 2026 on the permit. Motion by Zelinski to approve, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
14. Approve Appointment of Luas Williams as the Forestry, Land and Parks Administrator. Renee Kruger appeared before the committee to introduce Lucas Williams as the new Lincoln County Forest Administrator starting December 15, 2025. A resolution will be on the next County Board agenda. Motion to approve by Hartwig, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
15. WDNR Report. Bill Groth was not present. Jordan Truit with the DNR provided a time standards update.
16. Review Administrator's written report. Dean stated that the right of way fence relocation project was near completion last Friday and asked if there were any questions. Discussion followed. Report placed on file.
17. Close Timber Sales.

Smola Enterprises	T004-24	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Meier Farms	T028-20	Close and refund bond.
Meier Farms	T028-23	Close and refund bond.

Dean recommended closing and refunding bonds. Motion by Zelinski, second by Ashbeck to close sales per Dean's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
18. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee Monday, December 8, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
19. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Ashbeck, second by Zelinski at 10:15 a.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Amy Krueger and Dean Bowe