

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, April 14, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center, Room 156
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034**

Members Present: Greg Hartwig, Norbert Ashbeck, Ken Wickham, Andy Zelinski, William Bialecki

Absent:

Members Excused:

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Jeni Burton (virtual), Bus Schoone, Christine Vorpapel (virtual), Dave Kleinschmidt

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, April 14, 2025, in Conference Room 156, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Hartwig at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of March 10, 2025. Motion by Wickham, second by Zelinski to approve minutes of March 10, 2025 meeting as printed in the packet. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. Dean stated that he has been working with Heather from Finance on department finances. Discussion followed. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.
4. Comments from members of the public or invited guests. Christine Vorpapel talked about the need for a bike/walking trail on Highway 107. She suggested someone from Forestry attend and speak at the Joint Finance Committee budget hearing in Wausau at NTC April 29th. Discussion followed.
5. Discuss Timber Sale T039-18 and Take Action if Necessary. Dean introduced Dave Kleinschmidt and gave history on the timber sale in question and about the difficult conditions of the sale. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham, second by Bialecki to approve not charging for the unharvested wood left on the timber sale when it comes time to close the sale. All Ayes, motion carried.
6. Approve 2024 Budget Modifications. Dean stated minor modifications were needed to balance accounts with a change of \$1.00 to what was in the packet. Discussion followed. Motion by Zelinski, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion carried.
7. Approve Capital Outlay/Improvement Schedule for 2026. Dean identified a few changes to the equipment list due to replacements. Motion by Wickham, second by Ashbeck to approve Capital Outlay Schedule and Vehicle Schedule. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
8. Lake Clara Access Discussion. Dean talked to County Surveyor about the right of way location at the landing site. The road has been moved but the ROW has not at the landing site. Discussion followed.
9. Harrison Dam Update. Dean explained the High Hazard Rating placed on the Harrison Dam by DNR the new requirements and possible alternatives. He has sent a letter to the property owner potentially impacted by flooding in an effort to work with them.
10. Approve Horse Club Placing a Small Portable Storage Shed Near the Underdown Pavilion. Dean said he was contacted by horse club for permission to put up a small, portable shed for storing items they use regularly at the pavilion. Discussion followed. Motion by Zelinski to approve portable shed with the stipulation that the county is not liable for the shed or items in it and that the shed must be removed or relocated at the county's request, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

11. Approve Organized Event for December 6, 2025. Dean indicated that IronBull requested an organized event. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham to approve event, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
12. Award ATV Bid. Dean stated that the Kubota UTV is diesel which was not what was requested in the bid. The Polaris Ranger fits what the department needs better with more power and higher ground speeds. Dean recommends buying the Ranger from Ervs in Tomahawk. Discussion followed. Motion to approve by Wickham, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
13. Discuss Carbon Credit Program and Take Action if Necessary. Dean stated that Iron and Bayfield County Forests are the only ones to have received funds for the sale of carbon credits. Twelve county forests are developing carbon programs several have credits for sale and several others waiting for development. Discussion followed.
14. Staff Update. Dean stated that one of the current foresters, Nick Behrens, has taken the new Recreation Forester position and has been working with Jeni to transition into the job. Dean has submitted a request to refill the field forester position left vacant by the transfer. The summer LTE position was offered and accepted last week with onboarding currently in progress.
15. Approve Administrator's timesheets. Motion to approve by Wickham, second by Bialecki. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
16. WDNR Report. Bill Groth was not present.
17. Review Administrator's written report. Dean talked about snowmobile and ATV trail issues and will be meeting with DOT to attempt to resolve a couple of them. He stated that the department is applying for nearly \$600,000 worth of recreation grant money. Discussion followed. Report placed on file.
18. Close timber sales.

Smola Brothers	T017-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Futurewood	T036-19	Close and Refund Bond.

Dean recommended closing and refunding bond. Motion by Wickham, second by Bialecki to close sales per Dean's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
19. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 255
Monday, June 9, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
20. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Ashbeck, second by Bialecki at 10:24 a.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Amy Krueger and Dean Bowe