

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, August 10, 2026 @ 8:00 A.M.
Lincoln County Service Center, Room 257
801 N. Sales St., Suite 106, Merrill, WI 54452 **715-539-1034**

Members Present: Greg Hartwig, Norbert Ashbeck, Don Nelson, William Bialecki, Andy Zelinski,

Absent: none

Members Excused: none

Visitors: Luke Williams, Amy Krueger, Karry Johnson, Robbin Gigl (virtual), Sam Dardouk, Fatmeh Dardouk, Paul Russell, Chris Marlowe (virtual), Savannah Nelson (virtual), Angela Cummings

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, August 10, 2026, in Conference Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Hartwig at 8:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of July 13, 2026. Motion by Bialecki, second by Zelinski, to approve the minutes of July 13, 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Review year to date budget report. The Committee reviewed year to date budget report and placed on file.
4. Public comments. Sam Dardouk commented on the tax-delinquent property and encouraged the committee to stop the sale.
5. Open and award tax delinquent land sale bids. Williams opened and read the bids for the tax-delinquent land sale that were due on August 7, 2026. They were as follows:
 - **Property 3 – Minimum Bid \$119,600**
 - Fatmeh Dardouk – minimum not met
 - **Property 6 – Minimum Bid \$25,001**
 - Josh Muenchow

A motion was made by Bialecki to accept the high bid on property #6 as presented. Ashbeck seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

6. Set the new minimum and establish sale date on unsold tax-delinquent properties. Bialecki made a motion to keep the minimum bid the same on Property #3. Nelson seconded. Motion passed with all ayes. Bids are due September 11 at 4:00 p.m.
7. Review and Possible Approval of PRT Quote for 66,000 Red Pine Seedlings (\$13,662.00) for 2028. A question was raised regarding whether there are other suppliers that could meet the volume of trees required for the county's planting needs. Williams explained that the only other option is the state nursery, which supplies bare-root stock. Bare-root seedlings have a lower survival rate than the containerized seedlings offered by PRT, and as a result, most counties are planting containerized plugs. Ashbeck made a motion to approve the PRT quote. Zelinski seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.
8. Approve Committee Meeting Attendance, Mileage, and Per Diem FOR WCFA Fall Meeting in Rhinelander (September 23-25) Zelinski made a motion to approve committee attendance, mileage, and per diem for the WCFA Fall Meeting in Rhinelander, September 23–25. Ashbeck seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.
9. Access permit request from the Russell for ingress and egress across County Forest land; review and possible action. Williams explained that there is no current access agreement in place following the death of George Russell. Paul Russell and his siblings requested that

access be reauthorized for ingress and egress. Hartwig made a motion to approve the access permit for the Russell family. Ashbeck seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.

10. Review and Possible Approval of Bid Notice for Concrete Slab and Repair Work at Forestry Shop. Williams presented the bid results for the new concrete slab for the fuel tanks and drain work in the forestry shop. Four bids were received, with the lowest bid from J&J Lee Construction for \$43,604. J&J Lee Construction is also a local contractor. Zelinski made a motion to accept the bid from J&J Lee Construction. Hartwig seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.
11. Resolution authorizing the submission Lumberjack RC&D grant applications for ADA-accessible fishing piers at Larson Lake and Ament Lake; review and possible action. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed grant applications. The grant provides up to \$10,000, with the remaining cost of the pier purchase to be funded through the Parks Improvement Account. Due to limited grant funds available and the greater public accessibility of Larson Lake, the committee decided to apply for funding for Larson Lake only this year. Nelson made a motion to amend the resolution to apply for Larson Lake only. Ashbeck seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.
12. Authorize Drafting and Execution of New Timber Contracts with Twin Forest Products for Tracts T003-23-1 and T013-21-1 at Existing Stumpage Rates and Contract Length Following Purchase of Central Wisconsin Lumber. Williams stated that Twin Forest Products is purchasing Central Wisconsin Lumber Co. on August 24. The county has two timber sales with Central Wisconsin Lumber that have not yet started. Williams has been in contact with John Lawrence of Twin Forest Products, who is considering taking over the contracts at the same rates and terms. Corporation Counsel confirmed that terminating the existing contracts and establishing new contracts with Twin Forest Products is an acceptable option. Hartwig made a motion to authorize drafting and execution of new contracts with Twin Forest Products under the same rates and terms. Nelson seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.
13. WDNR Report Bill Groth from the DNR was not present, and no update was provided.
14. Review Administrator's Report The Administrator's Report was reviewed and placed on file. Williams noted that a Wild Turkey Stamp opening mowing project is scheduled to begin soon, with 145 openings being mowed. He noted that the county has over 300 openings in total, most of which were established at the DNR's request in the 1970s and 1980s. The DNR previously maintained these openings but, due to reductions in staffing and budget, is no longer able to do so. Williams has been working with Carissa from the DNR to develop a ranking strategy and plan for determining a reasonable number of openings to maintain and potential funding sources for these efforts. More discussion and planning will be needed, but the outcome will likely be either maintaining fewer openings or having the county allocate additional funding and staff time toward maintaining them.
15. Close Timber Sales Williams recommended closing the following timber sale and returning the bond: Schreiner Forestry T002-25. Motion by Bialecki, second by Zelinski to close the sales per Williams' recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
16. The committee may consider a motion to adjourn into closed session (roll call vote required), pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(e), "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session", to include the Forest Administrator, Corporation Counsel, and any other Board Supervisors wishing to remain, to wit: Discuss and provide direction for continued negotiations for a Cell Tower Lease, including Lease terms, to TowerNorth Development, LLC on Lincoln County property. A roll call vote was taken, and the Committee entered closed session
17. Reconvene to open session. The committee reconvened in open session. Bialecki made a motion, Nelson seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote.

18. Possible action on items discussed in closed session. Zelinski made a motion for the Forest Administrator and Corporation Counsel to continue negotiations with TowerNorth in accordance with the discussions held in closed session. Ashbeck seconded the motion. Motion passed with all ayes.
19. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in LCSC Conference Room 257. This will be a short meeting followed by the annual Forestry Committee field tour.
20. Adjourn. Motion by Nelson, second by Bialecki to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all ayes.

Minutes prepared by Luke Williams and Amy Krueger