

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, June 9, 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: Greg Hartwig, Norbert Ashbeck, Ken Wickham, Andy Zelinski, William Bialecki

Absent:

Members Excused:

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth, Lee Rahlf, W. Joe Vandura

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, June 9, 2025, in Conference Room 156, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Hartwig at 8:03 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of May 12, 2025. Motion by Bialecki, second by Ashbecki to approve minutes of May 12, 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 there were two bids received. Bids were opened and read. We received 2 bids on the remaining 5 timber sales from last month's Spring timber sale. Three timber sales received no bids. Motion by Wickham second by Zelinski to approve awarding sales to the highest bidder pending checking for mathematical or other errors. All Ayes. Motion Carried
6. Highway 86 ATV trail update, take action if necessary. Dean stated that he had been in contact with DOT regarding the proposed trail location and requested a sight distance check. Dean received an email from the DOT stating there is not enough distance to cross Highway 86 at Spirit Falls Ave. Dean stated that the next step would be to contact engineers for cost estimates for the development of a plan. Determining the presence of wetlands, flood plain and the need for a shore land zoning variance in addition to the actual trail construction were mentioned. Discussion followed. No action taken.
7. Approve Maple Bear Scavenger Hunt Organized Event Permit Request. Dean mentioned he had been contacted about this event. Discussion followed. Motion by Ashbeck second by Wickham to approve event. All Ayes. Motion carried.
8. Discuss location of fiber optic cable installed on Wildwood Ave. and take action, if necessary. Dean stated that fiber optic company had installed a line along Wildwood Ave crossing county forest land without permission. The line ends near access roads to two recreational cabins, one potentially requiring crossing more county property. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham for Dean to work with Corp Counsel on issuing a permit, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion carried.
9. Review and approve Wausau to Trail Master Plan. Dean indicated this project will take a long time to accomplish but the completion of this plan is necessary to fund raise. The goal is for the trail to become a state trail maintained by the Counties. The state will work on getting easements or acquisitions and groups like the River Bend Trail group can work on getting donations which can be used for matching grants. The project cost estimate came in much higher than was hoped for. Discussion followed. Motion to approve by Wickham, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

10. Approve Administrator's Timesheets. Motion to approve by Zelinski, second by Bialecki. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
11. WDNR Report. Bill Groth stated they are busy helping spray garlic mustard.
12. Review Administrator's written report. Dean discussed a few items on his report. Great Pinery Heritage Waterway has received National Water Trail designation which should help get more paddlers here. Worked with tax delinquent property owner to remove some personal possessions, new forester hire will start the end of June, kayak launch was installed this past week. Discussion followed. Report placed on file.
13. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee
Monday, July 14, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
Monday, August 11, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
14. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Bialecki, second by Wickham at 9:00 a.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Amy Krueger and Dean Bowe