

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee
Minutes of Monday, September 8, 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,, Ken Wickham, Andy Zelinski, William Bialecki, Nobert Ashbeck

Absent:

Members Excused:

Visitors: Dean Bowe, Amy Krueger, Bill Groth, Lee Rahlf, Christine Vorpapel (virtual), Robbin Gigl (virtual)

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, September 8, 2025, in Conference Room 156, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Hartwig at 8:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of August 11, 2025. Motion by Wickham, second by Bialecki to approve minutes of August 11, 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. Christine Vorpagle said she had called into meeting to compliment the County on the New Wood campground.
5. Open and award Tax Delinquent Land Sale Bids. Dean said no bids were received.
6. Discuss and set new minimum bids on unsold tax deed properties. Committee recommends lowering the minimum bids by 20% and suggest re-notifying adjacent landowners. Motion by Bialecki to lower minimums on unsold properties by 20%, second by Ashbeck. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
7. Approve reimbursement request for forestry audit lunch supplies. Dean requested reimbursement for food he personally purchased for the Forest Certification Audit in August. Motion to approve by Zelinski, second by Bialecki. All Aye. Motion Carried.
8. Approve WPS natural gas line easement request on Hiawatha Trail. Dean stated there is already a natural gas line in the area and that Corp Counsel and the County Surveyor were consulted on the accuracy of the easement request. Wickham to approve WPS easement request to expand natural gas service, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion carried.
9. Approve advertising to move Highway 51 right of way to fence north of Highway C. Dean stated the snowmobile trail must be moved to keep the trail off of the adjacent private land and that moving the ROW fence closer to the highway will be required to do this. He also said the project was approved to receive grant funding. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham to approve, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion carried.
10. Approve advertising to replace three overhead doors at the Forestry Shop. Dean said maintenance had got a cost estimate of \$28,000 to replace all 3 overhead doors at the forestry shop. Discussion followed. Motion by Ashbeck to approve advertising, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
11. Set date and approve advertising for Fall 2025 Timber Sale. Dean said the November meeting is November 10, 2025. Motion to approve sale date and advertising by Ashbeck, second by Bialecki. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

12. Update on motorized trail grant approvals. Lee and Nick attended snowmobile and ATV grant funding meetings. Dean informed the committee of the grants and dollar values Lincoln County applied for and was awarded.
13. WDNR Report. Bill said they are working on oak regeneration scarification. Last week annual partnership meeting.
14. Review Administrator's written report. Dean asked if there were any questions. Discussion followed. Report placed on file.
15. Close Timber Sales.

Smola Brothers	T012-24	Close and return Letter of Credit.
TNT	T013-25	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Wiitala & Vozka	T009-23	Close and return Letter of Credit.
Bell Timber	T009-24	Close and return Letter of Credit.

Dean recommended closing and refunding bonds. Motion by Ashbeck, second by Zelinski close sales per Dean's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
16. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee
Monday, October 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
Monday, November 10, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257
17. Committee Field Trip. A field trip to view specific sites to view improvements is planned for after the meeting including: Prairie Dells, Hay Meadow Park, Underdown Trailhead, the Forestry Shop, Tug Lake Park and Camp New Wood.
18. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting and proceed to field trip by Bialecki, second by Zelinski at 8:35 a.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Amy Krueger and Dean Bowe