

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: Ken Wickham, Andy Zelinski, William Bialecki, Nobert Ashbeck

Absent:

Members Excused: Greg Hartwig

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

1. Call meeting to order. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee met on Monday, October 13, 2025, in Conference Room 156, Lincoln County Service Center. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ashbeck at 8:00 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of September 8, 2025. Motion by Wickham, second by Zelinski to approve minutes of September 8, 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 Tax Delinquent Land Sale Bids. Dean said that one bid was received on Parcel 1-25. The bid was for \$3,510.00. No other parcels received bids. Motion to approve purchase by Wickham with a second by Bialecki. All Ayes. Motion carried.
6. Discuss options for Unsold Tax Deed Properties and set new minimum bids. Take Action if Necessary. Motion by Ashbeck to reduce the price on Property 3-25 to \$30,000.00, hold Property 4-25 and combine with an adjacent tax delinquent property to sell as one property next spring. Remove Property 5-25 from the sale, eliminate the minimum and contact adjacent landowners by letter for bids on the property. Second by Bialecki. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
7. Award Relocation of Highway 51 Right-of-Way Fence RFP Bid. Dean said one bid was received from Rapids Fence Co. the bid was for \$16,400.00. Motion by Zelinski to award bid, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion carried.
8. Approve 2026 Annual Work Plan. Dean explained a meeting of DNR and County staff takes place to discuss work activities on the county forest for the upcoming year. One major change is that the Wildlife Habitat Management grant amount increased back to \$.10/acre and we will be receiving about \$10,000 instead of less than \$5,000 for habitat work. Discussion followed. Motion to approve Wickham to approve, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion carried.
9. Approve Update to Lincoln County Timber Sale Contract HRD Policy (Page 5). Dean explained the change increase the minimum stump diameter for required spraying which will bring our requirement in line with DNR guidelines. Discussion followed. Motion by Zelinski to approve, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion carried.
10. Approve Resolution Supporting the Forestry Revitalization Act. Dean said report was to support Aviation Biofuel product possibly in Hayward. Discussion followed. Motion by Wickham to approve, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

11. Approve request by Tomahawk Trail Seekers ATV Club to take over the Honey Road ATV Parking. Dean explained that the Trail Seekers wish to take over responsibility of the parking area. Motion to approve by Ashbeck pending the notification of Wilson Town Chairman, second by Wickham. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
12. Approve advertising for Harrison Hills ATV Bridge Repair. Dean indicated ATV bridge between Hwy D and Hilts Lake Road was inspected by an engineer with the decking found to be in poor condition. Lincoln County applied for and awarded a grant to replace the majority of the bridge. Motion by Wickham, second by Zelinski. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
13. WDNR Report. Bill said they are continuing to assist with timber sales. Dozer operators were working on oak scarification project north of highway E.
14. Review Administrator's written report. Dean asked if there were any questions. Dean said the installation of bridge at Prairie Dells is done. J&J Lee will start pouring the slab for the Pavilion at Hay Meadow. Discussion followed. Report placed on file.
15. Close Timber Sales.

Hesston Meier	T009-25	Close and refund bond.
Wilson Forestry	T010-22	Close and return Letter of Credit.

Dean recommended closing and refunding bonds. Motion by Bialecki, second by Wickham close sales per Dean's recommendation. All ayes. Motion carried.
16. The Committee may consider a motion to adjourn into closed session (roll call vote required), pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) (c), Wis. Stats. "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or excess responsibility", to wit: Annual Performance Evaluation of the County Forest Administrator and recruitment to fill the County Forest Administrator position.
Motion by Wickham, second by Bialecki to enter closed session with committee members present, Dean Bowe and Renee Krueger remaining. Roll call vote: Ashbeck: aye, Wickham: aye, Bialecki: aye, Zelinski: aye. Motion carried.
17. Reconvene to Open Session – Take any necessary action on Items discussed during closed session.
Motion by Zelinski, second by Bialecki to enter open session. Roll call vote: Wickham: aye, Bialecki: aye, Zelinski: Aye, Ashbeck: aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wickham, second by Zelinski directing Administrative Coordinator to set up interviews for County Forest Administrator position as discussed in closed session. All ayes, motion carried.
18. Set next meeting date. The next Forestry, Land & Parks Committee
Monday, November 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 257
Monday, December 8, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., LCSC Conference Room 156
19. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn meeting by Wickham, second by Bialecki at 9:15 a.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Amy Krueger and Dean Bowe