

**PRICE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: March 2, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54558

Call to Order and Roll Call. Meeting called to order by Alan Barkstrom, Board Chair at 9:00 a.m. Present: Alan Barkstrom (ex officio), Jason Hastings, Jordan Spacek (remote), Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl.

Excused: Jeff Hallstrand. Also present: Nick Trimner; Joe Grapa; Kyle Schmidt, DNR Forester.

Nick reviewed procedure for those attending electronically.

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: Supervisor Strobl questioned if Bayfield County has received carbon credit revenue. Joe received request from Westboro Fish and Wildlife Club requesting access on County land for developing a walking trail. Individual inquired about a land trade in Town of Worcester. Inquiry from a self-serve kayak rental business.
2. Minutes from December 6, 2022 Meetings: Motion Strobl/Hastings to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting as corrected. Motion carried.
3. Price County Forest Memorials on Public Land Policy: Motion Strobl/Spacek to approve the policy and add it to the 15 Year Plan. Motion carried.
4. Handicap Access on Gated Trails Policy: Current practice is to allow access to disabled individuals and issue them a key for a gate. Discussion on issues with misuse of access and general problems with vandalism and damage by motorized vehicles on non-motorized trails. Will also need to address the coming use of motorized electric bikes.
5. Resolution – Sustainable Forestry Grant Application (Storm Damage): Motion Stephan/Spacek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
6. Resolution – Approval of Price County Species and Habitat Conservation Agreement: Motion Strobl/Hastings to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
7. County Park Expansions
 - Solberg Lake County Park: No additional information.
 - Smith Lake County Park: No additional information.
 - Request Temporary Use of ARPA Funds
 - i. Resolution – Temporary Use of ARPA Funds to Continue Solberg Lake County Park Expansion Project: Motion Spacek/Stephan to approve the resolution and forward to the Executive Committee and the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
 - Reservation System: Continued discussion. Too late for current year. Consensus of the committee members to move forward.
8. Project Updates and Bid Results
 - Solberg Lake Boat Landing: Low bid \$263,923.00 from Pember Companies, Inc.
 - Solberg Lake Dock: Low bid \$3,659.50 from Northland Pier.
 - Georgetown ATV Trail Gravel: Low bid \$197,998.84 from Wisco Materials.
 - Georgetown ATV Trail Bridge Decking: Low bid \$120,354.25 from Janak and Sons.
 - Pine Line Trail Gravel: Low bid \$28,479.60 from Wisco Materials.
 - Timm's Hill Vault Toilets: Low bid \$51,755.00 from Huffcutt.
 - New Truck: Low bid \$44,815.00 from Heritage Chevrolet.Motion Spacek/Strobl to approve the low bids as presented. Motion carried.
9. Department Report: Comparative stumpage data. Eight active sales. Markets are filling up. Tracking sale slips for carbon credit reporting. Seminars and trainings. Opened up some storm damaged roads. Vandalism to the Smith Lake bathroom building. Firewood theft reported to Rec Officer. DOT money available for designated bike trails. Roads into Smith Lake County Park will be redone this summer. Kyle Schmidt, DNR Forester has been very helpful with department being short staffed.
 - Staffing Updates: Recruiting for the Administrative Assistant position. Requesting wage review for 70% Parks and Forest Technician. Requesting wage increase for two summer LTEs. Forester recently hired and request for wage review. Assistant Forest

Administrator on since 2016. Forest and Parks Administrator's salary is paid one half by the State. Request for increase in clothing allowance for employees.

10. Financial Report and Vouchers: Motion Strobl/Hastings to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$125,727.19. Motion carried.

11. Set Next Meeting Date: April 11.

12. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk