

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
December 7, 2007
West Entrance**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present were Scott Lindow, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda and the meeting minutes from November 9th. Motion carried.

Bills presented: none.

Ruesch reported the County has everything ready to purchase the 40 acre parcel owned by Leonard & Doris Kloss. Paperwork just needs to be signed by the Kloss family and the land is ready for entry into the County Forest Program.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #559 Sappi Paper for close-out. Carter Brothers cut, all paid and good job done. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #559 Sappi Paper. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the Timber Sale Bids for December sale. # 6-07 Bear Avenue sale, summer sale, Smola Bros. high bidder. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to accept Smola Bros bid. Motion carried. # 7-07 DNR mapped sale, no road building required, Smola Bros. high bidder. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to to accept Smola Bros bid. Motion carried. # 8-07 Wood Lake Campground area, select cut, Smola Bros. high bidder. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to to accept Smola Bros bid. Motion carried. # 9-07 Zuther Avenue, smaller winter sale, Wiitila-Vozka high bidder. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to accept Wiitila-Vozka bid. Motion carried. # 10-07 Resale of Steve Dassow sale #558, good size for process wood, Wiitila-Vozka high bidder. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to accept Wiitila-Vozka bid. Motion carried. Sale summary is attached.

Ruesch reported on contract extensions 1)Mike Olson Timber Sale #550, 2nd renewal, intentions to do job. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to renew contract through end of March 2008 with \$50 renewal fee and no increase in stumpage. Motion carried. 2)Haenel Logging Sale #561, all done skidding, need to truck and make final payment. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to extend contract if trucking & final payment is not paid by December 31st. 3) Sappi Paper Timber Sale #563, wood needs to be trucked otherwise job completed. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to extend contract if trucking & final payment is not paid by December 31st. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported his computer, Russ' computer, & Mary's (half/half with zoning office) need to be upgraded. The IS Department will get quotes and they will be brought back to the committee.

Ruesch reported he has received the signed agreement with the US Forest Service regarding the maintenance agreement between the County & US Forest Service for the motorized trail in the Chequamegon Forest.

Roiger reported there will be a County Forest Association meeting on February 28-29th in Eagle River. Also there will be a Lake States meeting on December 19th.

Bizer motioned, second by Roiger, to adjourn at 10:45 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
November 9, 2007
West Entrance**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present were Scott Lindow, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda and the meeting minutes from October 5th. Motion carried.

Bills presented: none.

Ruesch reported County Board Chair Metz has signed the agreement to purchase the 40 acre parcel owned by Leonard & Doris Kloss which will be an addition to the County Forest. Paperwork is ready for the entry of land into the Forest Program.

Aszmann reviewed timber sales for close-out:

- 1) Timber Sale #562 Sappi Paper, Steve Dassow cut, shelterwood cut (white birch) good job done during dry period, balance owed. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #562 Sappi Paper, pending final payment. Motion carried.
- 2) Timber Sale #564 Smola Bros, select hardwood cut in Ice Age Trail area, looks good & all paid up. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to close-out Timber Sale #564 Smola Bros. Motion carried.
- 3) Timber Sale #568 Kafka Logging, good job done, payments erratic, sending statements/bill by certified mail, balance owed. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #568 Kafka Logging, pending final payment. Motion carried.
- 4) Timber Sale #570 Kafka Logging, near Ice Age Trail, good job with good logs taken off, all scaled/billed, balance owed. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to close-out Timber Sale #570 Kafka Logging, pending final payment. Motion carried.
- 5) Timber Sale #573 Janko Logging, cut during dry weather, good job done, balance owed. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #573 Janko Logging, pending final payment. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the Timber Sales for advertising.

- 1) # 6-07 Bear Avenue Sale near Ice Age, Railroad grade, Camp 7 historical site(no cutting on), aspen & mixed hardwood pulp. Minimum bids have been reduced/adjusted to draw bidding on all sales.
 - 2) # 7-07 DNR mapped sale, clear-cut area, select cut, ATV Trail runs through the sale.
 - 3) # 8-07 Wood Lake Campground area, select cut, clear-cut, near Ice Age Trail.
 - 4) # 9-07 Zuther Avenue, clear-cut, white spruce plantation, mainly hardwood and aspen to cut. Taylor County Surveyor Bob Meyer has surveyed area.
 - 5) # 10-07 Resale of Steve Dassow sale #558, changed minimum, mainly aspen pulp.
- Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve all timber sales for advertising. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on Steve Dassow Timber Sale #558. Dassow has paid \$30,293.75 as he has decided not to proceed with completing the timber sale. Ruesch has checked with Scott Lindow regarding the depositing of funds. The amount goes directly to the County Forestry account. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #558 and retain the bond of \$30,293.75. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on the WCFA Annual meeting held in Wausau on Friday, November 2nd. Discussion was held on ATV Trails, update on County ranking & Forest Productivity award and Jeff Barkley spoke on forest certification. Roiger reported on the directors meeting. Delegates were elected, by-law changes were discussed, grants available, the new budget

and the possible land acquisition funds available and also to sell the idea of acreage payment increases to townships for County Forest acreage.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:42 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
October 5, 2007
West Entrance**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present were Greg Mitchell & Scott Lindow, DNR and Mark Bergland, Star News. At 10:20, Dan Olson, Century 21 joined the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda (with the addition of #13 – 2008 Budget) and the meeting minutes from September 7th. Motion carried.

Bills presented: WCFA annual dues of \$850 plus acreage assessment of \$459.11 for a total bill of \$1,309.11. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the bill for payment Motion carried.

Zenner reported the Finance Committee has requested to take \$100,000 from the Forestry accounts. The funds will go into the General Fund. Ruesch relayed that it should come out of the excess revenue. It will be put on the December agenda for the Committee to decide which account it will come from.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #553 Steve Dassow. Sale is near the ski trail which required leaving the area near the trail in good condition. Gary Thums from the Ski Club reported the trail is in good shape with a few spots in need of repair. Dassow will do the repairs when his caterpillar is fixed. All cutting, hauling and payments are up to date. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #553 Steve Dassow. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported Wayne Hamann has made final payment on Sale #547, so the sale can be filed.

Ruesch reviewed the US Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding from the US Forest Service which gives the maintenance on the Perkinstown ATV Trail over to the Taylor County Forestry and Recreation Department. He has 2 issues that need to be dealt with 1) dirt bikes on the trail and 2) financial figures on last page of MOU. Dirt bikes do not contribute to maintenance funds and there are dollar figures that need explanation. He will be contacting the USFS for clarification of these two issues. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, pending final agreements regarding the dirt bikes and the financial figures, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on the US Forest Service Medford Aspen Project. He has sent a letter to the USFS with comment on the project. The USFS has responded that there has been discussion on an additional alternative to cut more acreage. There is a tour of the aspen project area scheduled for October 13 from noon to 4 PM where they are hoping to get more public involvement.

There was discussion on the next meeting date which falls when the WCFA Annual meeting will be held. It was decided to go the following Friday, November 9th.

The Committee reviewed the Resolution and the maps pertaining to the purchase of a 40 acre parcel privately owned but surrounded by County Forest. Ruesch reported the 40 acre parcel owned by Leonard & Doris Kloss is for sale and would be a good addition to County Forest land. Olson (Century 21) reported the Kloss' are ready to sell and will be looking for the first offer. He reported if we are interested in purchasing we should write a Letter of Intent to purchase the property. After discussion, Roiger made a motion, seconded by Bizer, to purchase the 40 acre parcel and send the Resolution to the County Board for their

October meeting and also do a Letter of Intent to the seller to commit to purchasing the parcel. Motion carried.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:47 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
September 7, 2007
West Entrance**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda and the meeting minutes from August 3rd. Motion carried.

Bills presented: None.

Ruesch reported on the Miller Dam Project regarding funding. There will be no grants awarded through the State this year as the State's budget has not been finalized at this time. He reported the Lake Association would like to proceed with the project if they receive matching funds from the County. Ruesch presented a Resolution to Amend Resolution 39 Adopted on April 17, 2007, which was approving the use of Transmission Line Impact Fee (TLIF) Funds on the Miller Dam Shelter Expansion Project. This resolution eliminates the statement "A Recreational Boating Facility Grant is being requested to match the TLIF appropriation." Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve the Resolution with the wording change. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the timber sale activity going on now in the County Forest: Steve Dassow is working on Sappi Sale; Greg Lukes along with 2 sons is working on pine sale; Kafka has finished one sale (not ready for closure) and has started next sale, their payment situation was discussed; Janko Logging is doing a good job and keeping up with stumpage payments; and Smola is working on hardwood sale on Bear Avenue. Aszmann reported Steve Dassow Ski-Trail Sale has wood to be hauled and when that is completed the ski trail will be repaired to pre-sale condition.

Aszmann reviewed Wiitila-Vozka Sale #552 for close-out. They are all paid up, did a good job and the road looks okay. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #552 Wiitila-Vozka. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported the ATV Council will be meeting this month and he has applied for ATV funding for the additional \$35,000 for the Rib River Trail Bridge Funding project. He has already been approved for the Snowmobile Council grant of \$35,000. An engineering study will need to be done and bids requested for installation of the bridge.

Ruesch reported he is continuing working with the US Forest Service to assume maintenance on the Perkinstown ATV Trail. He has drafted a new Memorandum of Understanding and forwarded it to the US Forest Service for their comment.

The Annual Work Plan for 2008 was handed out for review. Ruesch reviewed the crushed gravel road project on the County Forest he included in the 2008 plan. The work would be completed on Trout Avenue, Fawn Avenue and Camp 8 Road. There was discussion on working with the Highway Department on this project.

Ruesch also reported on the survey project included in the Annual Work Plan. It would be a 5 year project with the County Surveyor, Bob Meyer, locating approximately 71 corners in the County Forest. The budgeted amount would be \$12,000 a year or \$60,000 for the 5 year plan. The survey areas would be prioritized by future timber sales schedules. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the five year survey plan. Motion carried.

After discussion, motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve the Annual Work Plan for 2008. Motion carried.

Ruesch handed out and reviewed the draft budget. Each account was reviewed with note of inclusion of funds for survey work to be completed and also funds for possible upgrade of GPS equipment. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the 2008 draft budget and forward to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Ruesch also reported the Plot Master has been ordered from Cabela's with a savings of \$1000. A grant received by the Land Conservation Department will pay for half the cost of equipment.

The next meeting will be October 5, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:00 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
August 3, 2007
West Entrance**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda and the meeting minutes from July 6th. Motion carried.

Bills presented: Farm & Home (rubber strap) \$1.59; Medford Coop (gas) \$305.00; J.J.'s Brushing (mowing grass/brush) \$1,972.00; Werner Sales (4-wheeler racks) \$210.95; Medford Motors (new back window for topper) \$210.79 and Brad Ruesch (meal) \$7.95. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve bills for payment. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported the County has been working with the US Forest Service to assume maintenance on the Perkinstown ATV Trail. Dawn Meyer is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding where the ATV Club would maintain the trail and the County would oversee the funding. The club would be responsible for the maintenance of 22 miles in the USFS and 15 miles in the County Forest. The ATV Club will need to do a formal approval of the MOU for maintenance on both trails. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the pending Memorandum of Understanding with the US Forest Service for maintenance of Perkinstown Motorized Trail. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the timber sale activity going on now in County Forest: Steve Dassow Ski-Trail Sale is completed and he is working on Sappi Sale; Janko Logging, Smola, Kafka and Lukes are working on current timber sales and Wiitila sale is nearing completion. Aszmann also reported LP has sent a letter to the loggers regarding the poor product market for aspen.

Ruesch reviewed possible land acquisitions. Ruesch also reported on County Forest revenues/budget as of 6-30-07.

Ruesch reported on the balance in the State Aid Forest Roads account - \$11,600 (J.J.'s Brushing bill will come out of account). He would like to include in the Annual Work Plan for 2008, crushed gravel road project on the County Forest to use the funds from this account. At a later meeting, he will have projected gravel volume needed.

Ruesch attended the Governor's Snowmobile Council Meeting where he explained the Rib River Trail Bridge Funding project. After reviewing the Chapter 30 permit requirements and additional funding needed, the Council agreed to the \$35,000 payment and apply for ATV funding for the additional \$35,000. The existing Snowmobile Agreement will be amended to reflect the additional \$35,000 and the ATV grant application for \$35,000 has been sent to the DNR for approval.

Ruesch reported he has spoken to Mike Haas of the Taylor County horse club in regards to a bridge over Gus Johnson Creek. A grant application would need to be submitted and it would also need Chapter 30 permit submitted to John Kleist. The Army Corps of Engineers would possibly be involved due to floodplain issues.

The DNR/County Annual Partnership meeting will take place on August 10th at Brad Ruesch's home. On the agenda will be Forest Certification issues, time standards (DNR hours), timber sale establishment, leaf-on – sale boundaries, WISFirs Recon System – GIS layers, Mark Schmidt (DNR Wildlife Manager) – new projects, invasive species training and land acquisition. Also invited to attend are Gary Vander Wyst (DNR) and the Tribes.

The next meeting will be September 7, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:53 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
July 6, 2007
West Entrance**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #12 Discuss purchase of a new ATV and the meeting minutes from June 1st. Motion carried.

Bills presented: Farm & Home (beaver control) \$39.48; Freudenthal Mfg. (gates) \$494.00; Pro Design (door decal) \$70.00; All Sports (4-wheeler repair) \$72.94; and Poms Tire (tire) \$59.25. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve bills for payment. Motion carried.

Ruesch reviewed the quotes received for culvert purchase. Ken House (Central Culvert) quoted \$1235 and Freudenthal Mfg quoted \$1076 for seven certified culverts including delivery. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to accept quote from Freudenthal Mfg. for \$1076 for culverts including delivery. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the timber sale activity going on now in County Forest: Smola job near completion, wood piled ready to be trucked; Janko logging has begun their sale with new equipment, cutting random hardwood length making it difficult to scale; Kafka has started his job and has been reminded to get mill slips in to this office in a timely manner; Wiitila sale is nearing completion-just need to truck wood; and Steve Dassow is trucking some wood from sale he will finish at a later date. Ruesch reported Hamann has renewed his contract for 3 months, paid the \$50 fee, and will be charged interest on payments due.

Ruesch reported on WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System) which is a new State program for Division of Forestry. 1st phase is recon database for County sales. Ruesch, Aszmann, Lindow attended a training session in Park Falls. The Forestry Office will have on-line access to update County Forest properties (Aszmann needs to be able to link-up). All changes will be standardized state-wide.

PowerLine Impact funds discussion was tabled until County Board has next meeting and decides if action will be taken on the funds this year. At this time, Ruesch reported on the Miller Dam and the Boating Facilities Grant application. DNR Madison has requested that an archeological survey be done and the cost will be between \$4000 - \$5000. He explained to them that the area is already developed and the USFS did a survey in the 1970's. He will write the cost of the survey into the grant application and the Commission will meet on August 21st and review applications. George Mudgett, Lake Association, has been kept up to date on status of project.

Ruesch reported on the USFS Aspen project – Medford area. He has written a letter of comment on proposed actions in Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest concerning their plan for aspen regeneration. The entire acreage (1660) is located in Taylor County and the timber is 45 years or older and needs to be cut for regeneration to take place. The County's comments are important as the opposing group (Green alliances) will be represented in the process to determine the final action. Roiger commented that the aspen is overgrown and should have been cut years ago. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to sign letter drafted by Ruesch and send on to Jane Darnell, USFS. Motion carried.

Roiger reported on the County Forest Tour held in Antigo. At the Director's meeting, the Wisconsin County Forest Secretary position was offered to and accepted by Jane Sievert. She will begin the job in August with Colette Matthews retiring at that time. They also reviewed timber sales activity in Northern Wisconsin. The bus tour went through the

tornado blow-down in the Chequamegon/Nicolet Forest. Aszmann reported on touring the Kretz Lumber sawmill and the tour of the Mepps factory.

Ruesch reported on the need for a new 4-wheeler for the department. The department has a 1994 2-wheel ATV, which is now being used by Jim Wood at the Airport and a 2001 4-wheel ATV, also used by Buildings, Grounds & Parks and sometimes used by the surveyor's office. He reviewed information he received from 2 dealers: Honda Rubicon for \$6600 with a one-year warranty; Yamaha Grizzly for \$6400-\$6600 with a 6-month warranty (both from Liske Marine) and Can-AM for \$6500 with a 3-year warranty from Werner's. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to purchase Can-AM 4-wheeler for \$6500 from Werner Sales and Service. Motion carried

The next meeting will be August 3, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:09 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
June 1, 2007
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #13 Lake States Resource membership renewal and the meeting minutes from May 4th. Motion carried.

Bills presented: Mileage for Ruesch. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve bill for payment. Motion carried.

The Committee did a job performance evaluation for Brad Ruesch. It was discussed, completed and signed for submittal to Human Resources.

Ruesch reported Mike Roiger & Russ Aszmann will attend the Summer Tour which will be held on June 21 – June 22 in Langlade County (Antigo). Mike will attend Director's meeting on June 20th and go on the tour on the 21st but not the 22nd. Russ will attend both days, driving back & forth.

Aszmann reviewed the spring timber sales bids: #1-07 North Loop Road, pine sale, 3rd pine plantation thinning-Greg Lukes high bidder; #2-07 Bear Avenue, northern hardwood sale, summer sale-Janko Logging high bidder; #3-07 South end of County Forest off snowmobile trail, small sale, winter sale-Tom Hartwig Logging Inc high bidder; #5-07 white birch/select cut, winter sale, snowmobile trail, hilly area-John Olson high bidder. There was a bid by Czarnezki (#3-07) which was disqualified due to non-current FISTA Certification. Also disqualified was Scheidler Forest Harvesting, Boyd Wisconsin, bids were received late and postage due. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to accept high bids and amend bid sheets to reflect disqualifications. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed timber sale #547 Hamann sale for close-out. The wood is all trucked and we are waiting for final payment. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #547, Hamann Logging sale, pending final payment which is due by June 30, 2007. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the timber sales for renewal. Sale #557 Steve Dassow. Sale bid at peak prices, presently working on & will try to complete this winter. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to give a one year extension with no increase in stumpage and \$50 renewal fee. Motion carried. Sale #558 Steve Dassow, bid at peak prices, not started. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to give a one year extension with no increase in stumpage and \$50 renewal fee. Motion carried. Sale #559 Sappi Paper, bid at peak prices, Luke Brunner doing work & ¼ completed. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to give a one year extension with no increase in stumpage and \$50 renewal fee. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on the Camp 8 Trail inspection completed with Don Liske, Jim Hartl and Dave Kalman. They looked at projects completed last year and reviewed projects for this year. An annual maintenance plan is needed to keep improvements up to date.

Ruesch reported he needs to order double wall plastic culverts (7 tubes). He will write letters to distributors for quotes.

The final Taylor County Forest Financial Report for 2006 was handed out and reviewed. (attached) Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve the Financial Report & the 2007 carry-over allocations. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported the annual membership for Lake States Resource Alliance of \$250 is due. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve payment of \$250 dues for Lake States Resource Alliance. Motion carried.

Roiger reported on the meeting with the US Forest Service in Rhinelander. Ruesch handed out communications from the USFS which will be looked at during the next meeting.

The next meeting will be July 6, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:02 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY FOREST
FINANCIAL REPORT 2006

Revenue Total	330,320.39
70% County Budget	231,538.60
20% State Fund *	65,853.11
10% Town Fund	32,928.68

*There is no debt balance with the State, so these funds are transferred to the land acquisition account to be used for land or easement purchases.

Budgeted Revenue	104,297.00
Actual Revenue	231,538.60
Surplus Revenue	<u>127,241.60</u>

Expense Budget	219,045.77
Expense	143,191.48
Balance	<u>75,854.29</u>

Town Fund Distribution	32,928.68
Rib Lake 94%	30,956.25
Westboro 6%	1,972.43

Land Acquisition Distribution	
Prior Balance	189,768.93
2006 Transfer	65,853.11
Account Balance	<u>255,622.04</u>

Timber Sale Bids		
Spring Sale Total (3 sales)	150,710.50	186 acres
Fall Sale Total (4 sales)	137,549.00	208 acres
<u>2006 Total</u>	<u>288,259.50</u>	<u>394 Total Acres</u>
<u>2005 Total</u>	<u>393,277.50</u>	<u>504 Total Acres</u>
<u>2004 Total</u>	<u>296,081.57</u>	<u>573 Total Acres</u>

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
May 4, 2007
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Greg Mitchell & Scott Mueller, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #13 Discuss Forest Administrator vacation balance/anniversary date and the meeting minutes from April 6th with the addition to the motion by Roiger to recommend to the Highway Committee that an engineering study be done by the firm currently under contract **with keeping the shooting range intact**. Motion carried.

Bills presented: ATV registration, \$5.00; Voucher invoice for \$1391.16 for Haenel Logging (cash bond/stumpage/check return). Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve bills for payment. Motion carried. Ruesch reported the new forestry truck will be picked up this afternoon.

Ruesch reviewed the Pine Line final surfacing project for the Committee to take a look at it for possible presentation to Finance Committee for Power Line Impact Fee money. Estimates of the project are \$120,000 to \$150,000 with possible 50% grant available. There was discussion on surfacing to Whittlesey and beyond. Also discussed was whether there was enough usage of the trail to make it worthwhile. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to forward the project to the Finance Committee, contingent upon grant dollars received. Motion carried with Zenner voting no. Ruesch also reported he has put up new horse usage signs.

Ruesch reported the Summer Tour will be held on June 21 – June 22 in Langlade County (Antigo). The agenda for the tour should be available at the next Forestry meeting.

Aszmann reviewed the spring timber sales: #1-07 North Loop Road, pine sale, 3rd pine plantation thinning; #2-07 Bear Avenue, northern hardwood sale, summer sale; #3-07 South end of County Forest off snowmobile trail, small sale, winter sale; #4-07 Lindow taking care of (theft sale); #5-07 white birch/select cut, winter sale, snowmobile trail, hilly area. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve #1-7 through #5-07 sales for advertising. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on the logger certifications with most expiring at the end of 2006. The prospectus has been updated to reflect need for updated certificate.

Aszmann reviewed timber sale #548 Haenel sale for close-out. A good job was done and they are all paid up. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to close-out Timber Sale #548, Haenel Logging Sale. Motion carried. They do have some wood decked & they will have a reasonable time to move the wood.

Ruesch updated the grant application process for the Miller Dam Shelter. He met with the DNR & the Lake Association at Miller Dam to review the project. The project has been amended to also include engineered building plans, a ADA pier, picnic tables and parking lot seal coat/stripping. The Boating Facilities Grant will be applied for with additional funds coming from the Lake Association and Parks budget if needed.

The preliminary Taylor County Forest Financial Report for 2006 was handed out and reviewed. (attached)

Ruesch reported May 15th is his anniversary date and he has 5 vacation days to use and he would like an extension for the use of them. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to extend his time to use his vacation days by one month. Motion carried. Ruesch will check with Marie about proper process to follow.

The next meeting will be June 1, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:00 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY FOREST
FINANCIAL REPORT 2006

Preliminary

Revenue Total	297,391.71
70% County Budget	208,174.19
20% State Fund *	59,478.34
10% Town Fund	29,739.18

*There is no debt balance with the State, so these funds are transferred to the land acquisition account to be used for land or easement purchases.

Budgeted Revenue	104,297.00
Actual Revenue	208,174.19
Surplus Revenue	<u>103,877.19</u>

Expense Budget	219,045.77
Expense	143,191.48
Balance	<u>75,854.29</u>

Town Fund Distribution	29,739.18
Rib Lake 94%	27,954.83
Westboro 6%	1,784.35

Land Acquisition Distribution	
Prior Balance	189,768.93
2006 Transfer	59,478.34
Account Balance	<u>249,247.27</u>

Timber Sale Bids		
Spring Sale Total (3 sales)	150,710.50	186 acres
Fall Sale Total (4 sales)	137,549.00	208 acres
<u>2006 Total</u>	<u>288,259.50</u>	<u>394 Total Acres</u>
<u>2005 Total</u>	<u>393,277.50</u>	<u>504 Total Acres</u>
<u>2004 Total</u>	<u>296,081.57</u>	<u>573 Total Acres</u>

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
April 6, 2007
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Greg Mitchell & Scott Mueller, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News. Also present for a portion of the meeting were Tom Toepfer, Highway Commissioner, Mike Riggle, Chip Courtney and Brian Bucki of the Taylor County Sportsmans Club..

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #12. Discuss Bayfield County lawsuit regarding railroad ROW & reversionary interest and the meeting minutes from March 2nd. Motion carried.

Bills presented: Ruesch reported the price for the weight scales was \$23,250.00, which was lower than expected.

Ruesch presented the Invasive Species Cooperative Support Resolution for signing which is a resolution regarding cooperation between counties supporting efforts to contain invasive plants. Also presented for signing was the resolution regarding the Miller Dam Shelter Expansion project. Both resolutions will be brought to the County Board session for their review and acceptance.

Zenner started the discussion on the Pirus Road gravel pit & the shooting range by saying, after discussions with various people, he didn't believe the quality of gravel would be good enough for State jobs or that it would not be cost effective with the de-watering expense, etc. Toepfer said he did not agree with this and he would be digging some holes to check for depth of gravel, etc. He also said that this is a resource for the County, a Highway Department asset.

Several sportsmen spoke on behalf of keeping the shooting range intact and where it is. Chip Courtney asked if there had been a financial analysis done in regards to "bottom line of what gravel would cost? Net cost per yard?" Mike Riggle wanted to know why an engineering firm had not been hired to take core samples, do an engineering survey after which a cost analysis (effectiveness) could be done. Brian Bucki reiterated that the Sportsman's Club wants to cooperate with the Highway Department and would be willing to reimburse the Highway Department for the gravel under the shooting range (all/part) once the gravel is quantified.

Roiger reported that the gravel was good under the shooting range when the pit was open. He would like to see if the shooting range could be moved temporarily, the gravel excavated and the shooting range moved back to its present location.

Ruesch asked Toepfer what would be the use of the land after reclamation (remediation)? Toepfer's plan had no mention of the shooting range being there when reclamation is completed. Ruesch also asked about the Jump River Pit. Highway Committee minutes of June 27, 2001 state the pit should be listed as inactive and looked at for possible sale. If the Highway Department is looking for funds to purchase a new gravel area, has the sale of this pit been researched?

Both Roiger & Zenner said there should be a way to get the gravel out of the pit and keep the rifle range there. Toepfer agreed.

There was further discussion regarding testing for accurate figures of the depth & quality of the gravel and having an independent study done.

Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to recommend to the Highway Committee that an engineering study be done by the firm currently under contract. The study should indicate the volume of gravel on site as it relates to being mined from above and below the water table and the associated cost of production. When this information is available a joint meeting between the Highway and Forestry/Recreation Committees should be scheduled. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on the WCFA Conference held on March 29 – 30th at Wausau. Some of the topics discussed were: bio-fuel, forest certification duo (FSC/SFI), wolf program update and mil tax funding.

Ruesch gave an update on the current timber theft case. A pre-trial conference date has been set.

Aszmann reviewed timber sale #555 for close-out; Steve Dassow sale on Trout Avenue near the snowmobile trail. It took a couple of seasons to finish, a good job was done and he is all paid up. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to close-out Timber Sale #555, Steve Dassow Sale. Motion carried.

Roiger reviewed the Snowmobile/ATV season; it's closed and it was a rough year with not much open time. Also, not all funding will be used this year.

A Bayfield County lawsuit was discussed. It is a lawsuit involving private parties and abandoned railroad right-of-ways, which are presently being used by the public sector. It is being brought to the attention of the Committee for possible financial assistance. All trails could be in jeopardy if this lawsuit is successful.

The next meeting will be May 4, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:26 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
March 2, 2007
County Board Room

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Greg Mitchell & Scott Mueller, DNR and Ann Hoefflerle, US Forest Service. Bruce Daniels joined the meeting at 10:45.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from February 2nd. Motion carried.

Bills presented: Ruesch has put in an invoice for the new truck of \$20,031.39. Expected delivery is for early this month.

An Invasive Species presentation was given by Ann Hoefflerle and Scott Mueller. They were representing the Upper Chippewa Invasive Species Cooperative which is a cooperative effort between Price, Sawyer, Rusk and Taylor Counties. In discussion, they are looking to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each County Board in support of preventive measures for invasive species. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to support the cooperative effort. Motion carried.

Bruce Daniels, Taylor County Sheriff, discussed his department's position regarding the truck weight scales and the enforcement of posted weights. He will schedule training for deputies to operate the scales. There was also discussion on the County applying for grants to hire a part-time Recreation Officer who could possibly be trained on the use of the weight scales. The Highway Department may have a truck that can be modified to accommodate the scales.

Ruesch discussed the WCFA Conference at Wausau. It will be held on March 29 – 30th at the Midway Lodge. There is a \$45 fee for the meeting & they will drive back and forth. Bizer has shown interest in attending, if possible.

Ruesch discussed the status of the Rib River bridge project. Wheeler Bridge is doing the engineering plan for bidding out the project. Ruesch will be applying for additional grant money to complete the project. Hopefully, the project will be completed by next fall, weather permitting, for the 2007-2008 snowmobiling season.

Ruesch reviewed the grant for the purchase of the Plot Master. Rib Lake will be using the grant money this year for their own projects. But there is other grant money available for this purchase if the County comes up with half the cost of purchase. Ruesch again listed the uses: forestry roads, landings, other departments (parks, etc). Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to provide 50% from the Forestry Account for the purchase of the Plot Master, if the grant is received. Motion carried.

Ruesch discussed the Governor's Budget for Stewardship funding. The new funding will give the Counties more ability to access grant money for the purchase of land. The budget has to pass the legislature yet.

Aszmann reviewed the survey of Section 16, T33N-R3E done by the County Surveyor. There is quite a difference between the old fence line and the new survey line. Letters had been sent to the adjoining landowners to let them know that the boundary line may be in dispute.

Ruesch reported on the WCFA Legislative Initiative which was sent on to Mary Williams, our Legislative Representative. The Initiative looks at funding for the Secretary for the WCFA and payment in lieu of taxes to towns for land in MFL.

The next meeting will be April 6, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:40 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

February 2, 2007

**TAYLOR COUNTY Highway Department & Forestry and Recreation Committee
Minutes of Meeting**

A special meeting of the Taylor County Highway Committee was called to order by Chairman Lato at 11:00 AM on February 2, 2007 at the Taylor County Courthouse in Medford, Wisconsin. The committee met with the Forestry and Recreation Committee and discussed gravel production at the Black River pit on Pirus Road and the impacts to the shooting range.

The committee directed Commissioner Toepfer to estimate the quantity of gravel available at the site. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
February 2, 2007
County Board Room**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Jim Metz (County Board Chair), Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Greg Mitchell & Scott Lindow, DNR and Luke Klink, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from January 5th. Motion carried.

Bills presented: None.

Ruesch discussed the maintenance and costs for the 22 miles of ATV motorized trail in Taylor County. The US Forest Service is not managing it very well, allowing the ATV Club only \$1800 for maintaining the trail and there is \$10,000 budgeted for the trail. There is approximately \$2500 - \$3000 not being utilized. Ruesch gave several options 1) Forest Service sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ATV Club to maintain the trail; 2) Forest Service sign MOU with Taylor County, giving jurisdiction to the county to maintain the trail. There will be a new Forest Service staff person who will be working with the County.

Ruesch reviewed the Severance Tax payments to Rib Lake and Westboro for 2006. Rib Lake received \$33,000 and Westboro received \$1,972.43. The actual revenue fluctuates so the payment will change each year. The County Forest revenue for 2006 was \$330,768 of which 70% went into the County Forest operational account - \$231,538.

The Miller Dam shelter expansion project was reviewed. The project was submitted to the Building, Grounds & Parks Department which approved it at their meeting. The Finance Committee approved the funding with 50% grant and 50% power line money. Ruesch will apply for a Boating Facilities Grant. Approximate cost of the project is \$24,000 and completion date of late summer.

Ruesch discussed the possible paddling park near the Northwoods Archers area on Pirus Road. There's an area near the pond which would work for canoes & kayaks to enter the Black River. There's also ample parking which would eliminate parking near the bridge on State Hwy 64.

Ruesch discussed the area on the County Forest in Section 16, T33N-R3E, where a timber sale is being established. Aszmann has GPS'd the area and using the County GIS system has found a difference in the property line of 30' - 190'. The land adjoins privately owned property which is in the process of having a timber sale. A letter has been sent to the adjoining landowners to let them know that the boundary line may be in dispute. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to have the County Surveyor survey the disputed area. Motion carried.

Roiger reported that the Secretary for the WCFA is retiring and the Director's are working on qualifications for advertising for a new secretary. The WCFA is also looking at timber sales that timber producers are letting go back to the County and the need to look at each instance in relation to markets, overall working conditions (winter sales, etc) and giving extensions.

The next meeting will be March 2, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the County Board Room as there will be a power point on invasive species.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:40 AM. Motion carried. At this point the Committee adjourned until 11:00 AM for the joint meeting with the Highway Committee regarding the Pirus Shooting Range/gravel pit.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

**Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
January 5, 2007
County Board Room**

Present were Chuck Zenner, Mike Roiger, Dave Bizer, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR .

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from December 1st . Motion carried.

Bills presented: None.

Bids for the new Forestry Department truck were opened and reviewed. The specs on each truck were discussed along with the tires equipped on each vehicle. Bids were as follow: Mertens Dodge \$23,717.00; M & H Chevrolet \$24,040.00; and Medford Motors \$19,981.39. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve purchase of Medford Motors Ford truck pending final review of specs. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #560 Kafka for close-out. Sale along Camp 8 Road, good job, everything scaled, just needs to be hauled. Aszmann reported there has been a continuing problem getting mill slips from Kafka. If problem continues he suggests putting them on truck ticket probation (tickets within 2 weeks or wood will be scaled). Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve timber sale close-out of #560 Kafka, pending final payment and wood trucked. Motion carried.

Ruesch gave an update on the meeting between Tom Toepfer (Highway), Bruce Daniels (Sheriff) and himself regarding the Recreation/Weigh master position. (DA Kelz was to attend but personal problems prevented him from attending.) He reviewed the possibility of getting a grant through the Snowmobile/ATV program to cover a portion of the Recreation officer position. Costs associated with the truck weight position would be the equipment and the training. Discussed were the merits of both recreation officer and weight officer. The Committee felt the County Board would probably go only with a half-time position. The Officer would be deputized and keep a log as to what was done.

Ruesch reported that Steve Oberle (Land Conservation) had a project delayed and there is grant money available (\$5600). He reviewed habitat improvement equipment that could be used for County Forest logging roads, wildlife openings, and trail seeding.

The next meeting will be February 2, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:58 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary