

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**December 6, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chuck Zenner.

**Members Present:** Charles Zenner, Michael Bub, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Jim Metz

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Jeff Sorensen (DNR), Jonathan Knusta (DNR-LTE), Bob Nack (DNR-DMAP Coordinator), Curt Rollman (DNR-Biologist), Josh Spiegel (DNR-Biologist), Kurt Haas (DNR Warden), Bart Tucker (DNR Warden), Brian Wilson (Star News), Chuck Gelhaus, Chip Courtney, Jeff Thums, Randy Budimlija, Brian Bucki, Mike Riggle, Steve Flihs, Dan Flihs, John Roiger, Gabriel Gelhaus, Dave Kahan and Clint Sackman.

**Approve Minutes:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Bub moved to approve the agenda of 16 items; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Public Land DMAP Presentation by Wisconsin DNR:** Zenner moved this item up on the agenda to be courteous to the gallery attendees. Bob Nack gave a presentation on the Deer Management Advisory Program (DMAP). There are three (3) public lands enrolled in the program, but Taylor County would be the first County Forest. Nack explained the purpose of DMAP is to provide information, hold educational workshops and support landowners' objectives in healthy deer management practices. Discussion was held regarding the issuing of antlerless tags on public land. County Deer Advisory Committee (CDAC) members were very against the idea of having additional tags above and beyond their recommended number for the County. They do not believe the County should have that much control over the deer population and its management on the County Forest. A few of the attendees stated the deer numbers have been declining over the years on the County Forest and there is no reason to have additional antlerless tags. They feel the CDAC is doing a good job with the recommended tag authorizations and the County is overstepping the line by having tags for "hot spot" areas. Josh Spiegel explained the purpose of damage tags and the rights of the County. County-wide tags are based on the CDAC recommendations and DMAP is supplemental to achieve the desired results. The Forestry Dept would have the final say regarding if tags were to be issued and how many, based on the information presented by DMAP coordinator. No action was taken. Topic may be discussed again in the future.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. He also presented a bill from the Mississippi Valley Archeology Center for an archeological survey for wildlife habitat improvements. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet and archeological survey as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:** Lutz gave updates on timber sales.

- Sale #655 (Dassow): He started cutting again in late November. He has approx. 60% complete.
- Sale #669 (Czarnezki): He started after snowfall and has approx. 21 acres remaining.
- Sale #670 (Smugala): He started to freeze down roads yesterday (12/5/19) and plans to start harvesting within the next couple weeks.
- Sale #676 (Czarnezki): He is approx. 50% complete. He moved off the sale and will return in the summer.
- Wood Lake Access Agreement: Forestry Dept. is overseeing the use of the Wood Lake County Park to access an adjacent private timber sale.

**Timber Sale Contract Extensions: #657 and #659:** Lutz presented contract extension requests for sales set to expire December 31, 2019.

- Sale #657 (Paul Wojcik): He is about 90% complete with just scattered hand-cut log trees remaining. Requested a one (1) year extension but Lutz recommends six (6) months for regeneration protection.
- Sale #659 (Agage Logging): He is almost complete, with approx. three (3) acres remaining. It must be frozen ground condition to finish harvesting. Requested a six (6) month extension.

Brooks moved to grant six (6) month extensions for both sales #657 & #659 with no stumpage increase but impose a \$50 administration fee; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Close Out Timber Sale #679 Pending Final Hauling:** Lutz presented closing out sale #679 pending final hauling. This was the right-of-way sale along Fawn Ave. Road was daylighted to improve drying conditions and safety. This was a direct sale with a lump sum of \$804.15. There are approx. five (5) cords remaining to be hauled. No other work is needed. Brooks moved to close out timber sale #679 pending final hauling; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Timber Sale Bids:** There were four (4) timber sales out for bidding. Total minimum bid value was \$176,116.00 for 291 total acres.

- Sale #681 (7-19, Big K West): 119 acres. Had two (2) qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Czarnezki Forest Products of \$162,314.80.
- Sale #682 (11-19, Trout Spruce): 45 acres. Had two (2) qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Bell Timber Inc. of \$101,459.50.
- Sale #683 (12-19, Falasky): 94 acres. Had two (2) qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Northwest Hardwoods of \$71,240.00.
- Sale #684 (13-19, Emil's Web): 33 acres. Had one (1) qualifying bid. Czarnezki Forest Products of \$19,139.00.

Total received bid values was \$354,153.30. Bub moved to approve the timber sale bids to the highest bidders as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update, Review Chapter 200:** Walcisak stated he made no further changes to the mailed version of Chapter 200. The Committee had no additional changes. Brooks moved to approve the Chapter 200 draft as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. Walcisak stated he did not have Chapter 300 ready as of today but will mail it to the Committee, which will be discussed at the January meeting.

**Oak Management:** Walcisak and Lutz went on a tour of the Clark County Forest focused on the Oak Management practices. Oak is a regionally declining species. It is important to the timber industry and wildlife. It is unlikely prescribed fire practices will be implemented on the County Forest due to being expensive and labor intensive. The Forestry Dept. will continue to use current timber stand improvement practices of mechanical and chemical treatments and scarification. The cost of forest regeneration increases with the implementation of these practices.

**Chelsea Lake Dam:** Walcisak presented a cost comparison spreadsheet for Flambeau Engineering and Ayers. The items that could be compared side by side had a cost difference of approx. \$60,000; Flambeau was \$25,450 and Ayers was \$85,223. The remaining items were based on different materials for the control structure could not be compared side by side. Based on the difference in cost estimates, Walcisak suggested receiving an opinion of probable construction cost from Oak Ridge Engineering. It will cost \$1,400 for the opinion with the proposal being valid until December 31, 2019. Knoll moved to engage Oak Ridge Engineering for an opinion of probable construction cost for Chelsea Dam for \$1,400; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- Mezich Land Purchase. The offer was accepted and the closing date is scheduled for December 31, 2019. The appraisal and title insurance have been scheduled also.
- Pine Line Resurfacing Project. The last segment of the Pine Line has been completed. The whole project was for 16.6 miles of granite and four (4) bridges with new decking and rails for a cost of \$372,233.
- Tree Vandalism. There were 14 red pine and three (3) red oak trees damaged along County Rd D. These trees were either girdled or engraved. Six (6) trees needed to be felled due to forest health concerns. These trees will be sawn into lumber and donated to the Medford High School shop class for projects. The Rib Lake school did not have the means to accept them.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Sorenson stated he cannot complete the sale he was working on due to an endangered species found near the sale. He could not talk about it but is working with the appropriate agency to work around the site. He also stated the Forestry Technician position will probably not be filled until October 2020. Jonathan Knusta stated his position as an LTE for the DNR has ended and he taken a job with Northwest Hardwoods as a log scaler. Knusta did some contracted work for the Forestry Dept. just recently.

**Additional Items:** It was mentioned the Zoning Dept. scheduled a public hearing meeting for the Chelsea Lake Dam floodplain boundaries.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, January 3, 2020 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Brooks moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 pm.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**November 1, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chuck Zenner.

**Members Present:** Charles Zenner, Michael Bub, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Jim Metz

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Jeff Sorensen (DNR), Jonathan Knusta (DNR - LTE), Don Watson - Star News.

**Approve Minutes:** Bub moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Bub moved to approve the agenda of 14 items; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:** Lutz gave updates on timber sales.

- Spirit ATV ROW: Harvesting is complete and all wood is hauled. There was approx. 760 yards of gravel added to the road.
- Sale #676 (Czarnezki): They are continuing to work.

**Approve Timber Sales for Bidding:** There are four timber sales for the fall bidding. Total minimum bid value is \$176,116.00 for 291 total acres.

- Sale #681 (7-19, Big K West): It is a 119-acre selection, seed tree and shelterwood harvest. Minimum bid value is \$89,033.50.
- Sale #682 (11-19, Trout Spruce): It is a 45-acre spruce plantation harvest. It is a rotation harvest with reforestation plans. Minimum bid value is \$25,015.50.
- Sale #683 (12-19, Falasky): It is a 94-acre selection, overstory removal and seed tree harvest. Minimum bid value is \$42,928.00.
- Sale #684 (13-19, Emil's Web): It is a 33-acre selection and seed tree harvest. Minimum bid value is \$19,139.

Brooks moved to approve the fall sales for bidding as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Domask Road Use Agreement:** Walcisak presented a Road Use Agreement through Wood Lake County Park for the Domask property. The agreement is between Buildings & Grounds Dept (Jeff Ludwig) and Agape Logging (Gene Polacek). Walcisak and Lutz met with Ludwig and Polacek on October 17<sup>th</sup> at Wood Lake County Park to discuss the access. Ludwig asked for assistance from the Forestry Dept with the permit and mapping. Ludwig is overseeing the permit and asked the Forestry Dept to monitor the permitted access, as he is not in the area as

much. The permit and performance bond have been received by Buildings & Grounds Dept. The bond is deposited into the Forestry Dept bond account. No action is required by the Committee.

**County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update, Review Chapter 100:** Walcisak briefly reviewed Chapter 100 with a few minor changes. The Committee had no further input. Bub moved to approve Chapter 100 draft including Walcisak's changes as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. Walcisak presented Chapter 200 to the Committee for review, which will be discussed at the December meeting.

#### **Accomplishment Updates:**

- Mezich Land Purchase. The County Board approved the purchase of 40 acres to be added to the County Forest. Walcisak explained some tax differences between County owned land and private land enrolled in closed MFL.
- Deer Damage Program Status. To date, 12 tags have been issued. Walcisak had a phone conference on October 24 to discuss the program and possible consideration of Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) for the County Forest. Participation in DMAP would be a means for public outreach, education, research and involvement. The Committee requested more info and asked if Walcisak could invite DNR staff who oversees DMAP to the December meeting.
- Rail Trail Commission Update.
  - A culvert was repaired near Pleasant Ave by the local snowmobile club. A request was made to Buildings & Grounds in July and August but didn't receive a response.
  - The Commission agreed to a seasonal closure for horses from November 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. The trail is closed to non-motorized traffic during the winter months and this will extend into the spring break-up to help reduce further damage.
  - Four encroachment agreements were mailed and three have responded.
  - The Commission has agreed any access/use agreements will be deed recorded from now on.
  - Price County has received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for trail improvements.
  - Taylor County Tourism is printing 2000 map/brochures for the Trail.
  - Marv Kuenne is resigning as chairman in April. He intends to stay on as a member. Also, Bruce Meyer is resigning in the spring.
- Prescribed Fire for Oak Management Training. Walcisak and Lutz attended a training for prescribe fire for oak management on October 29 at Tree Haven. Walcisak and Lutz were offered the opportunity to tour Clark County forest in November to see different oak management practices being conducted.
- Chelsea Lake Dam. Soil borings were completed. Some minor repairs are needed to the access road. Bub asked if Walcisak could contact Flambeau Engineering for a more detailed cost estimate, with an itemized listing.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Sorenson completed sale #12-19 for bidding. He stated his main goal is to provide support to the Forestry Dept. He is thinking he can establish two

sales before the end of the year. After January 1<sup>st</sup>, he will be busy with training and in March he will be staffing for fire season.

**Additional Items:** None

**Closed Session:** Motion by Knoll and seconded by Brooks to go into closed session at 11:02 am pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c), Wisconsin State Statutes, for the purposes of conducting employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of the Forestry Administrator and discuss employee performance issues. Roll call vote cast; Yes – Brooks, Beadles, Bub, Knoll, and Zenner, No – none. Motion carried.

**Open Session:** Bub moved to go back into open session at 11:35 am; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. No action was taken by the Forestry & Recreation Committee in open session.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, December 6, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Knoll moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**October 4, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chuck Zenner.

**Members Present:** Charles Zenner, Michael Bub, Myron Brooks, Gary Beadles, Jim Metz

**Members Absent:** Gene Knoll - excused

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Jeff Sorensen (DNR), Jonathan Knusta (DNR - LTE), Don Watson - Star News.

**Approve Minutes:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Bub moved to approve the agenda of 16 items; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:** Lutz gave updates on timber sales.

- Sale #659 (Agape Logging): Sale is almost complete, only approx. three (3) acres left. Suspended due to wet weather.
- Sale #679 (Agape Logging): Direct sale for Right-Of-Way (ROW) along Fawn Ave. It is approx. 15 feet wide for 0.4 miles. Lump sum for \$804.15.
- Spirit ATV ROW: Gumz Logging is cutting 15 feet on both sides of Spirit ATV trail for approx. two (2) miles to the county line. There were some road improvements also, such as installing culverts, grading and graveling for future timber sales.
- Sale #676 (Czarnecki): Moved into sale on Sept. 27. Opened road to let it dry.
- Two sales will be expiring Dec. 31; Sale #657 (Paul Wojcik) and #659 (Agape Logging). Expecting contractors to ask for extensions.
- Weather conditions have made skidding and trucking difficult.
- Storm damage has impacted contracted sales and wood market. Marathon County didn't sell all fall advertised sales.

**Close Out Timber Sales #663 & #678:**

- Sale #663 (Gumz Logging): Last load was hauled on Sept. 24. Final payment has been received and no road work is needed. Total revenue was \$34,050.44, with a 33% value overrun and 24% volume overrun.
- Sale #678 (Gumz Logging): This was a direct sale for a lump sum of \$2,991.00. This was a ROW cutting along Emil Dr for 15 feet on both sides for approx. two (2) miles. Sale is completed and last load was hauled on Sept. 24. No road work is needed. Brooks moved to close-out both sales, #663 & #678; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**2020 Department Budget:** Zenner stated the budget was adjusted by the Finance Committee. They decided to increase the Forestry Dept. timber revenue by \$150,000 for 2020. This is not a

long-term proposal. The County's overall budget was short \$600,000. The additional revenue would go back into the general fund to cover the deficit. Walcisak has strong concerns about bid values and the wood market to be able to reach the new revenue request. No action needed at this time.

**2020 Annual Work Plan:** Walcisak presented the 2020 Annual Work Plan. Only minor changes from last year. Beadles moved to approve the 2020 Annual Work Plan as presented and send on to County Board for approval; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update, Chapter 100:** Walcisak presented Chapter 100 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for review. Walcisak stated this 15-year plan needs to be reviewed/updated as it is the Forestry Department's policy manual for operations. Each month over the next year, Committee members will get a chapter to review and then discuss and act on at the following meeting. The Plan needs to be approved by County Board in October 2020 and presented to DNR in November 2020. The Committee will discuss and act on Chapter 100 next month. No action needed at this time.

**Chelsea Lake Dam:** Walcisak presented a cost estimate comparison between Flambeau Engineering and Ayers Engineering for the Chelsea Dam replacement. Flambeau's total cost was \$63,521 and Ayers' was \$243,500. Ayres replacement estimate is based on comparables and will be refined if contracted by the County. Flambeau was missing necessary services needed to complete the project. Tiffiney from Flambeau stated she would not be able to complete the IOM (Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Plan) by the deadline date for the state grant application. Chris Goodwin from Ayers guaranteed the IOM plan, rebuild plan, probable cost estimate and grant application would be completed by the deadline. The proposal agreement cost for Ayres is \$28,500, which is much higher than Flambeau's. Walcisak stated considering Flambeau cannot meet the deadline, the time frame to start over with another engineering company, and the reputation and past working history with Ayres, it is logically to proceed with them. Discussion was held regarding the much higher cost for the dam replacement and the lack of current funding. Discussion included moving carryover money to the dam account to cover the cost. Bub moved to proceed with the proposal agreement with Ayres for \$28,500; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. Brooks moved at year end to take \$105,000 from carryover funds and put it into the dam account; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. Lutz and Zenner attended a public meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> to provide landowners information and a timeline for the dam replacement. Mark Stephenson and Keith Patrick, from the DNR, attended. Patrick stated dikes on private property were located in wetlands. Wetland delineations and mitigations would be required before possible dike replacement/improvement permitting would be issued, all at the cost to the landowners. There was no final decision/conclusion from the meeting. The County Clerk recorded the meeting notes.

#### **Accomplishment Updates:**

- Taylor County received the Milt Reinke Award again this year for the highest forest productivity in Wisconsin.
- Lutz and Brooks attended the WCFA Annual Meeting on Sept. 27 in Rhinelander.
  - New Director, Rebecca Luedtke was there.

- Interesting fact that over the past 60 years, the forest industry has lost 2-3 weeks of frozen ground productivity.
- JEM grant maybe possible for advertising the Wood Lake Interpretive section of Ice Age Trail in Taylor County.
- Walcisak was nominated for Public Partner Award with the Ice Age Trail Alliance.
- The Wisconsin County Forest Certification, which included four (4) counties, was very successful. All existing CARs and OFIs were cleared and no new ones were issued.
- The McKenzie Creek Bridge rehab project is underway. The bridge was delivered this week and should be installed next week. Trail is closed between State Hwy 64 and USFS 554.
- There are 29 active grants for \$871,618 on the books.
- The next Rail Trail Commission meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2019 at 7pm at the Westboro VFW.
- Deer damage tags are expected to be received next week Monday.
- An Ironwood control study by the DNR is being conducted on the Taylor County Forest.
- Burnett County was pushing to have the statutory definition of "Forester" changed in order to receive State grant salary money. They are having difficulties with hiring and retaining personnel. WCFA and DNR did not support the change, requesting the WCA annual business meeting send it back for reconsideration.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Jeff Sorenson introduced himself as the new DNR Liaison for Taylor County. He has been in the position for two (2) weeks. He has 30 years of forestry experience. Walcisak stated the technician hiring process was suspended and is not scheduled to begin again until next year.

**Additional Items:** None

**Closed Session:** Motion by Brooks and seconded by Beadles to go into closed session at 11:20 am pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c), Wisconsin State Statutes, for the purpose of discussing employee performance issues. Roll call vote cast; Yes – Bub, Beadles, Brooks, Zenner, and Metz, No – none. Motion carried.

**Open Session:** Bub moved to go back into open session at 12:13 pm, Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. No action was taken by the Forestry & Recreation Committee in open session.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, November 1, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Bub moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**September 6, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Myron Brooks.

**Members Present:** Michael Bub, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles

**Members Absent:** Charles Zenner

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Christina Schuld, Don Watson - Star News, Josh Spiegel – DNR, Robert Rusch, Gerald (Buzz) Meyer, Butch Clendenning. Jordan Lutz was absent.

**Approve Minutes:** Knoll moved to approve the minutes of the August 2 and August 21, 2019 meetings; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Bub moved to approve the agenda of 16 items with Item #12 struck; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Forest Damage Program:** Walcisak reviewed information about the program regarding the recommendations for 2019. Recommendations include a ¼ mile buffer zone and the use of firearms from the last day of gun season to the last day of bow season. These are the default regulations for the damage program. Tag holders must wear blaze orange, and all harvests must be submitted for CWD testing. The Forestry Dept. and DNR Wildlife Biologist, Josh Spiegel, are jointly requesting 55 tags. The harvest target is between 20 and 25, with a quota of 22, with an estimated 40% success rate. Discussion was held regarding safety concerns for bow hunters who would not be required to wear orange and snowmobilers. Spiegel explained details of the program for hunting rules. Bub moved to approve proceeding with the program and the recommendations for 2019 as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Knoll opposed only due to the use of firearms after muzzleloader season. Motion carried.

Walcisak presented information on FRM Data Collection from a 2,000-acre area between Westboro and Rib Lake which was cruised by Lutz and Jonathan Knusta (DNR). The data is being analyzed by the Forestry Dept., DNR and USDA Forest Research staff. The data shows browse severity is less than the 2018 area, but regeneration failures are much higher, at 68%. Regeneration success for northern hardwood is defined as more than 515 TPA (trees per acre) of desirable species that are 5 feet or higher. Some remedies include: damage tags, control of woody and herbaceous vegetation, site scarification, supplemental planting, individual tree protection, and/or large area exclusionary fencing. The major concern is the sustainability of the County Forest, composition change to less desirable species, revenue sustainability and threats to forest certification.

**Timber Sales Updates:** Walcisak gave updates on four timber sales.

- Sale #659 (Agape Logging): Sale is 75% complete. Progress has been slow due to wet weather.

- Sale #663 (Gumz Logging): Harvesting and skidding completed early August and clean-up hauling remains. The final scale was done and invoice mailed out. Will close-out next month, pending final hauling and payment. There was a 33% value overrun and 24% volume overrun.
- Sale #678 (Gumz Logging): This was a direct sale on the Emil Drive ROW. It is approx. 2 miles long and they are currently harvesting and skidding.
- Spirit ATV Trail: Gumz Logging is widening 2 miles of trail for increased ATV traffic and logging trucks. They are harvesting trees incidental to the project. Dozing, grading, setting culverts and hauling gravel will also be done.
- Timber revenue: Year to Date is \$334,018.

**2020 Department Budget:** Walcisak presented the proposed 2020 Department budget. There is a 0% operational increase. There is a budget meeting with the Finance Committee on Tuesday, September 17 at 11:30am. Walcisak proposed to extend the rotation of the heavy-duty truck for one year to purchase a snow plow. He also gave a summary of the ASV usage, expenses and revenue from January 1 to August 13, 2019. To date, there is approx. \$2,800 of savings from the budgeted amount and approx. \$5,100 if contracted. Equipment use on grant projects has produced a revenue of \$2,070 during this same time period. Bub moved to approve the 2020 Department Budget as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Land Acquisition:** Walcisak presented information for possible land acquisition of the Mezich property. It is a 40-acre parcel with a Fair Market value of \$72,100 and 2019 Assessed value of \$68,000. The asking price is \$60,000. Lutz cruised the timber and Walcisak presented a summary of a possible timber harvest with an approx. revenue of \$32,480. The land would also be qualified for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, which would reimburse half of the purchase price and appraisal. There are adequate funds in the land acquisition account to cover costs. Walcisak also reviewed the breakdown of the tax distribution of private ownership versus county ownership of the property. Bub moved to approve the land acquisition proposal as presented and send to County Board for consideration; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Wood Lake Interpretive Trail:** Walcisak said 16 interpretive signs (12"x18") and six "you are here" signs (18"x24") were quoted by Badger State Industries at \$1,956.20 and the final cost will be established when proofs are approved. High Point Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance will provide posts, hardware and installation labor. Walcisak is requesting to approve funding the signs up to \$2,000. Robert Rusch presented information regarding the language for the signs and pictures for illustration. Butch Clendenning stated High Point Chapter will be responsible for maintenance of the Camp 4 Trail and signs after they are installed. Bub moved to approve funding the signs up to \$2,000 as presented; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Snowmobile and ATV Grant Funding 2019-2020:** Walcisak attended the snowmobile and ATV grant funding meetings last week. Taylor County received funding for all requests: Summer ATV trail maintenance for 33.9 miles (\$23,616), Snowmobile trail maintenance for 290.7 miles (\$87,210), Winter ATV trail maintenance for 322 miles (\$32,200), three Pine Line bridge rehabs (\$69,042), 12 miles for a new Taylor-Price Connector Snowmobile Trail (\$4,760), and 43 miles of new snowmobile trail maintenance (\$12,900). Total grant funding for 2019-2020 was \$229,728.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Item was struck per Chairman due to final policy approval by IT Committee. Item will be presented at a later meeting.

**Chelsea Lake Dam:** Walcisak gave an update. The engineer received the letter last month as requested by the Committee. The engineer then proposed a contract to complete the Dam Failure Analysis (DFA) and Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Corp Counsel and Walcisak reviewed the contract, added verbiage to protect the County and signed it. The DFA was approved by DNR on August 22, 2019. It requires a Class 2 notice, public hearing, Zoning Committee and County Board approval. The EAP is ready for submittal to plan holders for review. The maximum operating water level determined by Flambeau Engineering and approved by DNR Dam Safety and Floodplain Engineer Konny Margovsky is 1,531.0 feet. Ayres Engineering will be submitting a proposal to the Forestry Dept. to conduct the Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Plan (IOM), rebuild plan, cost estimate and grant application. They will complete the work this fall. The Grant application period is now open with a deadline of February 28, 2020.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- Camp 8 Dam – Ayers Engineering will have Camp 8 rebuild plan and grant application ready this fall.
- 2018 County Forest Road Project – The 2018 forest road project with Granberg Brothers is complete. They delivered 890 yards of 2" crushed gravel on Emil Drive. The project will be closed-out and performance bond returned. The Highway Dept. provided the grader and operator.
- 2019 County Forest Road Project – The 2019 forest road project with Granberg Brothers is 80% complete. There has been fantastic cooperation and assistance from Highway Dept. personnel (Ben, Gary and Jeff).
- Perch Pond – The inlet was plugged with debris. Lutz did a drawn down with the use of a Highway Dept. tractor and PTO pump. The obstruction was cleared and they will continue to draw down and assess potential damage. Again, this was a great cooperation with Highway Dept.
- DNR Liaison – Jeff Sorenson will be the new DNR Liaison and will start at the Medford Ranger Station on September 18.
- DNR Forestry Technician – The DNR is currently scheduling interviews.
- DNR Partnership Meeting – The annual DNR Partnership meeting will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Medford Ranger Station.

**Additional Items:**

- Walcisak posed the possibility of the Highway Dept. building a new shop on County Forest Land near the Westboro wayside to replace their aged Rib Lake shop. There is talk about having enough room for the Forestry Dept. to have office and storage space available. This is a multi-year process.
- Pine Line Resurfacing Project – Knoll asked about the progress of finishing the Pine Line resurfacing project. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2019.

- Snowmobile Connector Trail – Knoll asked if the new Snowmobile Connector trail would be started this year. Walcisak stated a Heritage Survey needed to be completed by the US Forest Service and the estimated timeline is approx. fall of next year (2020).

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, October 4, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Beadles moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

## **Forestry & Recreation Committee**

August 21, 2019

Third Floor County Board Room, Taylor County Courthouse

**Call Meeting to Order:** Charles Zenner called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Charles Zenner, Michael Bub, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jim Metz, Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Employment Attorney Mindy Dale; Weld Riley S.C.

**Approve Agenda.** A motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Beadles, to approve the agenda with five items. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Closed Session.** A motion was made by Beadles, seconded by Knoll, to go into closed session at 11:10 a.m. pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(b), Wisconsin State Statutes, for considering dismissal, demotion or discipline of any public employee and the taking of formal action on such matter, provided that the employee has been given actual notice of this evidentiary hearing and of this meeting and the right to demand that the evidentiary portion of the meeting be held in open session; to consider employment and performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c), Wisconsin State Statutes; for conferring with legal counsel Section 19.85(1)(g), Wisconsin State Statutes; and, for the purpose of deliberating regarding the proposed discipline pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(a), Wisconsin State Statutes. A roll call vote cast, five [5] voting aye, the motion carried.

**Open Session.** A motion was made by Bub, seconded by Knoll, to go into open session at 12:30 p.m. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

No action was taken by the Forestry & Recreation Committee in open session.

**Adjournment.** A motion was made by Bub, seconded by Beadles, to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Secretary:** Chuck Zenner

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**August 2, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Zenner.

**Members Present:** Charles Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles

**Members Absent:** Michael Bub

**Other Attendees:** Linda Daniels, Don Watson; Star News, Chuck Gelhaus, Kurt Haas, Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz

**Approve minutes.** A motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Beadles, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2019, Forestry & Recreation Committee meeting.

**Approve Agenda.** A motion was made by Beadles, seconded by Knoll, to approve the agenda with thirteen items. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Approve Bills.** Jake Walcisak, Forestry Administrator, presented a monthly bill spreadsheet to the committee. A motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Beadles, to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Timber Sales Update.** Jordan Lutz, Assistant Forestry Administrator, updated the committee on the following three sales:

- Sale #669 [Czarnecki] This is a 52-acre research sale. They have finished cutting even aged area and will finish research area in winter.
- Sale #659 [Agape Logging] This is a 42-acre sale. The progress is slow and they will be bringing in more equipment.
- Sale #663 [Gumz Logging] This job started in the summer of 2018. They finished cutting yesterday and no extensions will be needed.
- Two other jobs were road work has started.

**Close-out Sale #647.** Jordan Lutz discussed close-out sale #647 [Smola Brothers; Kennedy Lake]. Timber Sale had 9.5% volume overrun; 6% value overrun; total revenue of \$20,283.65. There were approximately seven hours of skid steer/ASV road work and approximately three hours ATV drag work/planting of roads to preserve ski trails. A motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Beadles, to close out sale #647. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Ruffed Grouse Management Area.** Chuck Gelhaus and Kurt Haas were present during the discussion of the Ruffed Grouse Management Area. Jake Walcisak presented a map of the area. The Management Areas are promoted by the WDNR and WCFA. The Forestry Committee established the policy in May of 2018 which was a 1,285-acre area of the Taylor County Forest that has the most diverse grouse habitat available on the County Forest. This area is 7% of the County Forest Land and 6% of the County trails. He also presented the email from Gary Zimmer, Biologist regarding the motorized use in the area. There are four adjacent private landowners to

the area, three of them having direct access to the management area. After much discussion on the policy, a motion was made by Beadles, seconded by Brooks, to remove the ATV/UTV Restriction on the Ruffed Grouse Management Area and monitor the situation in the future to see if it works without the restriction. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Wood Lake Interpretive Trail.** Jake Walcisak stated that fifteen [15] interpretive signs and five [5] 'you are here' signs were going to be installed on the trail. He was waiting on cost estimate from IATA and Badger State Industries. High Point Chapter will be providing posts, hardware and installation/labor. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

**2020 Department Budget.** Jake Walcisak stated that he was working on the budget with a 0% increase to be presented at a future meeting of the committee. Items to consider were that the skid steer actual expenses were below expected and the revenue from doing more dirt work and habitat projects were above expected. The skid steer was not used in the road budget as much as estimated but was used on grant funded projects, which has created a budget shortfall due to lack of use/cost savings on gas-tax roads. He wishes to increase the roads budget and timber sale revenue accordingly. He is receiving estimates ranging from \$7,000.00 to \$8,900.00 on an 8'6" V Snow Plow for the Forestry truck for the 2020 budget year. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

**Municipal Dam Grant Program.** Jake Walcisak updated the committee for the Municipal Dam Grant Program. The Spring 2020 RFP changed to a Fall 2019 RFP. The department needs to apply for both Camp 8 and Chelsea Lake in Fall 2019. The Camp 8 Dam application, soil borings and permit are underway with Ayers Engineering and will be ready. The Chelsea Lake project Dam Failure Analysis [DFA] was submitted to DNR on May 8, 2019 and is still under review. He updated the committee regarding incomplete EAP and IOM and the DFA only being 80% completed. Tiffiney's proposal of \$14,076.00 was approved in August of 2017 and has only been paid \$7,825.00 to date. A motion was made by Beadles, seconded by Knoll, to give a deadline of August 16, 2019, to finish the work by completing the DFA and to move on to Ayres for completion of the project, including the DFA, if Tiffiney does not meet the deadline. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried. Jake will send a letter to Tiffiney indicating the committee action.

**Accomplishment Updates.** Jordan Lutz stated that the storm damage assessment and road cleanup was being worked on. There is a BMP Invasive training that the staff attended July 17 in Rhinelander. There were 72 plots remaining in the FRM data collection with about 3 days remaining between Johnathon and Jordan. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

**Additional items needed to be presented to Committee.** Jake Walcisak discussed the 2019 Forest Damage tags. Walcisak met with DNR Wildlife Biologist Josh Spiegel who recommends utilizing firearms from the last day of gun season to the end of archery season. It is also recommended to include a ¼ mile buffer around the existing permit area to expand the authorized harvest boundaries. These two recommendations are default options for the Forest Damage Program. Taylor County chose to be more conservative than the default options in 2018. Walcisak will meet with DNR and bring back a formal proposal next month. He also

discussed the Miller Dam Dike maintenance and Perch Pond. Three ATV trail projects are currently underway.

Chairman Zenner inquired if the committee had any information on the Forest Service Mondeaux Lodge. The next meeting of the committee was set for September 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment.** A motion was made by Beadles, seconded by Brooks, to adjourn at 11:39 a.m. A unanimous vote cast, the motion carried.

**Acting Secretary:** Linda Daniels

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**July 11, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub, Gene Knoll

**Members Absent:** none

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Don Watson (Star News).

**Approve Minutes:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Knoll moved to approve the agenda of 9 items; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:** Lutz reported three sales with activity.

- Sale #647 (Smola Brothers): This sale is by Kennedy Lake. Hauled last loads on 6/24/19. Final bill was mailed. Will be closing-out sale next month, pending final payment and woods road conditions.
- Sale #659 (Agape Logging): Sale is off Newood Rd. They are just cutting out roads with hand cutter. Waiting until after oak wilt restriction (July 15<sup>th</sup>) to move equipment in.
- Sale #669 (Czarnecki): They are cutting even aged area and should be done within 2 weeks. Research area must be cut in the winter.

**Approve ATV Gravel Project for Bidding:** There was only one bid for the ATV Trail Gravel Projects. John S. Olynick bid \$47,463.00 for 3,900 yards of crushed gravel at \$12.17 per cubic yard. This bid is about \$5,000 over the estimated amount. The original project budget was \$105,535 with a gravel budget of \$41,575. The project savings to date is \$9,857, leaving a budget available for gravel of \$51,432. Even though the bid was higher, it will ensure the availability of gravel and completion of contract by the end of November 2019. Bub moved to approve the ATV Gravel Project bid from John S. Olynick as presented; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- GNA Update – The reimbursement for the GNA contract was received this week for \$3,567.98. There was a profit to the County for about \$1,500.
- Snowmobile Supplemental Request – The snowmobile season was longer than the last couple years and supplemental funds have been requested. The Grooming Association was over by \$31,378 and the Black River Rock Dodgers were over by \$66. The Jump River Runners were under budget by \$4,110, of which was disbursed to the other clubs. The supplemental funds may be prorated depending on the number of requests to the State.

- Pine Line Commission Minutes Summary – Christina Schuld compiled a summary of Rail Trail Commission meeting minutes from 1989 to 2019 for updating the by-laws and operational policies. It took her about 40 hours to complete.
- FRM Data Collection – The DNR has hired an LTE position, Jonathan Knusta. He will be working on 21 timber sales which were closed out within the last 10 years for approx. 1,000 acres of data collection. Knusta will be helping fill some of the DNR time standard hours for Taylor County.
- WCFA Summer Tour – The tour was held in Jackson & Monroe Counties. Walcisak and Brooks attended the Board of Directors meeting and Walcisak and Lutz attended the rest of the tour, which included visits to a cranberry marsh, barrens, Lake Wazee County Park, an elk presentation, moss marsh, pine scarification site, Mathews Bow Company and a sand mine. Myron gave a brief summary of the BOD meeting. Some information was presented about climate changes, suggesting there are two more weeks in the growing season and an additional two inches of rain received over the last few years. The Governor's budget has decided to not impose a gas tax but increase registration fees.
- DNR Vacancies – Liaison position is in the hiring process and should have a start date of September 6<sup>th</sup> and for the Forestry Technician position, the hiring process will begin in September 2019.
- Miller Dam – Walcisak and Lutz completed some maintenance on the dam, such as mowing and trimming on the south dike.
- Chelsea Lake Dam – Walcisak and Lutz did dike and trail maintenance on Chelsea Dam, such as mowing and brushing. The Dam Failure Analysis was submitted to the DNR on May 8<sup>th</sup> and is still under review. Walcisak asked for a status report from Mark Stephenson on June 20, July 2, and July 10, with no response. Walcisak spoke with Tiffiney from Flambeau Engineering this morning and more information was needed. She said she should get it to the DNR dam failure analyst within two weeks.
- Miller Dam Emergency Drill – Lutz attended a tornado emergency drill for Miller Dam on June 19<sup>th</sup> put on by Taylor County Emergency Management.
- Perch Pond – Rock and Cory Thums did some debris removal. Jeff Peterson trapped five beavers. Lutz has been lowering the water for additional debris removal. Will need to purchase a trash guard for inlet to help with beavers. Will start a maintenance plan for pond and monitor water level.
- Wildlife Openings – Lutz did some skid steer work (mowing) in wildlife openings on about nine acres.
- Tires Found in County Forest – The person responsible for the dumping a large amount of tires on the County Forest has been identified and admitted to it. DNR Warden, Kurt Haas, will be seeking restitution for the cost of disposing them, which has not yet been determined. The tires will go to the Taylor County Tire Recycling Collection in August.

**Additional Items:**

- Knoll asked on the status of the drone purchase. Walcisak stated DJI stopped manufacturing the Phantom 4 drone. He is waiting for a new version to be made. He has two years to spend the funds from the grant. If DJI doesn't make a version comparable to the Phantom 4, he will look at a different company.
- Gerald "Buzz" Meyer has received the traveling Spirit Stick Award for his work on the Ice Age Trail.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, August 2, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Bub moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**June 6, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub

**Members Absent:** Gene Knoll

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Don Watson (Star News), Larry Brandl, and Robert Rusch.

**Approve Minutes:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Brooks moved to approve the agenda of 16 items; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**National Scenic Trail System – Robert Rusch:** Robert Rusch gave a presentation on the history of scenic trails, particularly the Ice Age Scenic Trail in Wisconsin. He stated the trail is 1200 miles but only 600 is constructed. He explained a little bit about the history of glaciers in Wisconsin. He showed photos, handed out maps, and presented artifacts. He explained the importance that such a trail has on the communities it passes through. The Ice Age Trail and Timm’s Hill connector trail are unique both locally and nationally. No action needed.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:** Lutz reported a couple sales with activity.

- Sale #647 (Smola Brothers): This sale is by Kennedy Lake. It is a 38 acres sale and is three years old. They are about 50% complete.
- Sale #669 (Czarnecki): This is a 52-acre sale and they want to start Friday or early next week. There is some work being done to improve the roads.

**Close-out Timber Sale #656:** Sale #656 (Twin Forest Products): It was a 36-acre aspen clear cut. They finished in September 2018 but some road work needed to be done. Road work was done by the Forestry Dept. on May 8, 2019. Total revenue was \$50,311.91. There was a 42% volume and 38% value overrun. Overrun due partly to some remarking after the sale was sold and great utilization by contractor. Final payment has been received. Bub moved to close-out timber sale #656; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Update Timber Sale Contract:** Walcisak presented a suggested change to the timber sale contract addressing timber theft and inaccurately filling out a load ticket as two separate items. The new wording added to the contract is under Item #14, Section A “Each time a load of cut timber leaves the sale area, the appropriate portion of the ticket shall be clearly, completely and accurately filled out and deposited in the lock box. Failure to do so will be considered a contract

violation and double stumpage will be assessed.” Bub moved to approve the contract revised with the addition to Item #14 Section A as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Timber Sales Bids:** There are six sales for 328 total acres with a minimum total bid value of \$159,897.50.

- Sale #1-19: 31 acres. Had 1 qualifying bid. Steve Dassow bid \$31,683.70.
- Sale #2-19: 12 acres. Had 5 qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Wiitala-Vozka Logging of \$61,683.10.
- Sale #3-19: 80 acres. Had 8 qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Wiitala-Vozka Logging of \$108,097.25.
- Sale #4-19: 85 acres. Had 2 qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Steve Dassow of \$42,244.00.
- Sale #5-19: 100 acres. Had 5 qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Czarnezki Forest Products of \$97,781.70.
- Sale #6-19: 20 acres. Had 6 qualifying bids. Highest bidder was Wiitala-Vozka Logging of \$59,424.00.

Total received bid values was \$400,913.75. Bub moved to approve the timber sale bids to the highest bidders as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Gravel Project Bids:** Gravel bids for County Forest road project were for the material and delivery of material. There were 2 qualifying bids: Olynick Inc. for \$33,993.75 and Granberg Brothers Inc. for \$27,741.00. The estimated project cost is about \$1300 more than low bidder. Bub moved to accept Granberg Brothers Inc. as the low bidder as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve ATV Gravel Project for Bidding:** Walcisak presented a bid request and map for three ATV Trail Gravel Projects. The bid request is for 3,900 yards of 2” dense graded base delivered on site. Project funded 100% by grants, no cost to the County. Bub moved to approve the ATV Gravel Project for bidding as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Annual Accomplishment Report:** Walcisak presented the 2018 Annual Accomplishment Report. It is a requirement of the State. He reviewed the report. Brooks moved to approve the 2018 Annual Accomplishment Report as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**County Road Use Agreements:** Walcisak presented a County Forest Association question about road use agreements: Does the County allow a private citizen to build or maintain a county forest road for their private access? Over half the counties responded and approx. 25% did not allow such access. 100% of counties that did allow access required the private citizen to bear the expense. Access could not be restricted and remained open to the public and Forestry Dept for forest management. Most counties charge a one-time fee of \$50-\$500 for such an access permit. Taylor County reviews each request on case-by-case scenario. No action taken.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- Biennial County Forest Satisfaction Survey – partnership survey between DNR and the County.

- GNA Update – The GNA contract 19-01 has been approved for invoice submittal. It was budgeted for \$4,745.57, expenses were \$3,559.15. Revenue to the County after expenses and reimbursed is \$1,301.35.
- Neimitz Road – Neimitz Road is next to the Kennedy Lake property. The County paid \$1500 towards Phase 1 of the road improvement. Phase 2 has been completed by the Village of Rib Lake and Smola Brothers Logging. They added about 8-9 loads of pit run. Smola Brothers Logging is currently using this road for timber sale access.
- Chelsea Lake Dam – The Dam Failure Analysis was submitted to the DNR on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The DNR has 30-60 days to review the report. We were updated by Tiffiney from Flambeau Engineering on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Habitat Type Training – Walcisak and Lutz attended a 1.5-day training in Tomahawk. They plan on attending a training at the Central WI Environmental Station on the effects of timber marking for deer habitat.
- WCFA Summer Tour – The tour is June 20-21 in Black River Falls. Walcisak and Brooks will attend Wednesday (Board Of Directors meeting), Thursday and Friday (June 19-21) and Lutz will attend Thursday and Friday. No committee members will be attending. There was discussion about staying overnight. Policy states, "Multiple-day authorized business travel: An overnight stay for the night before may be allowed when the travel requires the employee to leave prior to 6 a.m. and is in excess of 120 miles one way. Overnight stays may be allowed for the subsequent nights providing travel costs (mileage & possible overtime wages) exceed the cost of lodging." Forestry Dept staff never stay the night before a meeting. Bub moved to allow the overnight stay, or whichever is financially cost effective to the County; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Additional Items:**

- The JDQ for Administrative Support came back with no change to the rating. An extra point was given for Decision Making but didn't result in any pay rating change.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Bub moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**May 3, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Mickey Christianson (DNR), and Don Watson (Star News).

**Approve Minutes:** Bub moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Knoll moved to approve the agenda of 14 items with Item #5 struck; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Annual Accomplishment Report:** Item was struck due to lack of financial information to complete report. Item will be presented at the June meeting.

**Timber Sales Updates:** No activity due to spring break up. Lutz is working on establishing fall timber sales.

**Close-out Timber Sales #646 & #652:**

- Sale #646 (Smola Brothers): It was a 71-acre sale and there were no issues. There was a 39% volume and 26% value overrun. Total revenue was \$29,669.63. Brooks moved to close-out timber sale #646; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.
- Sale #652 (Gumz Logging): It was a 38-acre sale and there were no issues. There was a 36% volume and 31% value overrun. Total revenue was \$22,409.03. Knoll moved to close-out timber sale #652; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Timber Sales for Bidding:** There are six timber sales for the spring bidding. Total minimum bid value is \$157,450.00 for 328 total acres.

- Sale #672 (1-19, Gravel Pit): It is a 31-acre selection and seed tree harvest. Minimum bid value is \$13,387.60.
- Sale #673 (2-19, Field Pine): It is a 12-acre mostly Red Pine final harvest. Minimum bid value is \$19,737.00.
- Sale #674 (3-19, Porky Creek): It is an 80-acre Aspen regeneration harvest. Minimum bid value is \$35,335.90.
- Sale #675 (4-19, County Line Re-sale): This is a sale taken back from Dvorak Lumber in December 2018. It is an 85-acre sale. Extra timber marking and fecon work was done to make it more desirable. Minimum bid value is \$32,228.00.

- Sale #676 (5-19, Survey Job): This sale was established by DNR. It is a 100-acre mostly northern hardwood selection harvest. Bid value is \$40,315.10.
- Sale #677 (6-19, Wayside Pine): This is a 20-acre mostly Red Pine final harvest. Minimum bid value is \$16,446.40.

Bub moved to approve the spring sales for bidding as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. Lutz stated the sales are above the last three-year average for appraised value and acreage by \$38,243 and 51 acres.

**Approve Gravel Project for Bidding:** Walcisak presented a bid request and map for Gravel Project of 2.25 miles. The bid is for 2,430 yards of ¾" base estimated at \$9.60/yd (\$23,328.00) and 600 yards of 3" base estimated at \$9.50/yd (\$5,700.00), total estimate is \$29,028.00. Walcisak handed out the approved minutes from the July 6, 2018 meeting stating the Committee agreed to improve the access for Timber Sale #626 taken back from Tigerton Lumber Company. The material for this project is included in the bid. Brooks moved to approve the gravel project for bidding as presented; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Miller Dam Sluice Gate Replacement:** Walcisak presented information regarding the replacement of the sluice gate on Miller Dam based on the recommendation from Ayres Associates. The gate has a service life of 45 to 65 years. The gate was installed in 1966, which makes it 53 years old. Replacement is recommended between 50-55 years old. The gate is currently functional but over time it will corrode and become stuck open or shut, causing an emergency. A minimal draw down would be necessary for replacement due to a cofferdam installation. The estimated cost from Ayres is \$79,500.00 with a 30% contingency, totaling \$103,350.00. Discussion was held regarding possible funding through the State Dam grant program for 50% replacement reimbursement. Walcisak suggested waiting until the 2022 application period due to already submitting two other applications, Camp 8 and Chelsea Lake, in 2020. There is not an urgency for Miller Dam at this time. No action was needed at this time.

#### **Accomplishment Updates:**

- Pine Line Trail: The Rail Trail Commission donated \$5,000.00 to the resurfacing project. There is one mile remaining to complete and should be done this year. The total needed from the Pine Line Maintenance account to cover the remaining balance is approx. \$14,900.00. Discussion was held regarding signs on behalf of the Taylor County PowerLine Impact Fee Fund, which total \$12,500.00, and Taylor County Forestry Dept. for \$7,500.00. It was agreed signs should be printed for each. It was also mentioned a Thank You letter should be read at the next County Board meeting. Walcisak has applied for grant funding for three more bridge rehabs on the Pine Line and should be notified in August of approval/denial. Also, the Rail Trail Commission donated \$5,000.00 for trail resurfacing in Price County.
- WHPF (Wildlife Habitat Partnership Fund): Taylor County repaired a grant for \$11,719.00 for tree planting, wildlife openings and trails, with a 25% match from the County of \$2,930.00. The match will be met with in-kind staff time.
- County Forest Road Repairs: There were three culvert washouts replaced and one sink hole fixed. The new truck, trailer, skid steer, and dump truck were used to complete the repairs. It was half the cost if contracted and the response time was immediate.

- Administrative Assistant JDQ: The JDQ was sent to Carlson Dettman and we are waiting for a response.
- Potential Timber Sale Contract Update: Walcisak stated our current timber sale contract is lacking enforcement language regarding timber theft. Corp Counsel is going to review the contract and recommend suggestions for tighter language.
- Chelsea Lake Dam: On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Walcisak replaced one stoplog and now lake is currently at the same elevation as last August (1531 feet). Private landowners are trying to schedule a meeting to discuss repairing the dikes. Flambeau Engineering has submitted a Dam Failure Analysis report to the DNR on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. The DNR stated it could take as long as two months to review the information for a hazard rating.
- Huey's Hideaway: Walcisak and Lutz planted 32 trees on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Walcisak and Lutz will help with the watering at first.
- GNA Update: Walcisak and Lutz have been working on GNA. They have 1-2 days of work remaining. The compensation from the County for this work is well below industry standards. All expenses are 100% reimbursed to the County plus benefits and overhead. Private forestry consultants earn about three times more for the same work. GNA contracts may not be recommended in the future.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Christianson stated the Survey Job was completed on time (one of the sales out for spring bidding). Scott Lindow's position is still vacant. Christianson also stated he is resigning from the DNR and tomorrow is his last day. The DNR has a LTE position for FRM data collection scheduled for the Medford area and the person will start in early June.

**Additional Items:**

- Walcisak presented information about the WCFA Summer Tour, which will be June 19-21, 2019 in Jackson and Monroe Counties. The registration deadline is June 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$95 per person or \$20 for the banquet only.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Beadles moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**April 5, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room #3308**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub, Jim Metz

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Mickey Christianson (DNR) - excused, Brian Wilson (Star News), and Larry Brandl.

**Approve Minutes:** Knoll moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Brooks moved to approve the amended agenda of 15 items with Item #4 struck and #7 added; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Introduction to New Forest Service District Ranger – Melanie Fullman.** Item was struck as Melanie Fullman was not able to attend.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Bub moved to approve the bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:**

- Sale #646 (Smola Bros): Started cutting on February 25 and finished March 19. Waiting for final billing.
- Sale #652 (Gumz Logging): Started cutting on February 16 and finished March 19. Waiting for final billing.
- Road restrictions went on March 21.
- DNR is working on the Survey Job timber sale.

**Good Neighbor Authority Contract 19-01 (added).** Walcisak gave a brief review of the Good Neighbor Authority program. The Committee has been informed about GNA since 2014. The Committee approved a Memorandum of Agreement in 2017. GNA contract 19-01 was signed by Walcisak and Lutz in September 2018. The contract is for cruising 271 acres with 254 plots for an estimated time of 85 hours. The contract value is \$4,746.00. Taylor County will pay the upfront expenses and will be 100% reimbursed. The County will receive approx. \$1,578 in misc. revenue for employee benefits and overhead expenses, in addition about \$838 will go back into the transportation budget for the use of truck, trailer and ATV. County staff will work the required 40 hours per week on County Forest, then up to 20 hours per week on the National Forest for GNA. Walcisak and Lutz plan to meet with Maggie Lorenz (DNR National Forest Liaison) and beginning work on April 18. The contract deadline is May 30. Walcisak was asking for a more specific motion addressing the additional working hours. Bub moved to approve Walcisak and Lutz are permitted to work more than 40 hours per week, up to 20 hours per week for the GNA contracting and be reimbursed the hourly rate equivalent of their salaries and the

matter be referred to the Personnel Committee for approval; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Grant Application Update:** Walcisak presented a spreadsheet with current grants, active and pending. Total is \$1,044,699.89. Walcisak reviewed a few of the grants, such as the annual ATV and Snowmobile maintenance, Pine Line Bridges, Rib Lake Ski & Snowshoe Trail Maintenance, Pittman Robertson Alder Shearing, and Drone. He also stated the Price-Taylor Connector Trail is moving forward. Price County has all landowner agreements signed. No action needed.

**Ice Age Trail Improvements – Wood Lake Segment:** Walcisak presented a map and information sheet regarding proposed interpretive signage on the Wood Lake segment of the Ice Age Trail. Walcisak, along with Bob Rusch, Butch Clendening and Tim Malzhan, snowshoed the trail on March 27<sup>th</sup>. They identified 21 potential interpretive sign locations, which might be consolidated to upper teens. The Ice Age Trail Alliance and Local Chapter will develop the sign language with the Forestry Dept approval. There is no trail tread work needed. Badger Industries will print the signs. The Alliance is asking the Forestry Dept to cover the cost of the signs, posts and hardware and the Alliance and Local Chapter will install them. The estimated costs will be discussed at a future Committee meeting. No action needed at this time.

**Camp 8 Dam:** Walcisak received the cost proposal for the Camp 8 Dam Repair Design permits and Grant Application. The initial estimate from August 2018 was \$33,400. The updated estimate is \$26,800, which includes soil borings, permit review fees and completing the grant application. Approx. \$6,600 from the original estimate is left for project bidding and construction oversight. These fees are eligible for reimbursement through the dam grant program. The repair design needs to be completed prior to application submission. Bub moved to approve proceeding with the Dam Repair Design and Grant Application for Camp 8 Dam with Ayres Associates as presented in the cost proposal; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**WCFA Spring Conference:** Walcisak and Lutz attended the WCFA Spring Conference in Marshfield, March 14 & 15. Walcisak gave a presentation on deer herbivory, forest regeneration and what is occurring on the Taylor County Forest. The new DNR leadership, Secretary Preston Cole, looks good for conservation funding, forest regeneration and is very appreciative what WCFA has accomplished for the State of WI. Brooks and Beadles signed up to attend but weather conditions were too poor for driving. No action needed.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- CDAC: Walcisak handed out a hard copy of the CDAC public survey. You can only submit the surveys online. Walcisak was granted permission to enter multiple surveys from the same computer for others who do not have internet service. The survey deadline is April 11. The Conservation Congress meeting is scheduled for April 8 in the Red & White Theater at Medford High School.
- Chelsea Lake Dam:
  - Jodi Lepsch, DNR Lake Biologist, will be conducting an aquatic plant survey in July 2019, per the request of shoreland owners.

- Flambeau Engineering is submitting additional information to the DNR Dam Failure Analyst, which is expecting a hazard rating determination in 30-60 days, providing all information is received.
- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, one log was removed to prepare for break-up and the water elevation was 1531.49'.
- On March 28<sup>th</sup>, one more log was removed and the water elevation was 1531.28'.
- On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the water elevation was 1530.95'.
- Snowmobile trails closed county-wide on March 15<sup>th</sup>. They were open for 35 days.
- The Pine Line Trail opened on February 2 and was open for 42 days.
- Winter ATV trails were open for 19 days.
- Supplemental snowmobile funding will be requested this year.
- The new 2019 truck was picked up on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the trailer was received on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Walcisak took them to Alter Metal and weighed the set, which was 11,520 pounds. The combined weight is less than expected which allows for the ASV and fecon head to be hauled at the same time.
- Pirus Shooting Range is open to foot traffic only at this time. The gate is locked. There is deep snow yet and the gravel is too soft for vehicles.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Christianson was absent but Walcisak stated nothing has changed since last month.

**Additional Items:**

- Walcisak also presented an email from Michael Dahlby, Chippewa County Land Conservation & Forest Management, about contacting your local Legislators regarding the importance of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.
- Walcisak and Lutz were monitoring deer sightings on the County Forest March 11 & 12. They saw about 100 deer and all seemed to be healthy. They did not find any carcasses that indicated starvation. Conservation Warden Kurt Haas went with them on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Lutz found a dead Bald Eagle at the Pirus Shooting range. It did not show any signs of being shot. He took it to Kurt Haas, DNR Conservation Warden.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, May 3, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Knoll moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**March 1, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub, Jim Metz

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Mickey Christianson (DNR), Don Watson (Star News)

**Approve Minutes:** Bub moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Zenner tabled Item #10 – Chelsea Lake Dam due to no new information. Bub moved to approve the agenda of 16 items with Item #10 tabled; Seconded by Knolls. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. No action needed.

**Timber Sales Updates:**

- Sale #652 (Gumz Logging): Started on Feb. 16. Plan on cutting entire 38 acres and deck wood at Camp 8 in case break up happens before completion.
- Sale #646 (Smola Bros): Started cutting on Feb. 25. They plan to cut entire 71 acres with winter, weather permitting.
- Snow depth and cold weather have slowed production. Snow plowing has played a role in decreased logging production.

**Close Out Sales #650, #653 and #664:**

- Sale #650 (Twin Forest Products): This was a 70-acre selection harvest. The harvest revenue was \$38,820.45, plus a finance charge of \$92.98 for a total contract revenue of \$38,913.43, with a 21% volume overrun and 7% value overrun. Final payment has been received and no road work required. Bub moved to close out Sale #650; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.
- Sale #653 (McFarland Cascade): This was a 38-acre red pine thinning. Wiitala-Vozka cut it; their first sale back since being blacklisted. Total revenue was \$58,038.97, with a 19% volume underrun and 21% value underrun. There were 24 different patches that were cruised by four people likely contributing to cruise error. Final payment has been received and no road work required. Brooks moved to close out Sale #653; Seconded by Knolls. Motion carried.
- Sale #664 (Tony Smugala): This was a 64-acre aspen clear cut. Total revenue was \$70,076.63, with a 35% volume overrun and 34% value overrun. Final payment has been received and no road work required. Brooks moved to close out Sale #644; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Adopt Haul Ticket Information Sheet as Part of Timber Sale Contract:** Lutz presented a new information sheet to be added as part of the timber sale contract. This sheet will go in the ticket boxes placed at sale locations. The sheet will provide truck haulers all the information needed to fill out load tickets and the procedure for hauling and delivering loads. Knolls moved to approve the new haul ticket information sheet as part of the timber sale contract as presented; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Resolution to Apply for Sustainable Forestry and Wildlife Aids:** Walcisak presented a combined resolution authorizing Taylor County to apply for Sustainable Forestry and Wildlife Aids. The current resolution used for applying for grants has been for Outdoor Recreation. The DNR Community Grant Specialist informed Walcisak this needed to be clarified. This resolution is required for WI-DNR and Federal grant applications. Bub moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing Taylor County Forestry and Recreation Dept to Apply for Forestry and Wildlife Aids as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Sustainable Forestry Grant Application:** Walcisak presented a Sustainable Forestry Grant application for the purchase of a drone, accessories and licensing. Walcisak stated the purpose of the drone would be for capturing real-time aerial imagery for forest health, forest recon, timber harvest progress, storm damage assessment, and road and trail evaluation. The Forestry Dept has an iPad that is compatible with the device. The grant is 100% funded with no cost to the County. Walcisak and Lutz would have to receive an FFA Remote Pilot License (with a by-annual renewal of \$25 each). The total cost of the drone, accessories and licensing is \$3,532.00. Discussion was held regarding sharing the drone with other departments if needed, such as Sheriff. Bub moved to approve the purchase of the drone, accessories and licensing as presented and allowing other departments to use it, all contingent on grant approval; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Chelsea Lake Dam:** Tabled by Zenner due to lack of new information.

**WCFA Spring Conference:** Walcisak presented an updated agenda for the WCFA Spring Conference scheduled for March 14 & 15 in at Hotel Marshfield. The Committee members were mailed an agenda prior to the meeting. Walcisak and Lutz will attend both days. Walcisak presents Friday morning on deer herbivory and forest regeneration. Brooks and Beadles will attend March 14. Bub, Zenner and Knoll will not attend. No action needed. Walcisak stated Jane Severt, Executive Director for WCFA, will be retiring August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. She has agreed to stay on until the end of the year to help with the transition of a new hire if needed. Brooks attended the WCFA Board of Directors meeting on February 15. He stated Walcisak was approved as representative for the WCFA Wildlife Specialist on the State Deer Advisory Committee. Brooks also stated approx. 900,000 cords was harvested from County Forests in 2018, with a dollar figure in the high 38 million.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- The Administrative Support position job description was approved by the Personnel Committee. Carlson Dettman will review the position to determine pay grade.
- The snowmobile trails were all open on Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>. There has been too much snow and drifting for proper grooming.

- The Little Black River Bridge was completed. The bridge is 95 feet long. Janke General Contractors did a good job.
- There is a CDAC training in Phillips on March 2. The Taylor County CDAC meeting is March 19 at County Market.
- The new truck should be arriving the second week in March.
- Walcisak received the County Forest Administration Grant; which pays for 50% salary and 40% benefits for Lutz.
- Walcisak and Lutz will attend a training for GNA prescription writing at Kemp Natural Resource building on March 5 in Woodruff.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Christianson stated Scott Lindow's position, County Forest Liaison, is still vacant. He also stated there is too much snow for tree marking.

**Additional Items:** None.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, April 5, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Forest Administrator Performance Evaluation:** Zenner moved to go into closed session at 11:20 am for annual performance evaluation for Walcisak. Roll call vote was taken: Brooks, Yes; Beadles, Yes; Bub, Yes; Knoll, Yes; Zenner, Yes; Motion carried. Bub moved to reconvene to open session at 11:40 am; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried. No further action needed on this matter.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Bub moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**February 8, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Mickey Christianson (DNR), Don Watson (Star News), James Stokes (Huey's Hideaway), Alli Ranum (Huey's Hideaway), Tom Thielke

**Approve Minutes:** Knoll moved to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Bub moved to approve the agenda with 16 items; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet. Brooks moved to approve bill spreadsheet as presented; Seconded by Bub. Motion carried.

**Huey's Hideaway Request:** James Stokes gave a brief background to Huey's Hideaway and the purpose behind it. Huey's Hideaway is an education center for children. It is a safe space for them to learn through play. Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum is open, but they are looking to expand their exhibits with an outdoor area. They have purchased the land adjacent to the museum. Alli Ranum is requesting a contribution from the Forestry & Recreation Dept for the purchase and planting of trees. The estimated proposed project cost is \$2,220.41, which include the approx. costs of trees for \$421.43 and donated labor and equipment for \$1,798.98. The Museum is working with a landscaper and architect to design the layout of the area. They are also working the UW-Extension office for curriculum ideas. The Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA) receives a grant from UWSP for environmental education. Taylor County's involvement in the Huey's Hideaway project would fall into the grant parameters for reimbursement to WCFA. Huey's Hideaway goal is to raise \$100,000 for the project. Bub moved to approve the request from Huey's Hideaway for the purchase of trees for \$421.43 and donated labor and equipment from the Forestry Dept for approx. \$1,798.98, for an estimated project cost of \$2,220.41; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Updates:**

- Sale #650 (Twin Forest): All harvest operations are complete. No wood to haul. Will generate final invoice.
- Sale #653 (McFarland Cascade): All harvest operations are complete. No wood to haul. Will generate final invoice.
- Sale #664 (Smugala): All harvest operations are complete. No wood to haul. Will generate final invoice.
- Sale #669 (Czarnecki): Plans to freeze down roads and move in late this winter.

- Springs Sales: Four of the six sales are field and paper complete. They have been sent to DNR for approvals.
- Year-To-Date: We have invoiced \$155,593.49.
- Cold weather is good for freezing down roads and harvest area, but hard on equipment.

**Close Out Sale #637 Pending Final Payment and Final Hauling:** Sale #637 (Smola Brothers): Total revenue was \$42,147.55, with a 44% volume overrun and 33% value overrun. A few cords remain to be hauled but have been scaled and billed. Final invoice was mailed. Bub moved to close out Sale #637, pending final payment and final hauling; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Timber Sale Bid Packet Modification:** Walcisak presented information regarding our procedure for sending out timber sale bid packets. Currently we copy all maps, prospectus and mail out 72 packets twice per year, for an annual cost of \$221.58. Walcisak suggested using a postcard with the County Forest website address, stating the timber sales could be viewed online, both current and historical sales. The estimated annual cost for postcards is \$93.18. The Committee wanted to make sure if someone wanted a hard copy, it would still be available. Bub moved to approve using postcards to advertise timber sales; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Administrative Support Position Description Update:** Walcisak presented the updated Job Description for Administrative Support. The Zoning Dept did not make any changes and/or corrections for the shared duties and responsibilities. Walcisak worked with Human Resources to update the Forestry Dept list of responsibilities. Walcisak has added new programs and the Committee assigned timber sale finances to Schuld in 2017. Walcisak has delegated responsibilities to Lutz and Schuld to best fit their skillsets and there is cross training of many duties. Human Resources made changes to the Qualifications and Education/Training and a new section of Physical Demands was added. The description will have to be approved by the Personnel Committee and then reviewed by Carlson Dettmann Consulting. Myron moved to approve the updated Job Description for Administrative Support as presented and refer it to the Personnel Committee; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update:** Walcisak presented the updated Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2019-2023. This plan is updated every five years. The Committee received a copy in the mail to review prior to the meeting. The plan will have to be approved by the Buildings & Grounds Committee also. The Recreation Plan is a required document for many grants Walcisak applies for through the DNR and Federal government. The plan has been sent to the DNR grant specialist for review. The plan needs approval from the County Board. Bub asked who enforces the "recommendations" noted in the plan. Walcisak said it is a combined effort with Buildings & Grounds. Bub moved to approve the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023 as presented and send to the County Board for approval; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Ruffed Grouse Translocation Project:** Walcisak gave an update on the grouse translocation project. He received a 24-page report and it is available for anyone to read. In 2018, 100 grouse were captured in a four-county area and relocated to Missouri. They have a severe declining population and are translocating grouse from Wisconsin to designated wildlife areas in

an attempt to increase their population. This is a three-year project. Most grouse captured were from Price County and five birds from Taylor County. At the end of the project, there is an opportunity to apply for a wildlife habitat grant for participating in the program. On a related note, three birds tested positive for the West Nile Virus. These were not birds from the translocation project. No action needed.

**Chelsea Lake Dam:** Walcisak received an email from Jeff Scheirer regarding the winterkill potential in Chelsea Lake if the water level was lowered. Scheirer can only speculate to the outcome given the low water inflow and lake size. He gave a couple examples of Lakes in Price County. Two small creeks feed Chelsea Lake and Little Chelsea Lake has no direct inflow. Tom Thielke stated the comparison to the Lakes in Price Co. was like comparing apples to oranges. He asked if the DNR would allow the lake to be maintained a couple inches higher than currently. Walcisak received part of the Dam Failure Analysis Report from Flambeau Engineering. The recommended water level is based on the lowest elevations of the lake shoreline, Chelsea Ave and the effect of a 100-year rain event. In such an event, the water level would increase one foot. If the dam fails, Fawn Ave, Everson Rd, and Fisher Creek would all be flooded. Walcisak will be meeting with Mark Stephenson (DNR) and Tiffiney Kleczewski (Flambeau Engineering) in March to discuss and provide a recommendation for the new water level. No action needed at this time.

#### **Accomplishment Updates:**

- Walcisak applied to the Pittman-Robertson grant program which is available for alder shearing within the ruffed grouse management area. The project total is \$5,736.00 and is a 100% reimbursable grant.
- Snowmobile Trails – The trails will open February 9<sup>th</sup> at 8am, except for south of Hannibal and west of State Hwy 73, which will open February 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am. All trails south of Corridor 64/18 and east of Corridor 25 remain closed until further notice. Trails are only open to snowmobiles.
- Close out Silver Creek Bridge – Rehab is done, and bridge is open for use. The final bill will be paid today.
- State Deer Advisory Committee – Walcisak was asked to attend a meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Mead Wildlife Center as a representative for the County Forest Association. This is a separate effort from County Deer Advisory Councils. The State Deer Advisory Committee reviews and makes recommendations on the management of white-tailed deer in Wisconsin. The committee advises the Wildlife Policy Team on a variety of topics such as hunting regulations, surveys, research priorities, depredation, disease management and designing public input opportunities.
- CDAC – Next meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at County Market.
- CDAC – Training session scheduled for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Phillips.
- Public Land Antlerless Deer Survey – Mike Riggle, Taylor County Sportsmen Club, advocated with the DNR for a survey to be done on public lands in Taylor County. It appears a survey will be emailed to those who received one of the 500 public land antlerless tags. This will determine the composition of antlerless deer harvested on public lands in Taylor County. Not expecting the results until after the March CDAC meeting.

- Camp 8 Dam – Walcisak received the DNR directives for the Camp 8 Lake Dam on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The IOMP and EAP need to be updated, install new dam warning sign, deter ATV trail use on the berm, monitor seepage, and replace spillway.
- Additional Dams – Green Hole needs a permit (no permit on record) and maintenance, Perch Pond and Wildlife Pond need maintenance. Walcisak suggested to start an annual budget of approx. \$40,000-45,000 for all six county owned dam replacements. This new annual budget would provide the County with enough funding to replace all dams as they met their life expectancy.
- The new truck has been ordered and will be available the second week in March. The new trailer is ready for pick up in Merrill.
- WCFA – The BOD meeting is Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> in Kemp.
- WCFA – The spring conference is scheduled for March 14 -15<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Marshfield.
- GNA Update – Maggie Lorenz (GNA Liaison) informed Lutz and Walcisak the GNA harvest goal has increase from 25 million board feet in 2019 to 30 million board feet in 2020. She is not sure on exact locations but anticipates about a 100-acre increase of timber sales in the Medford/Park Falls area. There is potential for Lutz and Walcisak to help write prescriptions for GNA timber sales.
- New USFS Ranger – The new ranger is Melanie Fullman.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Christianson stated Scott Lindow's position, County Forest Liaison, was not filled with a lateral transfer. The position will be filled with new forester hires late this summer/early fall.

**Additional Items:** None.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, March 1, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Brooks moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.

**Forestry & Recreation Committee**  
**January 4, 2019**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor County Board Room**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chuck Zenner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Members Present:** Chuck Zenner, Myron Brooks, Gene Knoll, Gary Beadles, Mike Bub, Jim Metz

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Jake Walcisak, Jordan Lutz, Christina Schuld, Mickey Christianson (DNR), Don Watson (Star News), Brad Dahlvig (WIGM), Tiffiney Kleczewski (Flambeau Engineering), Josh Spiegel (DNR Wildlife Biologist), Colleen Handrick, Larry Brandl, Kyle Noonan, Shawn McSherry, Randy Mayer, Steve Mayer, Jim Gray, and two other audience members who were not identified.

**Approve Minutes:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2018 meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Zenner suggested moving Item #11 (Chelsea Lake Dam) to the top of the agenda to accommodate audience members. Bub moved to approve the agenda with 16 items but move Item #11 to the top of the list; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Approve Bills:** Walcisak presented a monthly bill spreadsheet and a bill from Brugginks for repairs on the ASV for \$453.69. A large branch broke off while Walcisak was operating the ASV and caused some damage to the door hinges and windshield. Bub moved to approve spreadsheet and Brugginks bill as presented; Seconded by Beadle. Motion carried.

**Chelsea Lake Dam:** Walcisak gave a brief history review of the Chelsea Lake Dam since Taylor County took over ownership. Currently there are two less stoplogs than when the County assumed ownership in March. Walcisak is operating the dam according to State NR333.07 (Hydraulic design and safety requirements). Tiffiney Kleczewski of Flambeau Engineering gave a short review of the partial engineering report she emailed Walcisak. The final report is not done but she stated she should have the failure analysis done by the end of January. Kleczewski stated the report is based on a 100-year rain event without overtopping any part of the lake shore. The crest of the dam sits at 1534 feet above sea level and the two lowest dikes are 1531.7 and 1533.2 feet. Optimum water level should be at least one foot below the lowest elevation, meaning the dikes are the limiting factor. Shawn McSherry stated he spoke with Mark Stephenson (DNR Dam Specialist) regarding the dikes about their condition and use. He stated Stephenson said the dikes aren't regulated by the DNR and have nothing to do with the dam. Kleczewski rebutted this in saying Stephenson said NO water should go over top of them. McSherry stated he didn't have a problem if the County operated the lake at its authorized maximum level of 103.1 feet. Kleczewski stated the only place water should be going through is the outlet structure on the dam itself. Adding, every time the dikes are overtopped, it poses a safety concern and there is a possibility for the dikes to wash out and drain the lake. Kleczewski also stated water overtopping these dikes is a "huge" concern for the DNR. Kleczewski said there would be a large cost to rebuild the dikes because there aren't any plans and the DNR doesn't know how they were constructed; what materials were used or how stable they are.

Discussion was held about openly violating the Administrative Code in operating the water level to exceed maximum capacity and thereby over topping the dikes. Bub said that since the water level has been that way for 60 years, he doesn't see an issue with continuing such practice. He wants to see the landowners pay taxes on waterfront property instead of 75 yards of mud. Walcisak highly cautioned against the County operating the dam in open violation of Administrative Code. Zenner stated since the County owns the dam, the DNR is looking at this more strictly. He doesn't want the County to be liable for any damage that could happen if the dam is operated outside the engineering specifications. Given the unusual dry summer, the water level had been low. Randy Mayer questioned the amount of rain really needed to overtop the dike level. He said when the dikes are overtopped, the water runs down a natural spillway and at times, the township has had to add gravel when the roads are under water. Jim Gray recently purchased property on Chelsea Lake and stated when he bought the property, the water level was up to his dock. Now he has to carry his canoe to the water, it doesn't even come to his dock. Two of the dikes in question are located on his property. He said with the heavy rain in September, there wasn't any water going over the top of the dikes. At this time there is no action to be taken as the Committee is waiting for the final engineering report.

#### **Timber Sales Updates:**

- Sale #637 (Smola Bros): They are about 90% complete. Progress has been slow due to equipment break downs, purchasing new equipment and warm weather. If weather cooperates they should be finished early next week.
- Sale #650 (Twin Forest): Hired a new employee to run processor and they will finish cutting and skidding today.
- Sale #653 (McFarland Cascade): They plan on using Wiitala-Vozka as their contractor. Pre-sale meeting scheduled for Monday at 8am. They are able to work on County Forest as of January 1, 2019.
- Sale #664 (Smugala): They should be done cutting and skidding next week.
- Sale #646 (Smola) and Sale #652 (Gumz): They both have started dozer work to freeze down roads and plan on moving in this winter.
- Overall the weather has been warm and has slowed progress.

**Close Out Sale #666 Pending Final Payment:** Sale #666 (Tony Smugala) Total revenue was \$41,057.64, with a 45% volume overrun and 46% value overrun. No road work is required. Final invoice was mailed. Brooks moved to close out Sale #666, pending final payment; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Resolution of Recognition to Scott Lindow:** Walcisak read a Resolution of Recognition for Scott Lindow regarding his years of service to Taylor County. Bub moved to approve the resolution of recognition for Scott Lindow as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

**Approve Truck Bids:** Medford Motors was the only bidder. They submitted a bid for a 2019 Ford F350 Ext Cab XL in both gas and diesel engines. They included a trade-in value for the 2012 truck but we will be selling it to the Highway Dept for \$11,000.00. The Committee agreed the gas engine would fit our needs. The purchase price is \$32,583.00. The budget has \$10,000 from 2018, \$10,000 from 2019 and with the \$11,000 from the Highway Dept, we would be short \$1,583.00. Bub moved to approve the purchase of the 2019 Ford gas engine truck for

\$32,583.00 and look at the finances at the end of the year to possibly cover the difference from leftover funds in other accounts; Seconded by Knoll. Motion carried.

**Approve Equipment Trailer Bid:** There were five bidders but six bids. One company bid out two different brand name models. All the bids did not meet the specifications regarding the heaviest weight combination of equipment (ASV and fecon head). All other requirements were met. Discussion was held regarding how often that specific combination was hauled and cost benefit of increasing the weight load capacity with a heavier trailer and truck. The Committee agreed for the few times this combination would be required, we could work with the DNR to haul the equipment or the Forestry Dept would have to make two trips. The lowest bid was from Gold Medal for a Delta Gooseneck flatbed trailer for \$6,000.00. Knoll moved to approve the purchase of the Delta Gooseneck trailer from Gold Medal for \$6,000.00; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried.

**Equipment Use Report:** Walcisak presented a spreadsheet of the ASV usage to date. It showed the dates used, the project, the grant for reimbursement, number of hours, specific attachment, labor rate, and total dollar amount. To date, \$3,631.70 will be reimbursed through grants held by the Forestry Dept. No action was needed from the Committee.

**Forest Damage Program:** Walcisak gave an update on the program. There were 35 tags available. Twenty-four tags were issued and 5 deer have been registered, which is a success rate of 21%. The tags are valid through Jan. 6, 2019. Josh Spiegel from the DNR gave a couple reasons as to why the success was lower than expected, such as getting tags out late and the congregation of deer during times of the year outside of the hunting seasons. We expect to have more data by the end of January. The browse damage is still occurring meaning there is a need to continue with the program for this area. Another follow-up report will be given in February. Knoll asked if a survey will be completed from the DNR to determine the distribution of the antlerless harvest on public land once the season is officially done. Spiegel stated it has been requested and sent up his chain-of-command, but it sounds like it will not be this year. No action was needed from the Committee.

**Accomplishment Updates:**

- Athens Lumber has completed three bridges on the Pine Line. The contract for these bridges will be closed out pending a final inspection. The Silver Creek Bridge was scheduled to start yesterday.
- A request to the Pine Line Commission for the balance of the resurfacing project will be done at their next meeting in April.
- B&M Logging was charged with timber theft from Sawyer County. Walcisak presented an article with information about who was involved and what charges are being brought forward. The initial court appearances are scheduled for January 15, 2019.
- The U.S. Forest Service has a new District Ranger, Melanie Fullman. The Committee asked Walcisak to extend an invitation to attend a meeting to introduce herself.

**DNR County Forest Liaison Report:** Christianson stated the time standard hours have been met in six months leaving the rest of the year with none. However, he received permission to go

over the 570-time standard hours by about 5-10%. Scott Lindow's position will open for a lateral recruitment this month. Christianson is finishing the Survey Job timber sale.

**Additional Items:** None.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of the Forestry & Recreation Committee will be Friday, February 8, 2019 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Knoll moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Beadles. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

**Secretary:** Christina Schuld, Taylor County Forestry Dept.