

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND FOREST**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, June 11, 2018, 5:00 p.m.  
Agriculture & Resource Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Bert Moritz, and Kevin Stelljes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tami Schraufnagel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jed Kaurich, WDNR Forester; Ron Witte, Chad, Sherry, Brittany and Lacy Bergman, Larry Barsamian, Scott and Kaythyn Wendt, Shawn Pehlke, Gary Lone, and Luke Hass, sportsmen; Kathy Coope, United Way; John Stupak, Invasive Species Volunteer.

STAFF PRESENT: Josh Pedersen, Jody Gindt, Ali Moe, Jake Tumm and Bobbi Barone

---

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chair Stelljes at 5:30 p.m.
2. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
3. Approval of minutes from May 16, 2018 meeting – Bert moved to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2018 meeting; motion carried.

Chair Stelljes asked permission to alter the agenda with the committee; no objections.

7. Ordinance to create Hybrid ATV/UTV Trail – Josh stated we are not waiting for a legal opinion from the state as the state indicated there would be none. The County Code does not prohibit other uses of the ATV/UTV Trail and no code changes would necessary. Kevin sked for comments for the public in attendance and several individuals in attendance spoke in favor of creating a Hybrid ATV/UTV Trail for the River Trail. Josh explained the draft ordinance c. items 6 and 8 are just cleaning up the code; item 7. Is just a designation. Gary and Pat thought the ordinance should move forward. Kevin asked for a motion. Gary moved to approve the ordinance as written. Pat offered an amendment to add Channey Forest and Whitetail Trails to the ordinance. Motion failed on 2-2 vote with Stelljes and Moritz voting “no”; Lavelle and Gibson voting “aye”. After some discussion, Pat said he would offer an amendment on the board floor to include the other two trails if the committee would approve the ordinance as written. Kevin called the question, motion carried 4-0 to approve the ordinance as written and send to County Board for ratification.
9. Buckthorn removal project at Lowes Creek Park – John Stupek was present and gave a presentation on Buckthorn as it related to Lowes Creek Park. Kevin said he’s like include funds in 2019 budget. Bert made a motion to add \$10,000 to 2019 budget for Lowes Creek Park to fund a pilot project with Wisconsin Corps; motion carried.
10. Born Learning Trail - Kathy Cooper from the United Way would like to place a trail at Coon Fork and explained the trail is entirely funded and maintained. Hi-Crush is willing to fund the project. They also would like to add “Little Free Library.” After discussion, the committee felt the trail would be used more if placed at Lake Altoona Park. Pat moved to try and get the trail installed at Lake Altoona Park, sponsored by Hi-Crush; motion carried.
5. Timber Sales – Jake explained that 9 sales were offered with eight receiving bids. Pat moved to accept the highest bid on each tract. Tract 3-18 will be sold as part of the fall timber sales. Motion carried.
6. Timber Sale Extensions – Jake explained all loggers needing extensions are in good standing with Eau Claire County. Bert moved to approve extensions as recommended by staff; motion carried.

8. Coon Fork Dam Emergency Action Plan/Inspection, Operation and Management Plan – Josh explained that the last dam inspection noted that there were not Emergency Action or Inspection, Operation and Management plans in place for Coon Fork. This brings the dam into compliance and will be entered in the 15 –Year Comprehensive County Forest Plan
11. Review recreation pass policy for group homes, day care centers, etc. – This item was reintroduced since there had been two requests since the last committee meeting. Pat made a motion to charge \$30 for each “Special Transportation” permit; motion carried.
12. Snowie of Altoona request to sell snow cones at Lake Altoona Park – The committee agreed to allow Snowie of Altoona to continue selling snow cones at Lake Altoona Park in 2018 with same conditions as specified in 2017.
13. Request to close access to Dells Mill Pond from county access point – The committee discussed the issue and concluded any closure would take County Board approval and take as long as three months, which would be after the work on the dam is finished. If there is an issue with the fishery the Dept of Natural Resources should intervene,
14. 2018-19 Committee Goals – Since meeting time had expired, Kevin asked committee members to submit their goals to Josh and Bobbi so they can summarize them and bring into the next meeting. Kevin said as an example one of his goals was to add wilderness areas closer to the City of Eau Claire.
15. Director’s Report – Josh said Jed would not be acting liaison forester and Kyle Johnson was the new liaison forester. Josh also reported on a car in the river at Big Falls.
16. Timber Sale Report – Nothing to report for May.
17. Advisory Committee Input/Assignments - Nothing to report.
15. Future committee meeting dates – Next meeting July 9, 5 p.m. at the Ag & Resource Center.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone  
Committee Clerk

rb