

**MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 – 8:30 AM**  
**LAND & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041**  
**OCONTO WI 54153**  
[www.co.oconto.wi.us](http://www.co.oconto.wi.us)  
*(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)*

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Tim Cole, Chris Augustine, Wayne Kaczrowski, Patrick Scanlan, and Keith Schneider

OTHERS PRESENT: Monty Brink, Forest, Parks & Recreation Administrator; Dave Poffinbarger, GIS/LIO/LIS Administrator; Patrick Virtues, Planning, Zoning and Solid Waste Administrator; Michelle Seefeldt, Administrative Assistant; Al Sleeter, County Board Chair; Erik Pritzl, County Administrator; Beth Ellingson, Corporation Counsel; Dave Behrend, Supervisor District 8; Shelly Schultz, Human Resources Director; Amanda Dornfeld, Area Extension Director for Oconto, Marinette, Shawano, and Menominee County/Nation; Stephanie Bowers, Regional Dairy Educator; Katie Daul, Human Development and Relationships Educator; Cole Pierucki, Ext Summer Intern; Abby Vogt, Timberland Invasives Partnership; Steve Heimerman, OCLAWA; Chris Firgens, Assistant Forest Administrator; Jacob Bohrtz, Dan Carter; Anita Whitehurst; Attorney Bob Gagan; Ron Allen; Charles Valdars; and others present.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Cole called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2.1. Change of Sequence** – Move item 10.1 after 5.

**2.2. Removal of Items** – None

Motion by Augustine/Kaczrowski to approve the agenda as modified. Motion voted on and carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion by Scanlan/Schneider to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023. Motion voted on and carried.

**4. Previous Month’s Vendor Payments**

Committee reviewed the previous month’s vendor payments. Information only.

**5. Communications**

**5.1.** Monty Brink stated that the Steven Birr Family inquired if the County would be interested in purchasing their property in the Town of Morgan. The County owns the land surrounding the Birr property. Discussion held. The Birrs will be in touch when they are ready to sell.

**10. Planning & Zoning/Solid Waste Department**

**10.1. Discussion on Zoning Ordinance pertaining to Domesticated Chickens/Ducks**

Pat Virtues spoke on 14.429(d) - Domesticated Chickens/Ducks Ordinance. This section of the Zoning Ordinance was added in 2015 and allowed chickens and ducks in a Residential Single Family District. Several property owners in the Pine Lane Estates are looking to get the ordinance amended to increase the number allowed. Attorney Bob Gagan spoke on behalf of Dan Carter and Anita Whitehurst. They have been raising 30 chickens on 1.5 acres of land since 1996. They feel this property should be grandfathered in. Several property owners in Pine Lane Estates spoke in favor. Discussion held on complaints received, ordinance changes and options to resolve the violations. Virtues will look at other county ordinances to see how this issue could be handled.

**6. Department Fees**

Forest & Parks 2025 fees were discussed, as they need to be set a year in advance to accommodate camping reservations. Moved by Scanlan/Schneider to increase the Machickanee Shooting Range Daily fee to \$7.00 and annual fee to \$50.00 and to increase boat dock slips to \$500 for 2025. Motion voted on and carried.

**7. Extension**

**7.1. Department Report**

Mandi Dornfeld introduced three new employees. Stephanie Bowers is the new Regional Dairy Educator, Katie Daul is the new Human Development and Relationships Educator and Cole Pierucki is the summer intern. They each spoke on their position and responsibilities.

**8. LIS/Land Records Department**

**8.1. Next Generation 911 GIS Grant Application**

Dave Poffinbarger stated he needs approval to apply for the Next Generation 911 GIS Grant. Next Generation 911 is the standard the 911 system will be required to follow. To do that the GIS system will need to be upgraded to the Next Generation standards. He will be applying for a \$60,050, 95% cost share grant to upgrade the GIS system to be able to accommodate Next Generation 911. Moved by Schneider/Kaczrowski to approve the LIS/GIS Administrator to apply for a \$60,050 Next Generation 911 GIS Grant. Motion voted on and carried.

**8.2. Department Report**

The department report was enclosed. This was information only and no action taken.

## **9. Land & Water Conservation Department**

### **9.1. Timberland Invasive Partnership Update**

Abby Vogt passed out a Timberland Invasives Partnership update on the work done in Oconto County. This was information only and no action taken.

### **9.2. Department Report**

Steve Heimerman reported on some department activities in Ken Dolata absence. This was information only and no action taken.

- Anderson Lake District 1<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting is August 26, 2023
- The White Potato Lake Meeting is September 2, 2023.
- Will be putting together a guideline of policies and procedures to follow when setting up Lake Districts. There were steps to follow and deadlines that needed to be met when setting up a new Lake District and state statutes are not very clear.
- Discussion held on comprehensive lake management plans required of lake districts.
- Attended the Seven Towns Committee meeting to discuss the process to find resources to fund projects and to collaborate with County Officials.

## **10. Planning & Zoning/Solid Waste Department**

### **10.2. Follow-up discussion on Solar Farms**

Discussion held on the material that was handed out at the July meeting and the direction to take on the Solar Farm issues. Al Sleeter read a draft resolution from County Association. The Committee recommended that the Planning and Zoning/Solid Waste Administrator work with Corporation Counsel on drafting a resolution on Solar and Wind Energy regulations and to mirror the recommendations from the Wisconsin County Association. The resolution will be reviewed by the Committee before forwarding on to County Board.

### **10.3. Set Zoning Piece Rate for Deputy Zoning Administrator**

Pat Virtues explained the Deputy Zoning Administrator piece rate pay scale. The rates have not changed since 2017. Discussion held. Moved by Schneider/Scanlan to adjust the pay rate for Tim Barthel effective 9/1/23 to the max range of the 2023 rates and to adjust the rate for 2024 to the max rate of 2024 based on the piece rate sheet presented by Pat Virtues.

### **10.4. Department Report**

Pat Virtues presented the Planning & Zoning/Solid Waste report and discussion held.

- Handed out tip fees
- Still waiting on the Clean Sweep Grant award

## **11. Forest, Parks & Recreation Department**

### **11.1. WCFA Annual Meeting – September 26 – 28, 2023**

Monty Brink mentioned that representatives are needed to be on the Wisconsin County Forest Administrator Board of Directors. If interested, please contact Monty. The Annual Meeting will be held in Hayward this year. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending the Annual Meeting,

### **11.2. U.S. Forest Service Agreement for Maintenance of Motorized Trails**

Monty Brink presented the agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and Oconto County for maintenance of motorized trails. Corporation Counsel has reviewed the non-lapsing agreement. Moved by Schneider/Kaczrowski to recommend the agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for maintenance of motorized trails through U.S. Forest Service lands in Oconto County and to forward to County Board for approval. Motion voted on and carried.

### **11.3. Sustainable Forestry Grant**

Monty Brink would like to apply for a Sustainable Forestry Grant to hire an employee or a third party contractor for performing forest inventory in order to update stand data. The deadline for the grant is August 15, 2023. Discussion held. Moved by Scanlan/Schneider to approve the Forest, Parks & Recreation Administrator apply for a Sustainable Forestry Grant to hire an employee or a third party contractor for performing forest inventory in order to update stand data. Motion voted on and carried.

### **11.4. Title III**

#### **11.4.1. WI Election to Allocate State Payment**

Discussion held on the election of payment options. Moved by Scanlan/Augustine to select Secure Rural School Act for the payment option of Title III funds.

#### **11.4.2. Title III Expenditures.**

Monty Brink clarified that funds can be used to reimburse search and rescue departments. Discussion held on how to spend funds. The Committee request that Brink send out a letter to the Towns letting them know funds are available for search and rescue equipment.

### **11.5. Town of Underhill – Christy Lake Boat Landing**

Monty Brink stated that the Town of Underhill will accept the Christy Lake Boat Landing. Will draft a quit claim deed to transfer ownership. Discussion held. Moved by Kaczrowski/Schneider to take a quit claim deed to transfer Christy Lake Boat Landing to the Town of Underhill to County Board for Approval. Motion voted on and carried.

### **11.6. Capital Equipment Purchase**

Monty Brink stated he would like to purchase a utility vehicle for Chute Pond. Looking to purchase a John Deere Gator. Discussion held on type of vehicle and funding. Moved by Scanlan/Kaczrowski to take the request to purchase a utility vehicle for Chute Pond to County Board for approval. Motion voted on and carried.

### **11.7. Department Report**

Department report was enclosed and reviewed. This was information only and no action taken.

- Discussion held on site preparation of the red pine clear cuts. Will be renting a roller chopper from the DNR and Frank's Logging will pull the chopper.
- Reviewed Torsci Lane Campground maps.
- Reviewed Timber Sale Financial Statement.
- Monty gave an update on the annual fall inspection of the Nicolet State Trail. Monty will be proposing taking over signage on the state trails and to document violations. Discussion held.

#### **11.7.1. Recreational Officer**

No additional comments on the enclosed report. This was information only and no action taken.

#### **11.7.2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)**

No additional comments on the enclosed report. This was information only and no action taken.

### **12. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)**

Dave Poffinbarger mentioned combining 3 LIS LTE positions into one permanent part time position.

### **13. Next Meeting Date**

Next regular meeting of the Land & Water Resources Committee is scheduled for September 5, 2023. May need a special meeting on August 24, 2023 approve the Forest, Parks & Recreation Budget.

### **14. Adjournment**

Chair Cole declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.