

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 5:00 p.m.  
Eau Claire County Exposition Center  
5530 Fairview Drive, Eau Claire WI 54701

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Paul Lokken, Kevin Stelljes and Bruce Willett

EXPO ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoff Goodland, Letecia Papke, and Richard Ziemann

EXPO ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT: Kim Nimmo, Jay Plummer, and Michael Strubel

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Burch, Cole Long, Carl Walters, Al Hudacek, Kristian Hudacek, and Garrett Walters, Eau Claire Ski Striders and Chippewa Valley Nordic Team; Scott Biederman and Jeff Thompson, Eau Claire Curlers; Brooke Ludwig, WDNR Forester.

STAFF PRESENT: Jody Gindt, Josh Pedersen and Bobbi Barone

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:00 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
2. Approval of minutes from January 26 and February 9, 2016 meeting – Paul made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26 and February 9, 2016 meetings as written; motion carried.
3. Public Input – No members of the public were present for this item.
4. Eau Claire Ski Striders' request to rename Cross-county Ski Trail System at Tower Ridge Recreation Area – Bob Burch was present to make the request that the trail system be named "Karl Andresen Trail System" which would mean adding a line on the trailhead sign. After some discussion, Paul made a motion to rename the cross-county ski trail system at Tower Ridge Recreation Area to "Tower Ridge Recreation Area Karl Andresen Trail System". Motion carried.
5. Chippewa Valley Nordic Cross-country Ski Team request to place a trophy case in chalet at Tower Ridge Recreation Area – Cole Long handed out details on the proposed display case and answered questions of the committee. After discussion, Bruce moved to approve placement of the award cabinet; motion carried.
6. Eau Claire Curling Club/Expo Center Report – Josh reported he spoke with the County Administrator about this issue. She stated the Facilities Working Group will hopefully have a report by May of this year. Scott Biederman of the Curling Club stated they would have to begin planning at the end of this season should the county not extend their lease for 5 additional years. The current lease expires 2020 and the club would need all of the four years to find a new site, fund raise, and build to be ready for the 2020 season. Kevin suggested the committee set a deadline for the Facilities Working Group to bring forth a proposal of the committee should take back responsibility to come up with a proposal with the Curling Club. Gary made a motion to have a deadline of May 1 for the Facilities Working Group to come up with a

proposal; motion carried. Letecia Papke developed a report but will share it first with the Expo Advisory Committee and then present it to the Parks & Forest Committee. Kevin and Gary felt the Expo Advisory Committee would have many issues to take up if given the opportunity.

7. Lake Altoona Dam Repair Update – Josh stated that Phase 1 is done and Phase 2 is not started. The contractor will start March 7 and plans to be done March 29.
8. Fitz/West Wisconsin Land Trust Property in the Town of Brunswick Update – Bruce passed around 16 questions he would like answered prior to moving forward with any kind of agreement on the property. Pat suggested the committee wait until Tim Sullivan, Corporation Counsel, gives an opinion prior to moving forward. Kevin thought the subcommittee should submit a recommendation to the Parks & Forest Committee then schedule a meeting with the land trust, perhaps at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in March.
9. Correspondence – Nothing to report
10. Staff and committee reports – Josh reported he made a request to an engineering firm for an estimate of cost to develop handicap road engineering plan and should be getting a cost yet this week. Josh and the Highway Commissioner met and discussed setting up an equipment fund using a percent of excess revenue from timber sales. The bridge on Highway H (North Fork) will be replaced this year. Paul mentioned a change in Managed Forest Land in which townships may get back \$6-\$7/acre.
11. Advisory Committee Input/Assignments – The committee will be meeting March 2.
12. Exposition Center Advisory Committee Input-Assignments – A meeting date will be set.
13. Committee Education – Time did not allow

Bruce made a motion to adjourn the committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone  
Committee Clerk