

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

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center (2nd Floor meeting room)

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Glory Adams, Advisory Committee Member; Miranda Cross-Schindler, UW-EC Veterans Group; Doug Burrows, Fitz Property Subcommittee Report

STAFF PRESENT: Jody Gindt, Josh Pedersen, Jacob Tumm and Bobbi Barone

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 March 8, 2016 meeting – Paul made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed for March 8, 2016 Committee Meeting; motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Input – No members of the public were present for this item.
4. Fitz/West Wisconsin Land Trust Property in the Town of Brunswick Plan Recommendation Subcommittee – Doug Burrows, chair of the Subcommittee was present and handed out a report reiterating the meeting points. The subcommittee was not able to come up with a clear recommendation for the Fitz property as there remain many questions to be answered as to uses, funding, relationships, etc. Doug suggested if this property were to be a destination for something different/unique, then perhaps the department could pursue it. Otherwise, they should pass if it would be just another county park. Kevin thought if the land trust wants to pay the department to manage whatever use they decide, he thought perhaps that would work. Gary said some funding numbers are needed prior to sending to county board as a feasible use. Kevin volunteered to work with Josh and Bruce to see if the property might fill deficiencies as identified in the County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
5. UW-Eau Claire Warrior Duathlon Event at Lowes Creek/Expo Center – Miranda Cross-Schindler was present for this item. She explained that the event last year had a few snags and was starting planning early to make sure they are resolved prior to the event. The proceeds from the event last year were donated to the Trinity Equestrian Program. CORBA has agreed to partner with them on the event which will take place October 29. Paul moved to approve the event in which the group will pay the county \$2 for each participant; motion carried.
6. Handicap Ramp at Bedpost Park – Josh had met with Rod Eslinger of the Planning & Development Department. A wetland delineation would need to be done at a cost of approximately \$2,000 plus a plan drawn up by an engineer for a cost of about \$9,000 would be required prior just get started on the project and would be no guarantee it would be approved. Josh was directed by the committee to contact Steve and Bonnie Haug and tell them the committee isn't interested in spending \$11,000 just to see if the project would be allowed. The estimated total cost of the project would be \$30,000.
7. Presentation of Spring 2016 Timber Sales – The committee was sent eight sales to approve. Kevin questioned minimum bid rates, how they are arrived at, etc and also green tree retention stating he felt the department was using minimum green tree retention standard and thought it should be a higher standard especially on tract 18-15 which is north of Coon Fork Park. He presented some photos of a prior year timber sale in much the same area showing rutting thru the mountain bike trail. Jody explained the rutting was caused by the

department who were trying to flatten the site last fall and got the equipment stuck. It is on the docket to repair this spring when conditions dry out. After some discussion, Kevin moved to approve the sales except for tract 18-15 which he wanted the sale revised to include more green tree retention area; motion carried 5-0.

8. Pinter Pines/Coon Gut Property Future Plan – This item will be brought back to the next committee meeting after members review the management plan prior to the meeting which was in a past packet.
9. County Forest Camping Policy – Gary made a motion to drop the requirement that the camping unit be removed from the county forest for a minimum of one week and add that the camping permit may be renewed for an additional 14 day period; motion carried. A resolution will be brought to the next meeting amending the county code: 16.30.520. After camping 14 nights in succession, the camper may renew the camping permit for one additional 14 night period., it is required that the camping unit be removed from the forest and no camping continue by the camping party for a minimum of one week (7 consecutive nights).
10. Lake Altoona Dam Phase 2 – Josh reported all but one pier is about done. They should be able to complete the repairs by the March 31 deadline.
11. Correspondence – Josh reported Brad Windeshausen with Winter Fest asked if the committee would be interested in Winter Fest returning to Lake Altoona in 2017 and they agreed.
12. Staff and committee reports – Nothing to report.
13. Advisory Committee input and assignments: Nothing to report
14. Exposition Center Advisory Committee Input/Assignments – Nothing to report.
15. Committee Education – Time did not allow.
16. Future and pending items: Next meeting date April 12, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at the Ag Center.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone
Committee Clerk