

Menominee County Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5PM by Chair, Bob Desjarlais at the Stephenson Annex in Stephenson, Michigan on March 7, 2016.

Reporting for roll all were: County Commissioners James Furlong, County Administrator Brian Bousley, Dick Peterson, Ruby Ivens, Kathy Branz and Bob Desjarlais. Excused were Vola Bleile and Commissioner Bill Cech.

Approval of agenda: James made a motion that was seconded by Ruby to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by James to approve the minutes from the last meeting that was seconded by Dick. All in favor except one abstain, Ruby Ivens, motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Business:

- a. UP RC&D Phragmites - Jason Schnorr from the UP RC & D gave a presentation on the Phragmites Project. They are currently working from a State of Michigan Invasive Species grant that will end October 2017.

In Menominee County they have treated 583 acres of Non-native Phragmites. They have also treated 224, acres in 2013, 258 acres in 2014 and 317 acres in 2015 which was done on a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (\$269,000 Match Commitment) and \$458,000 from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds, which was used for 2013 and 2014. Some of the funds and work was also done by private landowners on 93 acres over a two year period. Of these funds \$131,250.74 was paid for herbicide mowing and mapping contractors (2013-2015) for Menominee County. Wages for this work was Ingallston Twp. \$50,285.72, Menominee County Parks \$27986.37, Cedarville Twp. \$45,176.24, Menominee Twp. \$8,155.28 and City of Menominee \$6,424.00.

Jason explained that there is a 90% success rate after the 1st year. He stated that re-infestation has occurred from untreated neighbors, from other shores and via heavy equipment (noticed after logging). Also, 80% of the Phragmites biomass is below ground in the root system (about 20-30 feet deep).

When the Phragmites start coming back it resembles witches broom.

After the winter of 2016 there will be no more grants available. Jason plans on hoping to identify local leaders and stakeholder groups that will assume the responsibility for its management. Suggestions for this are conservation districts, townships, counties, local lakeshore or landowner groups, non-profit organizations, individuals or any combination of the above.

To control the Phragmites you have to hit it hard the first two years with herbicides and 3-5 years of vigilant follow up.

The next step for Menominee County is to develop a group of key stakeholders to brainstorm how to move toward the goal of sustainable management.

He noted you cannot spray the Phragmites during the growing season, it must be treated in the fall followed by cutting dead biomass in the winter. In order to spray the herbicide you must have a permit. If you are doing the spraying as part of your job (example – parks ranger) you must be certified. If not part of your job you must be Commercially qualified in an aquatic right of way.

b. Meeting Schedule/Bylaws/Park Rules

aa. 2016 Meeting Schedule was reviewed, the September 13th meeting at River Park at 3pm was questioned, Brian responded due to the first Monday in September being Labor Day and prior commitments on the second Monday of September the 13th at 3pm was the alternate day to meet and at 3pm due to County Board Meeting beginning at 6pm.

bb. Bylaws need some wording corrections, Brian to do.

cc. Park Rules need spelling and wording corrections. Brian will have this done

c. Park Ranger/Manager update. Ranger Jim Quist stated that the roof has been started on the pavilion. He also suggest that the free firefigths/rescue squad free weekend be discontinued. The last couple of years there has been a lot of grief. All were in favor.

Jim advised the committee to change the rates at Kleinke Park to \$20 from \$24. Jim felt last year a lot of sites were left open. All were in favor. This must be approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

Brian also explained that an additional seasonal person would have to be hired this season for the Parks. Last season the Parks Crew ran with one less person than in the past and it was very difficult to keep up. This season there will be a total of 6 seasonal employees hired. Two will be in the office

with Karen and 3 will be on the grounds with Jim. Brian will discuss this with the Finance Committee at the next meeting.

- d. Brian reported on the revenues and expenditures of the Parks Department thus far. The revenues are at 38.70% due to the lease sites at Shakey Lakes and Kleinke Parks. The expenditures are currently at 22.23%. The Parks Fund Balance is currently at \$79,595 but Brian explained that is an ever changing number due to the revenues received and the expenditures going out. The Park Fund Balance did start the fiscal year at \$59,996.38. Brian also explained that a portion of the fund balance would be used as matches for grants and for any types of emergencies which may occur.

Park Projects/Grants - The four sites on Bass Lake need DEQ approval before the electric can be installed. Brian will call the DEQ. Brian has also contacted Lenca Surveying to make the north property line at River Park. We are licensed for 140 sites at Shakey but only have 134 so 6 could be added. For super campers can 2 lots at the parking lot be made into one and add 4 lots this way; 2 – 50 amp pedestals could be put in (one between two sites) for electricity for these sites, this change in campsites would also have to be approved by the DEQ and Brian will look into the expansion as well. Kleinke Park add three sites by the pavilion which must be added on to the plan for the DEQ.

The DNR River Park was awarded for \$25,000. The project was completed for around \$14,000. The \$14,000 was paid out to the contractor through the Parks Fund Balance. The Parks will receive 75% of the \$14,000 as the grant only requires a 25% match for the project.

Stoney Point Boat Launch Project –The DNR award the \$25,000 for the completion of this project. When the project was sent out for bids last fall no bids were submitted. Brian will place an advertisement for bids for the completion of this project again in the next couple of weeks. Three vendors have expressed interest in the project. The DNR requires the lowest bid to be taken for the project. The project will include replacing the apron and ramp for the boat launch, graveling the parking lot and pouring an ADA parking pad. This grant as well requires a 25% match.

Shakey Lakes has received a 2% grant for replace a pavilion roof. The roof will be a metal rood. Jim Quist and Jim Mekash will be completed with the roof replacement by mid-March.

Brian will also be submitting 2% grants for the roof replacement of the pavilion at the beach, for additional picnic tables and for funds to offset cost for the

prep work (surveying and culvert installation) for the forestry management plan.

The 4 fire pits that were bought for Shakey will be used at River or Kleinke, wherever they fit the best and 4 smaller ones will be purchased for Shakey.

- e. Lease Program - Shakey has 2 sites open, there are a possible 3; 70 parties are on the waiting list. The goal at the lake shore is to have 50% leased and 50% open for daily/weekly rentals.

Kleinke Park does have a provision where a longer lease term takes precedence over a shorter term lease even if the short term lease hold had been on the site for a number of years. Brian stated that there are two sites which currently has this issue. Brian will be contacting the four potential lease holders to work out an agreement.

Reservations for the park will be held on April 25th at Shakey Park.

- f. 5 Year County Recreation Plan – Charlene made some corrections and additions and also suggested some pictures should be added. It will be out for Public Review (must be 30 days prior to meeting). The next Parks Committee meeting, April 12th, a public hearing will be held, at that time the public can suggest any changes/additions to the plan. Notice will be posted in the Eagle Herald and the Journal.
- g. Forestry Plan – Reviewed the Menominee County Timber Harvest Plan 2016 received from Dean Francis from Upper Michigan Land Management & Wildlife Services, Inc.

Dean suggested to put up educational sign at the road of each park being harvested.

Trees to harvest would be the white ash due to the borer, mature red pines as they will be rotting from the inside and lose value, spruce, balsam, cull timber that is beyond prime unless being used as a habitat by wildlife such as birds, squirrels, etc..

Depending on the size of the harvester, a path would have to be cleared at least 10 – 12 feet for access of equipment.

Bailey Park, locate 4-5 Beach-Lake access points by cleaning out all trees within the flagged access point to beach. Between M-35 and Bailey Park Road keep as an old growth of hemlock, white pine and cedar.

Bailey Park area – harvest all ash, maple 12” or larger, aspen, white birch, spruce and balsam 5” or larger.

West of M95, same as above

Longrie Park – remove all Autumn Olive prior to harvesting and treat stumps with herbicide to kill the shrub. Burn all branches and tops

Harvest all aspen, white birch, maple and spruces 5” and greater. Cut all very tall red pine that would not withstand wind blow over (very sandy soil). After harvest create 4 rustic campsites.

Jerry Piche stated they had done some selective cutting on his farm and took out too many red pines and had to cut the rest within two years due to blow-overs.

Shakey Lakes – all aspen 2” in diameter and greater, all dead and dying black oak, poor quality red maple, white pine and red pine (splits, crooked, poor tops).

When harvest is completed create rustic campsites, walking paths and handicap accessible pathways.

River Park – all mature aspen 5” and greater, poor quality maple and oak. Reduce stocking levels to 70 square feet per acre in good quality red oak and pine trees. When harvest is completed create walking paths, handicap accessible pathways in improve rustic campsites.

Mason Park clean up fallen trees, all white birch and aspen 5” or larger. Selective harvest of maple and oak. Keep the hemlock except those need to be removed for access of equipment.

After harvest create walking paths, handicap accessible pathways and possibly small fishing peers.

All harvesting is recommended to be completed in the winter months to minimize ground damage. All areas recommended to post signs “Educational and Forest Stewardship Educational – Outreach” signs.

Spring have all property corners and lines marked summer forester’s field work to be completed, summer timber sale bidding to be completed and winter harvest.

Winter complete harvest.

After discussion, James made a motion to accept the Forestry Plan, seconded by Ruby with all in favor. Brian forward the recommendation to the County Board for approval.

Brian did not receive a contract from Dean and will call and remind him.

Dick made the comment that the more bidders raise the sale price, as many do not do the research for the marketing of the higher quality trees.

H. Correspondence – None

I. Any other Item Members Wish to Present – None

J. Public Comment – None

K. Adjournment – Motion by Ruby to adjourn, seconded by Dick with all in favor.