

**DODGE COUNTY LAND RESOURCES AND PARKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 12, 2022**

The Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee met on **September 12, 2022** at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Floor of the Administration Building, Juneau, Wisconsin.

Chair Mary Bobholz called the meeting to order. Roll Call was taken. Members present were Mary Bobholz, Dale Macheel, Donna Maly and Benjamin Priesgen. Members excused were Dan Siegmann. Staff present were Bill Ehlenbeck, Jason Roy, Nate Olson and Chris Planasch, Register of Deeds. County Board Chair Dave Frohling, Katrina Becker of Becker Consulting and Gene Dalhoff of Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP) were also in attendance

The Chairman asked the staff to confirm compliance with the open meeting laws and the public hearing notice requirements. Mr. Ehlenbeck noted that the meeting was properly noticed in accord with the open meeting law.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Presentation and discussion on proposed Economic Development District:

Nate Olson briefed the Committee on a request for County support of an Economic Development District (EDD) designation for the MadREP region and introduced Katrina Becker and Gene Dalhoff. Mr. Dalhoff and Ms. Becker provided a brief introduction of MadREP, which is 1 of 9 regional Economic Development entities in Wisconsin. Obtaining an EDD designation and the benefits of working with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) was discussed with the Committee. To be eligible for an EDD designation, there must be at least one geographical area within the designated service boundaries that meet EDA regional distress criteria. Mr. Dalhoff stated there was an attempt to create an EDD 9 years ago and the Dodge County Board passed a resolution of support at that time. The region ultimately did not meet the distressed criteria. The distressed criteria has now changed by allowing the geographic area down to the Census Block level. There are 6 census blocks in Dodge County and several others around the region that meet the distressed criteria and provide eligibility to create the district. There is no cost for Dodge County. Resolutions of support are being requested from included Counties by October with an early December planned filing date.

After discussion and questions, the Committee directed staff to draft a resolution for County Board in support of the EDD designation for consideration at their next meeting.

PARK SYSTEM

A. Proposed camping fee increase:

Jason Roy discussed camping fee structure and comparison to surrounding counties. Mr. Roy requested approval to increase the electric campsite fee from \$25 to \$28 which is more in line with other counties.

Motion by Ben Priesgen to increase the electric campsite fee from \$25 to \$28 effective for reservations made after January 1, 2023.

Second by Dale Macheel. Vote 4-0 Motion carried.

B. Park Policy change to keep Ledge and Harnischfeger Parks open during deer hunting season:

Jason Roy discussed a long standing policy to close Ledge and Harnischfeger Parks during the main gun deer hunting season for a perceived safety reason. It could actually be less safe by giving area hunters a false sense of security that no one would be in the park. It has been noted that despite gates being closed, people have still entered and used the parks during the hunting season. Mr. Roy surveyed other counties and could not find any other counties that closed their parks during hunting season.

Motion by Mary Bobholz to allow Ledge and Harnischfeger Parks to remain open during deer hunting season like the rest of the parks and trails. Staff are directed to notify adjacent neighbors about the change, post signs encouraging blaze orange be worn by park users during hunting season and use other means available to get the word out about the change.

Second by Donna Maly. Vote 4-0 Motion carried.

C. Review and approve consultant proposal for Park Plan development

Bill Ehlenbeck explained that he, Nate Olson and Jason Roy reviewed and rated the 4 proposals to develop the County Park and Open Space Plan with the assistance of Stephanie Justmann, Purchasing Agent. Vandewalle Associates was the highest rated proposal.

Motion by Donna Maly to accept the proposal from Vandewalle Associates with a base cost of \$40,960.

Second by Ben Priesgen. Vote 4-0 Motion carried.

D. Gold Star Trail grant announcement

Bill Ehlenbeck announced that Dodge County was awarded a \$1.1 million Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for Phase 2 of the Gold Star Memorial Trail. TAP is a federal grant program administered by the WI Department of Transportation.

E. Authorize trail damage repairs

Bill Ehlenbeck explained there was a vehicle crash that destroyed a section of railing along the Gold Star Trail along Hwy 28. Mr. Ehlenbeck has been in contact with the driver's insurance company and Woleske Construction to repair the damage. Mr. Ehlenbeck stated he is still working out details with the insurance company including a written confirmation to pay for the claim. No action by Committee is requested at this time.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

A. Review of 2023 Preliminary Budget

Chris Planasch reviewed the proposed 2023 preliminary budget for the Register of Deeds Department with the Committee.

ADMINISTRATION

A. Preliminary Budget Status Report

Bill Ehlenbeck reviewed the proposed 2023 preliminary budget and the projected 2022 end of year amounts for the Land Resources and Parks Department with the Committee. Donna Maly requested additional budget information be sent for further review. Mr. Ehlenbeck stated he will send out budget details and put the item back on the next agenda to address any further questions.

B. The minutes from the August 22, 2022 meeting were reviewed by the Committee.

Motion by Ben Priesgen to approve the minutes as written.

Second by Dale Macheel. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

C. No Committee Member Reports.

D. No additional Per Diems.

Meeting adjourned by order of the Chair at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Maly", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.