

MINUTES

HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, December 5, 2024
TIME: 8:00 AM
PLACE: Highway Dept., Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Hahn, Al Breu, Scott Brehm, John Hokamp, Lee Thao

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk, see attached sign-in sheet

1. Chairman Hahn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the November 7, 2024, meeting was reviewed. Amendments to the minutes are identified below:
 - a. Item 11: The statement should be changed from grant to grant application.
 - b. Item 18: Scrivener/spelling errors corrected.Motion by Breu/Hokamp to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Because the City of Wisconsin Rapids referendum failed in November, there have been requests to open up CTH Z from Sampson St. to 20th St. S so that UTV/ATVs can get from one side of STH 13 to the other side. City Staff in attendance stated there were not opposed to the proposal and suggested a letter requesting the city to open up their portion of that section (9th St to Sampson, and STH 13 to Lincoln) so that it can be routed through the proper city committees and ultimately before the city council. Motion by Hahn/Brehm to immediately open CTH Z/Griffith Ave. from Sampson to 20th St. Discussion and clarification ensued. Motion to amend by Brehm/Hokamp to further stipulate that this opening is dependent on the City of Wisconsin Rapids approving the opening of their portion of that section of road. Motion to amend carried 4-1. Voting no was Breu (motion and amendment confuses the situation for the city). The amended motion was called and carried 4-1. Voting no was Breu.
5. Representatives from the Lake Nepco Lake District were on hand and requested that the committee consider a county ordinance limiting or prohibiting wake boating on Nepco Lake. They share statistics on the damage and danger these boats have already caused on the lake. More information on sample ordinances and enforcement will be shared with the committee and will be discussed at a future meeting.
6. A resolution to amend various 2024 Highway Dept. budgets was presented. This is a yearly resolution to account for the increased revenues and subsequent overages in expenses. Motion by Brehm/Thao to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Forestry Director Schooley presented the final draft of the CERA Park lease, MOU, and resolution with Consolidated Water & Power Company. This has been reviewed by Corp Counsel. The hopes is to have the transfer of ownership completed within a couple of years. Motion by Hokamp/Breu to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Darrell Kauth, Disabled Veterans Coordinator for United Special Sportsman's Alliance discussed the handicap hunting blinds that are located near the ATV Park on county forest land and noted that they are not being used for the intent they were built for. He and Forest Administrator Schubert have been discussing, along with the DNR, whether or not sections of the county forest can be blocked off from the public. After discussion it was recommended by the committee to place signs in the area, and work on developing a locking and reservation system for these blinds (there are two of them) while investigations continue on whether or not a change to the county forest ordinance can legally be enacted. More information will be forthcoming. (Supervisor Brehm excused at 10:30 AM.)
9. Alex Hornung from Wis DNR discussed using bio-control on the Emerald Ash Borer in Powers Bluff Park. She indicated that there was a public request, and the inspections of the land concluded that this would be a good spot to try this program. It is a small wasp like insect that consumes the EAB larvae in the tree and is conducted over 2 years of releases. There is no harm to any other animal or human by this insect. Motion by Breu/Hokamp to approve the proposal as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
10. The Highway Dept. staff reports were highlighted and reviewed.
11. The Highway revenue report was reviewed.
12. Motion by Hokamp/Thao to approve the Highway Dept. vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Highway Commissioner Hawk requested permission for out of state travel for the NACE Conference and the TDA Fly In coming up in March and April. Last year, this was fully funded by the Wisconsin County Highway Association, but this year it is unknown if the total would be able to be funded without a small portion of levy support. Hawk will have resolutions drawn up to be acted on for the next meeting.
14. The Parks & Forestry staff reports were reviewed.
15. A special use permit for the Pittsville Lions Club Fisheree on February 1st and 2nd was presented. The club is requesting a fee waiver in lieu of the contributions they have made to the Dexter Park Shelter and work they do with the fish habitat. Motion by Breu/Hokamp to approve the permit with the fee waiver. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Schooley presented the 2026 Parks user fee schedule. Motion by Thao/Hokamp to approve the fee schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Schubert presented contract extensions on 4 timber sales outlined in the packet. He is requesting to postpone one extension (#805) until more information is gathered. Motion by Hokamp/Breu to grant contract extensions as recommended by staff except for contract #805, which is postponed. Motion carried unanimously.
18. Parks & Forestry revenue reports were reviewed.
19. Motion by Thao/Brehm to approve the Parks & Forestry vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
20. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Highway Department Conference Room.
21. Motion by Breu/Hokamp to go into closed session pursuant to Wis Stats 19.85 (1)(c) to conduct performance evaluation of the department heads the committee oversees. Motion carries unanimously.
22. Motion by Hokamp/Breu to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.
23. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

**Highway Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
December 5, 2024**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bill Cledemong	WCB #15
JEFF PERKINS	WCB#11
Mark Anderson	CWPCO
David R. Kan	ZSSA
Hendra Wilhelm	LWCD
Paul Vollett	City of WR
DENNIS POLACH	wcb-14
SCOTT STEWART	CITIZEN
Eric J. Hummel	NEPCO LAKE District
SUSAN FEITH	CITIZEN
Matt Susa	SHERIFF
Shawn Zetter	WCSD
Jeff Mauer	NLD
Kylie Mh	NLD
Rolán Hawk	WCH
Chad Schooley	P&F
Matt Zacher	City of Wisconsin Rapids
Fritz Scheibert	P&F