

MINUTES – Executive Committee Meeting
10/16/2019 – 10:00AM – Lumberjack Office

Present: Bob Hermes, Dave Solin, Wayne Plant, Claudia Baker, Yvonne Van Pembrook. Staff: Paul Mueller & Tracy Beckman

Call to Order at 10:03am

Motion by VanPembrook/Plant to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

State Association Items: Forester definition resolution – It was explained that at the last State Association meeting there was a directive given that each council should decide if they want to approve a resolution similar to that of Burnett County, which resolved to redefine the definition of ‘forester’ to include experience as well as education since in their situation they say it is difficult to find and keep degreed foresters but others have years of experience and could do the job. Solin noted the Counties Association meeting discussed this topic and decided to make a resolution against this proposal. After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed such action should take place at the county level and they do not recommend forwarding this to the full council. VanPembrook/Baker moved not to forward to the Council and that counties should decide this for themselves. Motion Carried.

FIA ITEMS

Employee Items – Caleb W. received a 2-year evaluation on September 12 and members received a copy of his review. Mueller’s recommendation is for a step increase from GS-7 Step 5 to GS-7 Step 6. Baker/Solin moved to approve the increase retro-active to his anniversary date of 9/13/2019. Motion Carried.

Truck Purchase – On 9/11/2019 we traded in the 2007 Toyota for \$13,000 on the purchase of a 2019 Toyota Tacoma priced at \$34,252 for a total payment of \$21,252. Mueller explained his plan to rotate in new vehicles roughly every five year or around 120K miles.

Other FIA Items: The FIA 5-year contract was approved on August 27, 2019, begins 10/1/2019 and ends 9/30/2024. We are continuing to do plots in Iron and Bayfield counties, and we have two management plans underway.

2020 Projects – It was noted that eight projects were submitted totaling \$69,265.44. The amount from the project fund calculation is 45,636.92 and the Council voted at the July meeting to approve at least the \$45,636.92 with the option to be able to use excess funds if approved. The amount in the excess fund account is \$56,665.47. Members reviewed the voting process in preparation for the meeting.

Sustainable Forestry Award nominees – Beckman explained there are two nominees and that members like the program, love to hear the stories and have the awards ceremony but rarely participate in the nominating process. Hermes will remind them again during his announcements that we will extend the deadline to 11/15 in hopes that members submit nominees.

NACD Grant Direction – Beckman explained the grant and was given direction and ideas by the committee on how to best implement the grant. Part of this is allowing current employees with relevant expertise to assist. Beckman was told to use her best judgement.

Audit Review – The audit and current financial statements were reviewed. Hermes directed Beckman to make hard copies for each council member and attach it to their paddle for the October meeting. It was noted that the insufficiencies are normal for an organization our size. It was also noted that a new accounting standard for recognizing income from grants/contracts will be implemented by the end of the year. Beckman will work on this with Wipfli and will keep the Exec. Committee up-to-date.

Review Council Meeting agenda – Members reviewed and adjusted the agenda. Beckman will distribute and post on website.

Adjourn – Solin/Plant moved to adjourn at 11:55pm. Motion Carried.

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Submitted 10/16/2019 by Yvonne Van Pembrook, Secretary