

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018
Summary Minutes

Public Works-Development Services Conference Room
Ives Groves Office Complex
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Committee Present: Ronald Molnar, Mark Gleason, Tom Hincz, David Cooke, Scott Maier, Robert Grove

Members Excused: Kiana Harden-Johnson

**Youth in Governance
Representatives Present:** Paige Betthausen, Rasheed Muhammad

Staff Present: David Prott, Highways & Parks Superintendent
Nathan Plunkett, County Engineering Manager
Chad Sampson, County Conservationist
Michael Lanzdorf, Corporation Counsel

Also Present: Josh Brown, DNR ILF Coordinator (via conference call)
Dave Giordano, Root-Pike WIN
Tracy Thompson, Tallgrass Land Conservation

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Ron Molnar.

2. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

3. Approval of the March 26, 2018, Summary Minutes

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Gleason, to approve the March 26, 2018, summary minutes.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthausen: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation to accept a grant and approve a sole source provider for design-build ravine restoration and wetlands work in Cliffside Park, with assistance from “Root-Pike WIN”

David Prott turned discussion of this item over to Michael Lanzdorf. Lanzdorf introduced Dave Giordano, from Root-Pike WIN, and Josh Brown, ILF Program Coordinator for the DNR who is participating by telephone. Lanzdorf provided background information. In February 2017, the County Board adopted Resolution No. 2016-137, authorizing and approving a design of a wetland and ravine restoration project at Cliffside Park and further authorizing necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete the approved design projects as provided by the various potential funding sources. The objective of this resolution was to restore a highly degraded wetland area in order to slow soil erosion, provide habitat for unique species and improve water quality to Lake Michigan. Per the resolution, Root-Pike WIN has assisted the County and has successfully secured a wetland in-lieu fee (ILF) programming grant valued at approximately \$590,000 for wetland and ravine restoration at Cliffside. Root-Pike WIN partnered with Tall Grass Land Conservation, an entity known in the Midwest to specialize in managing wetland projects, to complete the grant and ultimately to complete the work under the oversight and supervision of the DNR. DNR has endorsed a design-build contract recognizing that the design maintenance and restoration is a very complex project and work may evolve over time in order to meet ILF standards.

Lanzdorf specifically addressed a number of questions about this project raised by the Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee in 2017. He commented that prior to the actual restoration work that would begin in the Fall of 2018 and continue into 2019, several necessary and some immediate steps must be taken, (e.g., data collection) in order to better develop and ultimately finalize the construction plans. If any of these milestones are missed, the concern is that grant proceeds may be utilized elsewhere and this project could either experience significant delays or not occur in Racine County. Lanzdorf stated that Resolution No. 2016-137 was drafted in such a way that it authorized not only the grant application to move forward, but also the actual work, if approved, to proceed. He noted that in conversation with the Finance Department, it was recognized that this is not a typical grant. It is a grant for a project to occur on County land that would have no fiscal impact; there would be no point in time when the County would be holding or spending the grant monies; hence, there's no action from Finance or any other County entity that is required in order to move forward.

Lanzdorf addressed the Committee's past questions regarding Tall Grass or Root-Pike WIN entitlement to credits or money from the estimated value of \$590,000 in the event the cost for the actual work is less than the full value of the grant. Lanzdorf commented that after reviewing the grant guidelines, and after extensive conversations with County staff, Josh Brown and Dave Giordano, it's his understanding that only eligible project costs that are actually incurred are subject to reimbursement. Any remaining monies would remain with the DNR and would be reserved for other restoration projects in this same watershed. In speaking with staff and with Brown and Giordano, it is believed that the margins are so slim that it is not anticipated that there would be an excessive amount of leftover dollars or credits.

At their December 2017 PWPFC meeting, questions were raised about the potential eligibility for lake bluff stabilization to be included under this grant. Josh Brown indicated this would not technically be an eligible use. Per Chad Sampson, this type of project is a significant undertaking at a significant cost. Even in the event there were leftover dollars, bluff stabilization would not be an eligible use. However, the ravine restoration and wetland work would very much provide an indirect benefit to bluff side stabilization within Cliffside Park.

Additional questions were raised by this Committee in the past about the potential for the County being responsible for ongoing operation maintenance and incurring additional costs. Lanzdorf stated that funding and management of the restoration project would be completely administered and supervised by the DNR and Tall Grass and, as explained by Josh Brown, the DNR has long-term maintenance funds that are available for perpetual maintenance of the wetland area. There is no commitment, no need, or no obligation for the County to provide additional funds or staff to complete this project.

Lastly, Lanzdorf indicated that the question was raised about there being a construction plan available that would illustrate and detail where the work will occur, what the work would look like, or the timing of the work. Josh Brown provided Lanzdorf with some materials, but not actual construction plans. Lanzdorf's recommendation would be that this Committee ask for quarterly updates from the entities once the construction plans are ready that would allow this Committee an opportunity to review plans, check on the status and ask questions.

Josh Brown addressed the Committee, indicating that he had little to add to Lanzdorf's summary. He reiterated that there is, in fact, a need to collect data (e.g., topography, slopes, soil type, groundwater data, etc.) before a construction plan may be created and finalized. As far as long-term management costs, an endowment will be created to the Natural Resources Foundation. The Foundation routinely handles many endowments for environmental restoration and protection. There will be money available in perpetuity for the Cliffside Park project.

Dave Giordano had nothing more to add to the discussion.

Discussion by the Committee followed.

Supervisor Hincz asked if the critical nature of the timing to which Lanzdorf referred is necessary in order to receive the grant. Lanzdorf replied that the grant has already been awarded. The critical timing component is for the data collection to begin in order to develop and finalize the construction plan so that the project work may begin in the Fall of this year. As mentioned earlier, technically speaking, no further formal action from this Committee or the County Board is required in order to proceed.

Hincz had questions regarding the management of the project by the DNR. He noted the reference to a 5-10 year project in the DNR letter. Josh Brown clarified the time line and need to get started with this project. He explained that their program is overseen by the ACOE and EPA and the program has certain regulatory requirements. He stated that in order to receive funding, restoration projects must be started within a certain amount of time after the wetland fills that were permitted have occurred. To meet the time line for the watershed in this part of the state, onsite work has to start by November 2018. In order to collect data and create a construction plan, work must begin as soon as possible.

Hincz then asked why the DRN is recommending a sole-source process and why the Committee is asked to approve a sole-source provider, if the DNR is going to manage the project. Lanzdorf stated that his recommendation to the Committee is that the only action required is, for informational purposes, to acknowledge the award that has been granted and to recommend periodic updates. He noted that the County isn't actually the fiscal agent; this isn't a County-overseen project, but rather it's a State-overseen project occurring on County land. Josh Brown added that wetland restoration projects are very complex and require a lot of expertise from contractors and knowledge in water flow, engineering, etc. There are many regulations when carrying out the projects and a lot of details required from the ACOE and EPA. It's essential that contractors have experience and knowledge of the regulations and process associated with this type of project. In addition, having just one contractor throughout the project allows for continuity and efficiency and increases the likelihood of success.

Chairman Molnar mentioned that this is the last meeting of this Committee with the current member composition. Lanzdorf stated that nothing further is needed from this Committee other than the acknowledgement of the grant award and submittal of periodic updates, if the Committee so desires.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to acknowledge acceptance of this grant and to request future quarterly updates – with presentation of the construction plans, and quarterly thereafter.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthausen: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

The Committee thanked Lanzdorf for providing additional information and addressing past concerns.

Before proceeding with Agenda Item No. 5, Chairman Molnar noted that an e-mail from Martha Hutsick was received regarding information she'd like presented relative to Agenda Item Nos. 6 and 8. This would normally be handled as a public comment; however, the Chairman asked the Committee to make an exception and allow the Youth in Governance Representatives to read her comments into the record.

5. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation to allow work to be performed in the CTH "X" right-of-way to address water runoff issues (install pipe, backfill, and lay gravel in the newly constructed ditch that was a part of the CTH "X" repaving project)**

Pratt stated that staff has reached out to Dan Trudeau to bring his plans and proposals to the Committee tonight regarding his concerns involving the ditch on Highway X. Both Pratt and Plunkett informed the Committee that Mr. Trudeau has not responded to staff's requests for plans or proposals.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Gleason, to lay over this item indefinitely.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthausen: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

Supervisor Gleason noted that Mr. Trudeau originally contacted him about his concerns and that he and other supervisors, as well as staff, have tried to help Mr. Trudeau and address his concerns.

6. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation(s) concerning proposed Quarry Lake restoration projects:**

(a) Beach restoration: A. W. Oakes & Sons and Dykstra Bros. Excavating, Inc.

Youth in Governance Representative Betthausen read the e-mail from Martha Hutsick concerning this project.

Pratt met with a few contractors onsite and received proposals from A. W. Oakes & Sons and Dykstra Brothers Excavating in order to ascertain potential cost for the project. He summarized the project work and estimated costs. The cost for having bulldozing equipment move the

muck into deeper water and for trucking in new sand is estimated at \$50,000, based on the two submitted proposals. Prott noted that this estimated cost, however, is immaterial because this project will go through a formal bid process. A direct purchase will be made for the sand, at an estimated cost of \$16,650 for about 3000 tons of sand that will be needed to re-establish the beach. Public Works Division will do the drawdown and the contractor will then perform the work.

(b) Water clean-up/lake treatments: CareFree Enzymes, Inc.

Youth in Governance Representative Muhammad read the e-mail from Martha Hutsick concerning this project.

Pratt stated that after the beach restoration discussed above has been completed, the next step will be to treat the water and beach for removal and control of algae and weeds. Patrick Haley, President of CareFree Enzymes, Inc., was present tonight to present his proposal for water and beach treatments using enzymes and to answer questions from the Committee.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Gleason, to move forward with both the beach restoration and water clean-up/lake treatments projects, with the recommendation to start the bid process as soon as possible.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthauser: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

7. Special Use Request

**Adult Softball Tournament / Cliffside Park, June 2018
(20-30 teams; 250-350 anticipated number of people)**

Pratt stated that staff would recommend that this tournament be held to the same standards and same conditions as those imposed on the TGB Adult Softball Tournament held over the past years at Cliffside Park (e.g., presence during the tournament, submittal and approval of a safety plan, etc.). Liability insurance will be required, naming Racine County as additional insured. Pratt commented that staff will assess the tournament proceedings this year, with the possibility of making some adjustments if the request is made again next year.

SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Gleason, to approve the special use request for the adult softball tournament, subject to the same conditions required in the TBG Tournament approvals.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthauser: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

- 8. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a license agreement to permit beaver trapping, and authorize compensation for such, on various Racine County-owned properties, from the date of agreement execution through March 31, 2019.**

Youth in Governance Representative Muhammad read the e-mail from Martha Hutsick requesting that Quarry Lake Park be included in the agreement, as beavers have caused problems in the park for a number of years.

Pratt stated that a similar beaver trapping agreement as this one has been approved in past years. The trapper used in past years has retired and a new trapper has agreed to perform trapping services. This agreement will automatically renew every year for four years on the same terms or mutually agreed upon revised terms or upon termination by either party. The trapper has secured liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000, with Racine County named as additional insured. Compensation to the trapper will not exceed \$2400 a year (\$150 for first two beavers and \$75 per animal thereafter). Pratt noted that over the past years, the dollar amount has never even reached \$1000 and in some years, services were not needed at all. Corporation Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement as written.

SUPERVISOR GLEASON MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Cooke, to proceed with the license agreement for beaver trapping.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthauser: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

- 9. Review, discussion and possible action on Report No. 2017-40 by the County Executive making reappointments (Bruce Woodward and Mike Spiegelhoff) to the Golf Course Improvement Committee**

SUPERVISOR HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Maier, to forward Report No. 2017-40 to the Racine County Board of Supervisors, recommending confirmation of the reappointments.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthauser: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

10. Communications and Referrals

Notice from the Village of Mt. Pleasant was received regarding a resurfacing project on Borgardt Road during the summer of 2018, as part of the Village of Mt. Pleasant's Paving Program. The project is anticipated to be completed in two weeks once the work has begun. Supervisor Cooke inquired about the specific timing for the work. Pratt replied that the notice from the Village only indicated the summer of 2018, no specific dates were mentioned. Pratt will inform the Committee of the dates when they are established by the Village.

SUPERVISOR GLEASON MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Cooke, to receive and file the information.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Betthauser: aye

Youth Representative Muhammad: aye

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0

11. Miscellaneous Public Works Business

- Next PWPFC meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2018, if warranted
- Prott stated that \$250,000 in the 2018 budget is allocated for park paving at Quarry Lake and Fischer Park. He asked for Committee input about starting at Quarry Lake and then continuing at Fischer with any remaining money. Molnar indicated that this would be his recommendation. Prott commented that Cliffside Park is ready for paving now, but will be paid for with money left over from last year. Supervisor Cooke stated that when the dog park was established at Quarry Lake Park, a majority of the picnic area that didn't get used was eliminated. He inquired about the possibility of re-establishing a picnic area in the upper parking lot. Prott replied that it would be possible; however, the upper parking lot is currently used as dog park overflow parking.
- Prott noted that there is a full staff this year for Parks. He mentioned that due to cold weather, installation of water meters has been delayed.

12. Adjournment

As this is his last term in office, Chairman Molnar thanked the Committee, staff and Youth in Governance Representatives for their support and efforts during his tenure as Chairman of this Committee. In turn, Supervisor Cooke recognized Supervisors Molnar and Gleason for their years of service. On behalf of staff, Prott also thanked Supervisors Molnar and Gleason.

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Hincz, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0**