



- Executive Committee District Leadership Council Annual Meeting

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Meeting Minutes**

ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/20/2022	6:30 PM	Zoom
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Rob Bohmann at 6:30 PM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Rob Bohmann, Terri Roehrig, Dale Maas, Paul Reith, Kari Lee Zimmermann.
EXCUSED	Joe Weiss
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Jim Lemke

C. Agenda Approval and Repair

DISCUSSION	No changes requested
ACTION	Agenda stands as published.

D. Rob Bowmann

DISCUSSION	Rob requested a moment of silence for three delegates that have gone on to their final rewards: Bill Howe, Ralph Fritsch and Frank Reith.
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.

E. Public Comments

DISCUSSION	None at this time.
ACTION	No action taken.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

Easement purchase and monetary donation-Forest Legacy Program-Oneida, Forest and

Jim Lemke, Real estate section chief.

A. Langlade counties.

DISCUSSION	<p>The department is requesting approval to 1.) Acquire a 56,259-acre working forest conservation easement from Pelican River LLC for \$15,345,000 for the Forest Legacy program in Oneida, Forest and Langlade counties; and 2.) Except a monetary donation in the amount of \$600,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation towards the purchase price. If approve the department also requests the establishment of the official name of Pelican River Forest Conservation Easement, under the authority of MC2281.1.</p> <p>The department proposes the acquisition of a conservation easement on 56,259 acres for \$15,345,000 under authority provided in s.23.09 (2) (D), WIS. Stats., And NR 1.41 (1) (A), Wis. Admin code. The acquisition will be financed with a combination of funds Including a \$600,000 Gift from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation wildlife foundation, a federal Forest Legacy grant in the amount of \$10,758,750, and the remaining \$3,986,250 from the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program, with \$3 million of the stewardship funding allocated to fiscal year 2023 and the remaining \$986,250 to be paid from fiscal year 2024, pursuant to. 23.0917, Wis. Stats .</p> <p>The acquisition spans the townships of Pelican, Monico, Sheoepke, Piehl, Pine Lake, Sugar Camp, and 3 Lakes in Eastern Oneida County, with adjoining locations in the town of Elcho in Langlade County, and the town of Crandon in Forest County. The property can be accessed from local roads off of State Highway 17, US Highway 45, US Highway 8, County Trunk Highway B and County trunk Highway C. In addition to access from the town road system, the department is acquiring rights for the public to use licensed motorized vehicles on approximately 40 miles of designated open-access private woods roads. These additional motorized access rights, along with numerous trails, will ensure the public can reach interior portions of the property for recreational use.</p> <p>A total of \$1 million of the purchase price will be set aside and placed in an endowment, with earnings available to pay for road maintenance, repairs, and improvements of the easements designated open access roads. Not all assigned public access roads may be passable at the time of acquisition, but all will be part of a long-term strategy to continually improve the public access roads. The funds will run with the title to the land in perpetuity.</p> <p>Of the 56,259 acres, approximately 84% is forest (23% Aspen, 21% northern hardwood, 20% low land conifer, 15% pine plantations, and 5% upland conifer) with the remaining 16% being non-forest d (roads, lowland, marsh). Water resources include approximately 6000 feet of frontage on the Wolf River, along with miles of frontage on Guddegast, Pedro, Pollack, Stockley, Mud, Monico, Spring, Hay Meadow, Jeannie Webber, Jewel, Leyla, and Neptune Creeks.</p>
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	<p>Acquisition of this 56,259-acre forest legacy easement will protect and preserve the integrity of these important northern forest lands in perpetuity, prevent forest fragmentation and promote the use of sustainable management practices. The property will be open to the public for all 5 nature-based outdoor recreational activities. The property will be managed by the private land owner with 3rd-party certification through the Forest Stewardship Council, assuring the forests are managed to the highest environmental and social standards. Forestry ranks among the top 10 industries by output and contributions in Wisconsin generating nearly \$25 billion annually and creating 60,000 jobs. The department recommends acquisition of a conservation easement on the property for the Forest Legacy Program and the acceptance of the \$600,000 monetary donation towards the purchase price</p> <p>Many questions were asked pertaining to the proposal, and the approval process. Jim stated that the NRB is the 1st part of the process then the Joint Finance committee needs to okay for final approval.</p>
ACTION	There was a motion by Maas 2nd by Roehrig to support the easement process as stipulated. Motion carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC] [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Paul wanted to thank everyone that called in sent notes of condolences on the passing of his father. He has been having difficulty in getting meetings scheduled.</p> <p>Rob stated that he is having the same problems with meetings and ensuring a quorum for in person meetings, that's why the previously scheduled district leadership Council meeting was canceled one because not enough committees had turned in their written question proposals and secondly he was disturbed it he couldn't guarantee a quorum.</p> <p>Dale mentioned about a problem with the master plan for Horicon marsh as it was presented. County Conservation Alliance voted in opposition to one segment where they were proposing to close up a portion of an access road to bow hunting which in effect had the ability to make a private shooting preserves for one or 2 tenants living on that road. Letters were written in opposition to it, the discussion centered around safety concerns, and trespassing issues by the complaining party who owns the adjoining land. Researching the subject there have been no safety complaints and or trespassing issues brought up during the time that it was authorized for archery hunting. And it's unfortunate that the individual felt necessary to get in contact with the local legislator to add further pressure in his quest for closure.</p> <p>Dale also stated that while he knows we have no control over how the tribes conduct their business but he has been hearing a lot of feedback on the spearing violations up on Squirrel Lake it was highlighted in the Wisconsin Outdoor News article.</p> <p>Terri commented that if help is needed with the Joint Finance Committee on approval of the Legacy property that she would be willing to talk to her people as well as her affiliation with the Wildlife Federation, since they have already approved the proposal.</p>
ACTION	Motion by Maas 2nd by Reith to adjourn. Motion carried meeting adjourned at 7:31.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	7:31 PM.
SUBMITTED BY	Dale C Maas
DATE	11/01/2022