County of Rock
Public Works Department

Highways
Parks
Airport

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AGENDA

Public Works Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 – 8:00 a.m.
Public Works Department Committee Room

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements
4. **PARKS BUSINESS**
   a. Approval of Wood Policy
   b. Update on Lee Park Wood Harvest Pilot Project
   c. Approve Bills, Encumbrances/Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendments and Transfers
   d. Parks Director Report
      - Candlelight Snowshoe & Hike at Carver-Roehl Park, Friday, February 12, 2016
   e. Parks Advisory Committee Remarks
5. Meeting Dates
6. Adjournment

Rules, Regulations and Guidelines for Firewood Collection On County Park Property

In order to provide maximum utilization of Rock County's natural resources, the following rules are set up as the policy of the Rock County Parks Division. When our parks have dead or hazardous trees that must be removed Rock County citizens are able to apply for a $25.00 Firewood Collection Permit. All or part of the trees may be turned over to the public for use as firewood. The following are rules and guidelines that permit holders must follow to ensure the safe and organized removal of firewood on County property.

1. Permittees must be a Rock County citizen and be able to prove it. Parks Division will copy each permit holder's driver's license for their records.

2. Permittees must sign a firewood permit policy waiver form and their laminated permit. They will be issued their personal permit after the County has received payment of $25.00.

3. Firewood may only be used for personal consumption and may not be sold for commercial use or bartered for other services.

4. Permittees will have a useable email as a means for county staff to send notification of firewood availability.

5. Permittees must clean up after themselves (e.g. fix ruts, clean up slash or debris accumulated from their cutting, clean sticks out of road(s), clean up wood chips, etc.). Treat the area as if it were your own.

-Rock County has the right to immediately cancel or revoke a permit by oral or written notice, as well as deny a new permit because of negative or undesirable past experiences.

6. Permittee can only take downed wood specifically stated in email notification. No additional cutting or taking of live/dead standing wood is permitted whatsoever.

7. Permittees are advised to not take firewood outside of county and to not move any firewood to a non-quarantined county. For additional information on quarantined counties and state and federal laws and regulations go to: https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/

8. Permittee must have possession of the county issued permit at all times while collecting firewood on county property.

-Any person who is not issued, or does not have a permit in their possession will be considered in violation of Rock County Parks Ordinance- Chapter 11.01(7)(a).

9. Permittees must observe standard safety precautions at all times and display a conscientious attitude towards County officials, park staff, park patrons, and other permit holders.

10. Permittees must inform (by email) the Community Coordinator of when they were at the park collecting firewood and approximately how much they took.

11. If more than one permit holder is on site, they must share the wood equally amongst other permittees.

12. County staff and/or cameras maybe on site to monitor taking of wood.

13. In special circumstance, separate permits may be made available for use of ATV's by request of permit holder for use of firewood collection.

14. If ample amount of wood has not been made available to permit holders, the County will carry-over the previous year's permit to the current year. County Park staff will determine whether an ample amount of wood has been made available for permit holders.

15. Firewood permits are not transferable and payment is not refundable.

County Park Staff Obligations:

- Confirm signature of potential firewood collection waiver form and actual permit.
- Copy permittee driver's license for county records.
- Provide official laminated permit to County citizen who've paid the $25.00 fee.
- Send a clear and concise email showing where available firewood is located, what kind of wood is available, and how much there is.
- Maintain records of how much wood is available at the parks throughout the calendar year.
- Monitor firewood collection by either staffing a patrolman on-site or by trail camera.

This policy was presented to the Rock County Public Works Committee for their approval on Tuesday February 09, 2016.

Lee Park Forest Stewardship Plan

Name(s) and Address of Landowner(s):
ROCK COUNTY - LEE PARK

County: Rock Town Name: Clinton

Town: 1N; Range 14E; Section 29 W ½ of the SWSE & NWSE Total Plan Acreage: 25

Attached maps show the location of Stewardship forest lands.

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to encourage the growth of future commercial crops through sound forestry practices which recognize the objectives of individual property owners for aesthetics, wildlife habitat, erosion control, protection of endangered or threatened plants and animals, compatible recreational activities, economic returns, etc. By state law, "forestry" means managing forest lands and their related resources, including trees and other plants, animals, soil, water and air. To guide the Department in developing a management plan to help fulfill this stewardship objective, a statement of the owner's forest management objectives is required in the plan. The following statement has been provided either by the landowner or developed with the assistance of the Department.

Landowner Objectives for Management:

- Sustainable Timber Management
- Maintain aesthetic qualities of park
- Natural Regeneration

Key to Size Classes (DBH) - Diameter in inches at Breast Height):

0-5	Seedlings and Saplings
5-9 / 5-11	Pole timber (Conifers/Hardwoods)
9-15/11-15	Small Sawtimber (Conifers/Hardwoods)
15+	Large Sawtimber

Key to Stocking Densities (shown by superscripts after the size class):
Basal area is the cross-sectional area of a trees stem at 4 ½ feet above ground (DBH), measured in feet squared (ft^2). Reported basal area densities are calculated as the sum of each tree's basal area divided by the total acres involved.

Stocking Density Code	Seedlings (Stem count)	Saplings (Stem count)	Poletimber (basal area)	Small Sawtimber (basal area)	Large Sawtimber (basal area)
1 (Poor)	200-600	100-300	10-40 ft^2 / acre	10-40 ft^2 / acre	10-40 ft^2 / acre
2 (Medium)	601-1,500	301-900	41-80 ft^2 / acre	41-80 ft^2 / acre	41-80 ft^2 / acre
3 (Good)	1,501 +	901 +	81-130 ft^2 / acre	81-130 ft^2 / acre	81-130 ft^2 / acre
4 (Very Good)	NA	NA	131-180 ft^2 / acre	131-180 ft^2 / acre	131-180 ft^2 / acre

5 (Excellent)	NA	NA	181ft² +/ acre	181ft² +/ acre	181 ft² +/ acre

County Cutting Notice (Section 26.03, Wis. Stats.):
A written declaration must be filed with the County Clerk prior to cutting any forest products. The DNR forester should approve the cutting prescription before cutting may proceed. The cutting prescriptions must be within the guidelines of the Department of Natural Resources Silviculture Handbook and the Forest Management Guidelines.

Resource Protection: Wisconsin Foresters consult special records and data banks to make sure your forest management prescriptions benefit or avoid risk to important natural, historical or archeological resources. Prior to starting management practices, these inventories will again be consulted. If new records are found, management prescriptions will be evaluated and, if necessary, modified to protect the resource from disturbance. In developing this Stewardship plan; management prescriptions incorporate concerns for below listed species.

Endangered and threatened resources are those plants, animals and natural communities that are thought to be rare and easily threatened by changes in the landscape. The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is a statewide listing of known locations for these plants and animals.

A review of the NHI data was completed, and lists the following within your property:

☐ No element occurrences found. Database accessed on 6/22/15

For additional information on rare plants, animals and natural plant communities, visit
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/

The Archaeological Resources Inventory lists no archaeological resources within your property.

The Historical Resources Inventory lists no historical resources within your property.

If during the life of this Stewardship plan, endangered or threatened resources are identified, management prescriptions should be modified to incorporate protection of the endangered or threatened resource. Recognize that much of the state has not been inventoried so an absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

Invasive Plant Species
Invasive plants may decrease the productivity, regeneration, wildlife habitat, and recreational value of your property. It is essential to identify and control small populations of invasive plants to minimize their spread. The individual stand descriptions list any invasive plant species identified on your property. For information on invasive plant control, consult Wisconsin Council on Forestry's *Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species;* go to http://dnr.wi.gov and search 'Forest Management' to review all BMPs for invasive species.

Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs)
To protect the water quality in Wisconsin's lakes, streams and wetlands and to prevent soil erosion, implement *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* during all forest management activities, such as road building or timber harvesting. Specific BMPs will be included in detailed practice or harvest plans. You may require water regulations permits to cross wetlands and streams. Please go to http://dnr.wi.gov and search 'Forest Management' to review all BMPs for water quality.

Forest Health

Over time, your forest may suffer from insects, disease, windstorm, fire, flooding or drought, etc. These problems may alter your management prescriptions. If you are concerned about forest health, please contact your local WDNR Forester or go to http://dnr.wi.gov and search 'Forest health'.

Stand descriptions and management *Please refer to the attached map for stand locations.*

A "Stand" is an area with similar timber conditions that is useful to describe and manage the area. Details of the management practices are found under the stand description.

STAND 1	DESCRIPTION	Volume / acre	Basal Area / acre	Stand Acres
OAK 15+[2] CH 5-11[1] CH 0-5[1]	Oak hardwood large saw-timber Central hardwood pole-timber Central hardwood seedlings	~4,750 board feet / acre ~3.4 cords / acre ~300 saplings / acre	65 ft²/acre 18 ft²/acre 83 ft²/acre TOTAL	19

Description

This stand primarily consists of mature bur oak, black oak & black cherry. The understory is dominated by invasive plants and elm saplings.

While oaks are still very common trees in Wisconsin, the abundance of high-quality red and white oaks on nutrientrich sites has declined considerably due to forest succession and failed regeneration. In general, oaks grow best on welldrained loamy soils. All oaks require drastic disturbance of the forest, both overstory and understory, in order to regenerate. On richer sites, oak forests are particularly difficult to regenerate and competition control is essential. Fire is one tool that facilitates the regeneration and maintenance of oak forests. To regenerate oak, foresters commonly mimic the effects of fire using mechanical tools or chemical application.

Stand 1 is expected to naturally convert to the Central Hardwood species present in the understory unless intensive treatments are conducted to provide proper conditions for oak regeneration.

Stocking & Volume Estimates

STAND 1	Species	Basal Area	Cords /acre	Board Feet / acre
1st major species	Bur Oak	21 ft²/acre	.3	1,018
2nd major species	Black Oak	21 ft²/acre	.2	1,909
3rd major species	Black Cherry	20 ft²/acre	1.7	1,200
5th major species	Elm (red & white)	14 ft²/acre	1.0	354
6th major species	Shagbark Hickory	3 ft²/acre	0	206
7th major species	Box-Elder	2 ft²/acre	.1	0
8th major species	Walnut	2 ft²/acre	.1	63

	TOTAL	83	3.4	4,750

Stand Conditions, Special Features or Characteristics

Stand has not been managed in recent past. Southern part of stand contains more bur oak. Sapling layer ~ 55% elm. Snag density ~ 15 ft²/acre. Average Tree Diameter = 16" (up to 30"). Oak Wilt avoidance period April 1 - July 15 (no cutting or pruning oaks) Tree heights vary across this stand (oak & cherry are nearing 100' in areas).

Invasive plants

These trees, shrubs and vines have a major impact on timber production by preventing or restricting the establishment and growth of more desirable new tree seedlings.

STAND 1	Species	Density
Primary invasive plants	common buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle	Abundant (>50% coverage)
Secondary invasive plants	reed canary grass, multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, poison ivy, grapevines & raspberry	Present

Soils

This stand has a silt loam soil. Loam soils are a mixture of sand, silt and clay particles. Loam soils are 23% to 52% sand, 28% to 50% silt, and 48% to 78% clay. Silt loam or silt soils have relatively higher amounts of silt particles. Loam soils typically have an abundance of moisture and nutrients to sustain excellent growth rates for many tree species. Take care to prevent compaction and rutting when using equipment on these soils.

Stand management (Silvicultural) System

Manage and regenerate this stand within generally accepted silvicultural guidelines for the primary type according to the following management system.

NATURAL CONVERSION - This stand will convert to central hardwoods naturally after harvesting or completing your prescribed management treatments. Expect natural conversion because these tree species are already present as younger trees or will be able to seed in and become established once the proper seedbed, light and crown canopy conditions exist. Periodically thin the stand throughout the life of the stand to improve quality & vigor. Regeneration cutting will remove the old stand to provide the necessary open conditions & sunlight to convert your stand naturally.

STAND 1 RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	YEAR	ACRES	Comments
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL. Take specific measures to manage the species listed above whose aggressive growth or reproductive patterns threaten the health or regeneration of the stand.	2015 continuous effort	19	Target buckthron removal where it is competing with tree regeneration

PATCH SELECTION HARVEST. Naturally regenerate this stand using the patch selection regeneration method. This involves harvesting to create even-aged patches from ½ to 2 acres in size. This system is most appropriate for the management of species mid-tolerant of shade, but can also be applied to manage shade intolerant and tolerant tree species. Sources of regeneration may include any of: well-established advanced regeneration, vegetative sprouts, or seed. If depending on seed, time regeneration practices, including site preparation, to take advantage of good seed years. In most stands, thin the remainder of the stand to reduce stocking and concentrate growth on more desirable trees by following the order of removal and tree retention guidelines.	2016	19	This harvest would primarily target over mature black oak and cherry for cutting. Tree regeneration is lacking in much of the stand & conducting a site preparation treatments is highly recommended if a harvest is conducted.
SEEDBED PREPARATION. Prepare a seed bed to encourage natural or direct seeding of desired trees and shrubs. To encourage quick establishment of seedlings, expose the soil in the seedbeds.	2016	19	In areas where the canopy will be removed & regeneration is the goal... preparing a seedbed & controlling competition will be needed
SURVIVAL CHECK. Conduct a follow-up field survey to determine the success of regeneration in a stand. Plan your next steps with your Forester after obtaining results.	2020	19	Planting may be necessary if tree regeneration is lacking

STAND 2	DESCRIPTION	Volume / acre	Basal Area / acre	Stand Acres
CH 5-11[2] PW 9-15[1] CH 0-5[1]	Central hardwood pole-timber White Pine small saw-timber Central hardwood seedlings	~10 cords / acre ~1,460 board feet / acre ~200 saplings / acre	42 ft²/acre 26 ft²/acre 68 ft²/acre TOTAL	5.5

Description

This stand is a complete mix of species, some planted. Manage areas according to landowners objectives.

Stocking & Volume Estimates

STAND 2	Species	Basal Area	Cords /acre	Board Feet / acre
1st major species	Walnut	17 ft²/acre	2.8	160
2nd major species	White Pine	16 ft²/acre	1.4	830
3rd major species	Black Cherry	9 ft²/acre	1.3	150
5th major species	Elm (red & white)	8 ft²/acre	1.3	70
6th major species	Locust	8 ft²/acre	2	0
7th major species	Black Oak	3 ft²/acre	.2	160

Other Species	Box-Elder, Red Pine, Norway Spruce, Ash, Sugar Maple & Shagbark Hickory	1 ft²/acre	1	90
	TOTAL	68	10	1,460

Stand Conditions, Special Features or Characteristics

Stand has not been managed in recent past. Release the few white cedars present (near the locust).
Girdle & kill the locust trees to prevent it from seeding into new areas.
Promote all white cedar, shagbark hickory, sugar maple & walnut crop trees.
Complete Ash Mortality on is evident & labeled on map (potentially Emerald Ash Borer) This area should target any healthy desirable saplings for release.
Tree height vary slightly (dominant trees are reaching 70')

Invasive plants

These trees, shrubs and vines have a major impact on timber production by preventing or restricting the establishment and growth of more desirable new tree seedlings.

STAND 2	Species	Density
Primary invasive plants	common buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle	Abundant (>50% coverage)
Secondary invasive plants	reed canary grass, multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, poison ivy, grapevines & raspberry	Present

Soils

This stand has a silt loam soil. Loam soils are a mixture of sand, silt and clay particles. Loam soils are 23% to 52% sand, 28% to 50% silt, and 48% to 78% clay. Silt loam or silt soils have relatively higher amounts of silt particles. Loam soils typically have an abundance of moisture and nutrients to sustain excellent growth rates for many tree species. Take care to prevent compaction and rutting when using equipment on these soils.

Stand management (Silvicultural) System

Manage and regenerate this stand within generally accepted silvicultural guidelines for the primary type according to the following management system.

NATURAL UNEVEN-AGED REGENERATION OF TIMBER TYPE -- Manage the stand to develop and maintain three or more age classes of trees. Uneven-aged management is an option primarily applied to shade tolerant tree species or various forest types in one stand.

STAND 2 RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	YEAR	ACRES	Comments

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL. Take specific measures to manage the species listed above whose aggressive growth or reproductive patterns threaten the health or regeneration of the stand.	2015 continuous effort	5	Target buckthron removal where it is competing with tree regeneration. Girdle Locust trees
RELEASE. Remove or kill overtopping or competing trees to benefit trees that are more desirable.	2015	1	Release handful of white cedars present (near locust)
SANITATION and SALVAGE CUTTING. Remove trees damaged by natural events (wind, fire, etc.), or trees infected by or highly susceptible to insect damage or disease to keep the rest of the stand healthy. Work with your local WDNR Forester to identify the trees to harvest. THINNING. Reduce stand density by removing trees to mprove tree growth, enhance forest health or recover potential mortality. Thin to reduce stocking and concentrate growth on trees that are more desirable.	2016	5	This harvest would primarily target poor quality pines, locust & ash Thin only in areas of high stocking or to release crop trees

When conducting a selection harvest or thinning:

The standard order of removal shall be followed when the trees to be harvested are marked. Mark trees in the following priority:

1. Risk – Cut high risk trees that are likely to die between cutting cycles.
2. Release crop trees – Cut poorer quality competitors to provide crown growing space around crop trees to promote growth and quality development.
3. Vigor – Cut low vigor trees, based on crown size and condition, crown class, and potential stem decay.
4. Stem form and quality – Cut poorly formed stems, based on usable log length and potential decay.
5. Undesirable species (determined by landowner objectives)
6. Improve spacing.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES SUMMARY SHEET

STAND #	PRACTICE	YEAR
1	INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL	2015 - continuous
2	RELEASE	2015
1	PATCH SELECTION HARVEST	2016
1	SEEDBED PREPARATION	2016
2	SANITATION and SALVAGE CUTTING	2016
2	THINNING	2016
1	SURVIVAL CHECK	2020

As owner(s) of this property, I hereby accept this Forest Stewardship management plan, recognizing that this is a voluntary program. I understand that public funds paid for the development of this plan because good forest

management is also in the public interest. I agree to proceed diligently toward accomplishing my management objectives.

To be signed by the individual landowners (or legal agent, if any) as listed on the deed or other instrument of title.

Signature	Date Signed
Signature	Date Signed
Signature	Date Signed
Signature	Date Signed

Approved for the Department of Natural Resources by:

Signature of DNR Forester	Date Signed

Appendix A (pg 1) **Estimates of volume & value from potential future harvest**

Appraisal Statement. Estimates of timber volumes and values made by Sunset Forestry LLC are the result of statistical samplings made in accordance with industry standards and with a variety of confidence levels. Due to the variances and accuracy level inherent in sampling techniques, any volumes or values stated by Sunset Forestry LLC are intended to be only estimates and not to be precise statements and expected outcomes.

Depending on the desired harvest intensity by Rock County, the following volumes & values could be expected.

Approx Harvestable Timber in Stand 1
- 25,000-45,000 board feet
- 50 cords of pulp wood

Approx Harvestable Timber in Stand 2
- 2,500 board feet
- 10 cords of pulp wood

Below are the Stumpage rates below published by the WDNR for the Lake Michigan south region (2015) *Average amount received for standing timber
- cherry $180/1,000 bd ft - red oak $250/1,000 bd ft - white oak $128/1,000 bd ft
- white pine $80/1,000 bd ft - oak other $70/1,000 bd ft

Ballpark Estimate: An upcoming sale "could" generate a "reasonable bid" anywhere from **$4,000 - $10,000**
*This is an estimate from Stumpage Rates & the typical variance expected in bids.

Potential types timber sales

1. Hire a Forestry Consultant to establish the timber sale & bid to potential buyers
    1a. Foresters generally mark the trees to be cut, estimate volume & value, create and advertise a sale prospectus, create a timber sale contract, & administer the contract
    1b. Costs & type of charge vary (some charge by the job, the hour, the acre, or a percentage of the sale)
    1c. A Consultant can guide the County through the entire timber sale process
1d. Standing timber is riskier for loggers to bid on

It is recommended that a "Cooperating Forester" be used to establish the timber sale described in this plan http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestLandowners/locator/ - list of Cooperating Foresters published by the WDNR. *July 2015 there are 34 Cooperating Forester firms listed as working in Rock County.

2. Use County "workers" to cut the trees, haul to a landing area & hold an auction for timber buyers
    2a. Value can be added if the timber is already at a landing
    2b. Value can be added if timber buyers can see the quality of the cut timber
    2c. Establishing potential bidders prior to the work would be advised
    2d. It is still recommended that a professional forester be used to mark the trees

3. Conduct "release treatments" using firewood cutters (have protected trees identified by a forester)

Issues

- There are very few industrial loggers in the local area of Rock County
- The hauling distance becomes a factor for many Southern Wisconsin mills & loggers.
- 25 acres / 25-40,000 board feet, while saleable, is not on the high end of volumes for commercial timber sales

Appendix A (pg 2) **Timber Sale Cost Estimate from Sunset Forestry LLC**

Sunset Forestry LLC charges by the $50/hour + $50 daily mileage fee & supplies (pain & mailing costs)
To establish a 25 acre hardwood selection sale, Sunset Forestry LLC "generally" has a total cost of **$1,000 - $2,000** To establish a 25 acre hardwood selection sale, Sunset Forestry LLC "generally" has a total cost = 10-15% of the sale value
Depending if my presence is requested during and after the sale, is where the most cost fluctuation occurs

Timber Sale Process by Sunset Forestry LLC (other firms may vary)

1. Sunset Forestry LLC discusses the plan for establishing the sale with landowner
2. Sunset Forestry LLC marks the trees for cutting
3. Landowner Approves of Prospectus prepared by Sunset Forestry LLC
4. Sunset Forestry LLC advertises the prospectus to potential timber buyers (mail & e-mail)
5. If no bid(s) received, discuss options with Sunset Forestry LLC
6. If legitimate bid(s) received, decide on winning logger
7. Approve of Contract for landowner/logger prepared by Sunset Forestry LLC
8. Landowner signs contract with logger
9. Landowner receives down payment
10. Logger submits County Cutting Notice to County Clerk (prior to cutting)
11. Landowner receives full payment & performance bond payment (prior to cutting)
12. Cutting occurs (2-3 year window of the contract)
13. Sale reviewed by Sunset Forestry LLC for completion
14. Landowner returns performance bond to logger (if contract fulfilled)

This Entire Document Prepared By:

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Lee Park Stewardship Plan Map

Rock County	Town of Clinton
1N – R 14 E – Sec 29	W ½ of the SWSE & NWSE