

**Minutes are provided for informational purposes only. The official record can be obtained from the County Clerk's office. All minutes are unofficial until approved.**

**Minutes are generally approved at the following meeting**

**Minutes  
Pierce County Parks Committee  
January 29, 2008 – 1:30 pm  
County Board Room  
Pierce County Courthouse – Ellsworth, WI**

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Mel Pittman, Jeff Holst, Don Nellessen

**Others Present:** Paul Barkla, Jerry Kosin, Curt Kephart, Brad Lawrence, Andy Pichotta, Scott Schoepp, and Bill Thiel via speaker phone.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairman Pittman.

Chairman Pittman announced the committee would convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g) Wis. Stats. for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved: for the purpose of considering Pierce County v. Department of Commerce (Nugget Lake camping cabin litigation) strategy matters, and legal advice of counsel.

Motion by Holst, seconded by Nellessen to convene into closed session at 1:31 pm. Roll call vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Nellessen, seconded by Holst to reconvene into open session at 2:06 pm. Roll call vote unanimously approved.

Motion by Nellessen, seconded by Holst to amend the February 4, 2008 Parks Committee agenda to allow for discussion of the Nugget Lake County Park camping cabin litigation matter in closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by Holst, seconded by Nellessen to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Scott Schoepp  
County Park Superintendent

Minutes  
Pierce County Parks Committee  
February 04, 2008 – 9:00 am  
County Board Room  
Pierce County Courthouse – Ellsworth, WI

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Mel Pittman, Dan Reis, Jeff Holst, Troy Gansluckner, Don Nellesen was excused.

**Others Present:** Curt Kephart, Brad Lawrence, Andy Pichotta, and Scott Schoepp

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman at 9:01am. The chairman read the request for public comment and no public comment was provided.

**Minutes**

The minutes for the past two meetings were provided for review. Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to approve the 12/10/07 and 01/29/08 minutes. Motion Carried.

**Park Plan**

The final copy of the Pierce County Park Property Plan was presented, reviewed and discussed. Discussions took place regarding the time table for exploring the ownership of the boat ramps on Trenton Island. S. Schoepp requested that a thorough investigation of this wait until early 2009 due to the need to complete other projects that were already in progress, i.e., Martell Forest, Trimble Acres. J. Holst expressed the need to incorporate the Park Property Plan into the Outdoor Recreation Plan when it is updated. Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to accept the final copy of the Pierce County Park Property Plan. Motion Carried.

**Annual Reports**

S. Schoepp pointed out the highlights of the Parks Department Annual Report. The most notable item was that final revenues from park fees set an all time revenue record. The final total revenues for 2007 increased 20% over 2006. Motion by T. Gansluckner, second by D. Reis to approve the 2007 Parks Department Annual Report. Motion Carried.

**Park Superintendent Reports**

- 1) Snowmobile Program - S. Schoepp reported that expenses to date have reached the grant allocation and any additional costs that exceed the grant funding will be reimbursed by the Pierce County Snowmobile Council. S. Schoepp explained various funding aspects of grooming and maintenance activities.
- 2) Park Activity – No questions were raised on the park activity report. S. Schoepp elaborated on the invasive species activities that were completed last fall. Nearly 600 acres of park property obtained invasive species eradication; only about 1-2 acres remain to be attended to. Touch up activities will take place over the next several years, but the vast majority of park property is honeysuckle and buckthorn free.
- 3) Annual Income Report – The annual income report was presented and discussed. Final income was presented and discussed. Final income generated through park user fees was up nearly 20% over 2006.
- 4) Annual Financial Report – It was reported that the final balance for 2007 will come in about \$28,000 under budget. S. Schoepp explained the reasons for that surplus.
- 5) Annual Shooting Range Report – S. Schoepp indicated that the final balance for the Shooting Range budget will be \$2,900. This surplus was primarily due to the delayed opening of the range this past summer.

**Closed Session**

Chairman Pittman read the language for convening into closed session under §19.85(1)(c) and §19.85(1)(g). Motion by J. Holst, seconded by D. Reis to convene into closed session at 9:45am pursuant to §19.85(1)(c) and §19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of conducting a performance evaluation for the County Park Superintendent and obtaining legal advice pertaining to camping cabin litigation. Roll call vote unanimously approved. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by J. Holst to reconvene into open session at 11:17am. Roll call vote unanimously approved.

Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to grant the County Park Superintendent a step increase based on a favorable performance evaluation and approve the goals established for 2008. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to direct staff and park committee members to take no action relating to the camping cabin issue unless specifically authorized by the parks committee. Motion Carried.

**Future Agenda Items**

The Nugget Lake County Park camping cabins issue will be on the agenda for the next parks committee meeting.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next parks committee meeting will not meet in March unless the Chairman calls a special meeting.

The next parks committee meeting will be set by the Parks Committee at the reorganization meeting of the Pierce County Board of Supervisors in April 2008.

Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Submitted by,  
Scott Schoepp  
County Park Superintendent

Minutes  
Pierce County Parks Committee  
May 05, 2008 – 9:00 am  
County Board Room  
Pierce County Courthouse – Ellsworth, WI

**Committee Members Present:** Troy Gansluckner, Jeff Holst, Mel Pittman, Dan Reis, and Ken Snow.

**Others Present:** Andy Pichotta and Scott Schoepp

Acting Chairman Mel Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Nominations for Chairman were called for. J. Holst nominated M. Pittman for Parks Committee Chairman. T. Gansluckner seconded the nomination. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by J. Holst to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for M. Pittman for Parks Committee Chairman. Motion carried.

Chairman Pittman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Parks Committee. T. Gansluckner nominated J. Holst for Parks Committee Vice-Chairman, D. Reis seconded the nomination. Motion by M. Pittman, seconded by D. Reis to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for J. Holst for Parks Committee Vice-Chairman. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

The February 4, 2008 minutes were provided. Motion by T. Gansluckner, seconded by D. Reis to approve the February 4, 2008 minutes. Motion carried.

**Park Development Funding Request**

S. Schoepp informed the committee of the funding assistance request he obtained from River Falls Township. He had met with Land Management Administrator Andy Pichotta and discussed the project. The proposed request met the parameters established for funding assistance. Motion by J. Holst, seconded by D. Reis to approve park development fund cost sharing assistance, up to \$5000, to the Town of River Falls to develop two town parks in the Town of River Falls contingent on approval in the 2009 budget. Motion carried.

**Trimbelle Property Name**

S. Schoepp informed the committee on the need to establish a name for the Trimbelle River property. A. Pichotta informed the committee that there may be additional property acquisitions available that would be contiguous to the existing property. No further details are available at this time. Discussion took place regarding naming the property. Motion by K. Snow, seconded by J. Holst to name the trout fishing access area along the Trimbelle River the Trimbelle Recreation Area. Motion carried.

**Septic Service Contract Amendment**

S. Schoepp provided information regarding a request to amend the per gallon rate for septic disposal from Nugget Lake County Park. The increase request is due to the high diesel fuel prices we are currently experiencing. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by T. Gansluckner to amend the 07/08 contract for collection/disposal of septic at Nugget Lake County Park by changing the per gallon rate from \$.025 to \$.0295. Motion carried.

**Seasonal Employee Pay Rate**

S. Schoepp provided information regarding a wage adjustment for a seasonal park employee. He explained the wage scale used for the county. Motion by T. Gansluckner, seconded by K. Snow to start seasonal Park Ranger Justin Townsend at Step 3 of the temporary pay scale based on his training, skills and qualifications. Motion carried with J. Holst voting no.

### **Shooting Range Bid Specifications**

S. Schoepp provided bid specifications for obtaining lawn mowing and portable toilet services for the shooting range. The service would be for the 2008/2009 season. Questions were raised regarding the need for a shooting range committee meeting to award the bids. S. Schoepp was instructed to check with Corporation Counsel to determine the appropriate committee action required. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by J. Holst to approve the bid specifications for obtaining lawn mowing and portable toilet service for the shooting range during the 2008/2009 season. Motion carried.

### **Sell Turbidity Curtain**

S. Schoepp provided information regarding the turbidity curtain salvaged from the dredge project. He provided background information regarding the item. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by J. Holst to sell the turbidity curtain salvaged from the dredge project to the first reasonable offer with the understanding that the Park Committee Chairman would approve the reasonable offer. Motion carried.

### **Park Superintendent Reports**

S. Schoepp responded to questions raised on the written park activity report. He also informed the committee that the court ruled on the cabin permit clarification request and the findings were that the cabins met the definition of dwellings and that the DOC determinations be affirmed. Staff will meet to explore options and report back to the committee.

S. Schoepp provided information regarding a request from the WI DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources to enroll portions of Nugget Lake County Park in the State Natural Areas Programs. Program information was provided for information and the concept will be discussed at a later date.

S. Schoepp informed the committee that the park was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the National Wild Turkey Federation. The grant will be used to plant wildlife trees/shrubs in the sediment disposal areas that were created by the dredge project.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next parks committee meeting be on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the County Board Room of the Pierce County Courthouse.

Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Scott Schoepp  
County Park Superintendent

Minutes  
Pierce County Parks Committee  
May 19, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.  
County Board Room – Pierce County Courthouse  
Ellsworth, WI

**Committee Members Present:** Mel Pittman, Jeff Holst, Troy Gansluckner, Dan Reis, Ken Snow

**Others Present:** Paul Barkla, Brad Lawrence, Andy Pichotta, Travis Campbell, Al Hines, Bill Thiel via conference phone

Chairman M. Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.. Public comment was called for and none was provided.

**Minutes**

The May 05, 2008 minutes were provided for review. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by T. Gansluckner to approve the May 05, 2008 minutes. Motion carried.

**Closed session**

Chairman Pittman read the language to convene into closed session to discuss the Nugget Lake County Park camping cabins. Motion by J. Holst, seconded by D. Reis to convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g) Wis. Stats.. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Reis, seconded by J. Holst to reconvene into open session. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes. Motion carried.

**Open session**

Motion by K. Snow, seconded by J. Holst to direct staff to contact the appropriate state agencies to obtain further information regarding compliance with the Department of Commerce orders, and to explore resolution at this time. Motion carried.

No meeting date was established at this time. The next Parks Committee Meeting will be determined based upon follow up regarding the camping cabins.

Motion by J. Holst, seconded by T. Gansluckner to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Scott Schoepp  
County Park Superintendent

Minutes  
Pierce County Parks Committee  
August 25, 2008 – 9:00 am  
Pierce County Courthouse – Ellsworth, WI

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Mel Pittman, Jeff Holst, Troy Gansluckner, Dan Reis, and Ken Snow.

**Others Present:** Andy Pichotta, Scott Schoepp

Chairman M. Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Public comment was called for and none was provided.

**Minutes**

The June 30, 2008 minutes were provided and reviewed. Amendments to the minutes were provided. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by K. Snow to approve the June 30, 2008 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

**Trenton Island**

Andy provided a report that detailed some of the history behind the Trenton Island property. Various management options and strategies were discussed. The main property discussed was that area formerly known as Barb's Dam Resort. The possibility of transferring the property to the Town of Trenton was discussed. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by J. Holst to convey interest of the Barb's Dam Resort property to another public entity. Discussion took place and D. Reis withdrew his motion and J. Holst withdrew his motion second. The committee directed staff to send a letter to the Town of Trenton to determine whether they have an interest in the property.

**Snowmobile Project Grants**

S. Schoepp provided information regarding two snowmobile trail rehabilitation grants. The information detailed the engineering services required as well as the construction phase of these projects. Motion by T. Gansluckner, seconded by K. Snow to accept the Stevens Engineers and Planners quote for \$4,957 and contract with them to provide engineering services required for completing two snowmobile trail rehabilitation grant projects. Motion carried. Motion by J. Holst, seconded by D. Reis to authorize the Parks Committee Chairman to review bids and award contracts for completing two snowmobile trail grant projects 1) Plum Creek Trail Rehabilitation 2) Rush River Trail Rehabilitation. Motion carried.

**Parking Lot Project**

Discussion took place regarding the construction of a small parking lot in the right of way of the county road leading to the picnic area. Motion by D. Reis, seconded by T. Gansluckner to accept the Pierce County Highway Departments estimate to construct a small parking lot adjacent to the county road in the picnic area. Motion carried.

**2009 Budget**

S. Schoepp presented and explained his 2009 budget proposal. Motion by J. Holst, seconded by D. Reis to approve the 2009 Parks Budget as presented. Motion carried.

**Park Superintendent Reports**

S. Schoepp provided monthly income, financial and activity reports. No questions were raised on the reports presented. He also informed the committee that Heisler Property ownership transfer should be completed in the near future.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next parks committee meeting will be on November 17, 2008 at 9:00 am in the County Board Room.

Motion by D. Reis, seconded by T. Gansluckner to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Scott Schoepp  
County Park Superintendent

Pierce County Parks Committee  
November 17, 2008 – 9:00 am  
Pierce County Courthouse – Ellsworth, WI

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Mel Pittman, Troy Gansluckner, Dan Reis, and Ken Snow; Jeff Holst excused.

**Others Present:** Scott Schoepp

Chairman M. Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Public comment was called for. M. Pittman asked about the paved trail at the Trimble Recreation Area. The question was whether the trail was for vehicle traffic or for foot traffic. He noticed vehicles were driving on the trail. S. Schoepp indicated it was for foot traffic only and stated some type of signage or barriers would need to be installed.

**Minutes**

The August 25, 2008 minutes were presented. Motion by T. Gansluckner, seconded by K. Snow to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Hunting on Park land**

K. Snow introduced the possibility of allowing some form of deer hunting to take place in Nugget Lake County Park. S. Schoepp provided a brief history of past discussions related to this matter. Various special type hunts (youth, disabled, etc.) were explored but did not advance due to the season date restrictions imposed by the DNR. Currently more dates have been authorized so the possibilities of a special hunt could be explored. Further discussion took place regarding various options that could be acted upon. It was the consensus of the committee to have S. Schoepp put together a survey of deer hunting options and obtain input from adjoining park landowners. Updates will follow.

**Park Superintendent Reports**

S. Schoepp provided income, financial, and activity reports for the month of September and October. Total income to date was up \$2,585. No further questions were raised regarding the reports.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next parks committee meeting will be on February 09, 2009 at 9:00 am in the County Board Room.

Motion by T. Gansluckner, seconded by K. Snow to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Scott Schoepp  
County Park Superintendent