

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
February 20, 2019

Committee Members Present: D. Decker, G. Barnes, W. Dibble, D. Fanton, B. Harris, C. Crandall (Absent: K. Graves)

Others Present: T. Boyde, P. Curran, J. DiPasquale, K. Dirlam, G. Hanchett, D. Healy, J. Hopkins, L. Hunsberger, J. Kent, C. Knapp, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross, P. Stockin, S. Torrey, M. Washer

Media Present: C. Potter – *The Spectator*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman David Decker.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Resource Management Committee minutes of January 16, 2019.

COUNTY HISTORIAN

County Historian Craig Braack was unable to attend the meeting but submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Legislator Decker asked if they have any applications in yet for the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Waste Storage Program. Mr. Torrey indicated they have one farm they are going to apply for, with the possibility of an additional farm. Mr. Torrey noted that only certain farms qualify; for example, a dairy farm with over 200 cows.

Round Bales

Legislator Harris stated he has heard concerns from farmers regarding the methods used for removing plastic waste that is generated from round bales and asked if Mr. Torrey's office ever deals with that. Mr. Torrey stated in the past, Cooperative Extension brought in a baler to pick them up, adding the issue is that there isn't a big market for the plastic. Legislator Harris asked who Mr. Torrey refers these individuals to. Mr. Torrey indicated Cooperative Extension and/or the Landfill. Committee Chairman Decker stated this issue was discussed at a NYSAC workshop, noting that if the plastic is clean, they can dispose of it, and the issue is being worked on at the state level through Cooperative Extension. Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger indicated they used to hold drop off for plastic bag events twice a year at the Landfill, adding it was a great program, and they can look into getting it up and running again.

YOUTH BUREAU

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins was unable to attend the meeting but submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hunsberger noted the following upcoming events:

- Ag Literacy Week will be held March 18 through March 22. They visit 11 schools where they will be reading "On the Farm at the Market" by G. Brian Karas to 359+ students.
- The 27th Annual Rural Landowner Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 2, at Pioneer Central School in Yorkshire, NY, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Cooperative Extension Agreement

Ms. Hunsberger requested a resolution approving the agreement between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Allegany County for the amount of \$278,000. Ms. Hunsberger noted it is the same agreement that is submitted every year. Legislator Harris asked what percent of their total budget the \$278,000 represents. Ms. Hunsberger stated it is one third of their total budget. Legislator Harris asked if the remainder comes from the state. Ms. Hunsberger indicated the remainder is made up with state, federal, and local grants. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Dibble, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Local Law 1-1996

Committee Chairman Decker referenced Local Law 1-1996 – A Local Law to authorize the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board to issue opinions regarding agricultural practices, adopted by Resolution No. 93-1996 on April 8, 1996. Committee Chairman Decker indicated this Local Law needs to be reviewed and will come back to the committee at a later date for appropriate action. County Attorney Knapp stated this Local Law has been in effect since April 1996, and requested that the committee provide her with what they hope to accomplish so she knows the appropriate direction to take when reviewing this. Planning Director Kier Dirlam stated the Farmland Protection Board has had conversations regarding the Local Law being 23 years old and not up to current standards on the right-to-farm laws, adding they would like to review the Local Law and make any necessary updates to bring it to current standards. **Refer to County Attorney Carissa Knapp**

Allegany County Forest Lands

Legislator Harris requested the following email be submitted in the February 20, 2019, Resource Management Committee minutes:

"Hello All,

The purpose of this long email is to get everyone on the same page regarding efforts to expand recreational usage of Allegany County Forest Lands. There are varied interests in enhancing the County's outdoor recreational offerings, (hiking, cycling, horseback riding, ATV's, etc.). All have worth, and all would have obvious and many benefits to the County. For the purpose of this thread, I hope to keep our focus on the Travis Lot, and opening it up to non-motorized use.

Goals:

It is my hope that we can, by summer's end, create an established, mapped, and marked non-motorized trail for public use on the Travis Lot which includes protective barriers and parking. This goal will be achieved through cooperation with Soil and Water, Alfred University, Public Works, the Legislature, and other interested parties.

Background:

In the fall, Soil and Water Director Scott Torrey, Legislator Dibble, and I toured the Travis

Lot (and others) via UTV. The purpose of the tour was to get a general impression of the frontage, access, and trail and forest conditions of some of our larger properties. The Travis Lot, at around 300 acres, is our largest parcel. It's also probably one of the most valuable lots in terms of timber value and recreational appeal.

Shortly thereafter, I had some preliminary discussions with DPW Superintendent Justin Henry regarding potential costs of protective barriers at logging trail entrances. This discussion has been ongoing and includes Legislator Dibble, who has been utilizing contacts within DEC and Allegany Trails for more information. Protection of existing logging roads (and future trails) is important in terms of condition and liability.

I then requested clarification from County Attorney Knapp on any deed restrictions regarding the use of County Forest Land. In short, (please correct me if I'm wrong), recreational use is permitted so long as it does not interfere with the primary function of the properties: conservation of the forests. This interpretation would allow for trail building and maintenance, minimal parking and signage, etc.

There have been continued discussions with both Soil and Water and Public Works regarding the feasibility of converting the landing area from this year's logging into a viable parking area for public use. It is the hope that Soil and Water can work with the loggers to ensure the appropriate size and location.

Six weeks ago, I reached out to Justin Grigg (Alfred University Assistant Dean), who arranged a meeting with Dr. Beaudry (Alfred University Associate Professor Environmental Science). The purpose of our meeting was to discuss using AU students to map the existing trails on the Travis Lot. Since then, three Alfred students, as well as Dr. Beaudry, have visited the parcel and briefly accessed the trails. They are willing to map the existing trails with more accuracy than what is currently available. See quoted email below.

SWCD Director Torrey has since shared what maps he had on file. They are attached below. They seem to be quite substantive. Dr. Beaudry would be best equipped to determine if their mapping tools could provide more insight/accuracy to the existing maps. Perhaps some of these trails no longer exist.

Next Steps:

It sounds as though the Alfred students are ready to go, weather permitting, if Dr. Beaudry deems it useful to continue with the project.

Legislator Dibble and I will continue to work with Soil and Water and Public Works to ensure that the logging contract contains language that most benefits revitalization of the trails and the establishment of a parking area and protective gates.

When the time comes, we will also seek funding from the Resource Management Committee and full Legislature for any costs incurred through the construction of the parking area, gates, signage, etc. Public use guidelines will also need to be established.

Regards:

Brooke Harris,
Allegany Co. Legislature,
District V

Dr. Beaudry email:

Three students volunteered to assist with the mapping project. Yesterday two of the students and I went to the Travis lot so that the students know how to get there and park at the right location. We walked a small section of trail. Some observations:

- *Following logging trails in the snow will not be very difficult as they are fairly obvious. Too much more snow and the going will get tough, though. The students will start mapping next week, probably, but they will need to go back once the snow is melted to make sure they didn't miss less obvious trails.*
- *Cell reception there was good, so they will be able to use the data-enabled tablet for the first mapping effort. In the next few days we will add the property boundaries (from the Allegany County Parcel Viewer) to facilitate navigation.*
- *We haven't dusted off the old Trimble Pathfinder unit yet but will do so the next time we're bored with our day job."*

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Washer, Confidential Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators