

Flambeau River State Forest  
**Annual Integrated Property Management Meeting Minutes**  
Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters 9:30AM March 28,

**Meeting Purpose:** *Promote communication and collaboration among DNR resource managers and internal programs involved in the management of the Flambeau River State Forest to advance Master Plan implementation. Meeting results will be shared with the public via annual stakeholder contact.*

**Attendance:** *See attached agenda.*

**1. Introductions and opening comments** – Chris Bender

The FRSF property manager position has been filled as of February 2018 by Chris Bender.

**2. Forest Management** – Heidi Brunkow, Pat Zimmer, Maggie Lorenz, Gregg Slezak

- The cold winter was good for logging operations this winter.
- 13 Sales were completed, equating to 2,000 acres harvested and \$1.2 Million in revenue.
- 43 Sales currently under contract.
- Several sales need extensions, and a few sales are over four years old.
- 1,300 acres were set up last fall, 841 acres this spring.
- GIS updates are being made to improve efficiencies.
- Lots of help from LTE staff and Surrounding Foresters has helped immensely in covering staff vacancies.
- 1 Forester Vacancy filled in November of 2017, 1 remaining vacancy.
- 30 acres are needed for scarification this year.
- Spring Sale Bids are out and available online.

**Action Item:** Hold a consistency meeting for forestry staff working on the forest.

**3. State Forest Roads & Trails** – Roy Gilge, Chris Bender, Dan Yankowiak

- FRSF has 60 miles of open roads. As part of the department alignment, 2 miles of road were transferred to Bureau of Parks for management, as they are directly tied to recreational facilities.
- Lots and landings associated with recreation will also be shifted to Parks for management.
- The forest maintains 60 miles of closed forest roads designated as Hunter-Walking Trails. Mowing responsibilities have been shifted to Parks, while Forestry will still do major maintenance, as the roads also serve dual purpose in access for logging operations.
- ATV trail system is almost completely improved with ditching and crowning.
- ATV trail system has been completely re-signed.
- Fisherman's LDG ATV trail segment has been bid out, hopeful completion this year pending weather.
- All access roads are completed per the Master Plan.
- Skinner Creek Road improvements made in 2015 are holding up, no break up issues.

**4. Road & Trail BMP's and Water Regs** – Nolan Krigel

- Trails are audited under FSI.
- BMP monitoring will be conducted on select sales in April

**5. Land Control** – Chris Bender, Maggie Lorenz

- Several Surveys associated with timber sales were completed last year.
- Demolition of old buildings scheduled for this spring from a property acquired a year ago on Ruby Road.

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- A Survey was put out for bid in fall of 2017 for survey work in Hervas Unit. The bid was awarded to Steigerwaldt. Completion date is set for June 15<sup>th</sup> of 2019.
- Several Land Access Permits up for renewal.
- Some possible encroachments were identified.

**6. Real Estate – Rhonda Kenyon**

- FRSF one of the busiest areas in her work area.
- 2 RE positions were posted to be filled.
- RE has a tremendous work load with granting utility/fiber optic easements.
- Stewardship program for land acquisitions is set to sunset in 2020 pending legislative renewal.
- No new acquisitions in the FRSF.

**7. Forest Protection – Paul Cigan**

- Down to 5 forest health specialists.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – 119 new finds and 8 new county level detections.
- Ash movement restrictions lifted for in state movement of ash.
- 10 Mile firewood restriction for state properties still in place.
- New Oak Wilt detection on Sawyer County – really need to be cognizant of oak wilt and cutting procedures.
- Gypsy Moth numbers seem to be high in Northern WI.
- Spruce Budworm population still high.
- Forest tent caterpillar – no increase spotted.

**8. Endangered Resources – Ryan Magana**

- 5 Goshawk sites will be inspected this year.

**9. Wildlife – Laine Stowell**

- 30 Kentucky elk released this past July on the FRSF.
- All Kentucky cows were tended by WI bulls this year.
- 55-58 elk is the current population on the FRSF.
- 16-17 Calves anticipated to be born this spring.
- No Kentucky Elk release this year.
- First WI Elk hunting established for this fall.

**10. Fisheries – Jeff Scheirer**

- 2016 Surveys available on the DNR website for Skinner Creek Flowage and Swamp Lake.
- A fall electro-survey for walleye recruitment in Connor's Lake was conducted in 2017.
- There is a planned Walleye recruitment survey for Connor's Lake and Lake of the Pines in 2018.
- Planned Musky Density Study in Lake of the Pines and Connor's Lake in 2019.
- A number of lake surveys to be conducted within the FRSF over the next 2 years.
- Walleye's for Tomorrow is interested in doing habitat management on Connor's Lake.

**11. Recreation – Diane Stowell, Chris Bender, Dan Yankowiak**

- Completed renovation of the Cedar Rapids river site in 2017. Sites were spaced out, and there are now 2 group sites, 2 semi-primitive sites, and 1 primitive site. Still awaiting the installation of new pit toilets.
- New Huff-cut Vault toilet at Lake of the Pines Campground installed.
- Road Signage project completed. Forest Access Roads were signed with street names. New Highway signage was placed on HWY W and Surrounding state highways. More highway signage planned for this year within the FRSF to increase visibility of recreational

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destinations.

- Northern section of ATV trail was re-constructed and is nearly complete.
- New nature/interpretive trail constructed near the HQ.
- New ATV trail Kiosk.
- Fixed a few of the landings at the remote river campsites.
- For 2018: weather pending, the fisherman's LDG ATV trail should be constructed. Some portal entrance signs may be replaced. Nine-mile landing renovation is scheduled, however no bids were received. The old forest HQ will be re-roofed and stained.

**12. Law Enforcement** – Scott Bowe

- Warden's helped out in covering shifts on the FRSF last year and getting acquainted with the property.
- LE coverage on state properties will be managed by the Warden Service beginning this year and moving forward.
- Rick Peters is the new Warden Supervisor out of Ashland.

**13. Research Projects** – Coleen Matula

- Treatments for basal bark, Honeysuckle, Buckthorn, Musclewood/Ironwood, and Garlic Mustard will take place.
- Treatment areas include Dragonfly Whisper, Scattered Oaks, and Butternut Baby timber sales.
- Garlic Mustard treatment sites will be located on Carlson Rd, Lake of the Pines, Lotta Porkies timber sale, and Skinner Creek Walking area.

**14. Master Plan Updates** – Chris Bender

- In 2017 a variance went in to affect to open Hervas and RD to ATVs, as well as to allow winter operation of ATVs in the Connor's Lake Boat Landing area.

**15. Alignment Updates**- Matt Blaylock

- Full implementation of alignment changes in effect.
- LE and Recreation transitions beginning this year.

*Minutes submitted by Chris Bender – Flambeau River State Forest Property Manager.*

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

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DATE: January 31, 2018

TO: Larry Glodoski, Teague Prichard, Laine Stowell, Dave Kafura, Doug Casina, Ryan Magana, Scott Bowe, Tom Heisler, Rhonda Kenyon, Heidi Brunkow, Gregg Slezak, Judy Freeman, Chris Bender, Diane Stowell, Margaret Lorenz, Roy Gilge, Colleen Matula, Ryan Magana, Jeffrey Scheirer, Danial Yankowiak, Paul Cigan, Matthew Blaylock, Nichol Martin, Daniel Schumacher, Natalie Brown,

FROM: Chris Bender

SUBJECT: Flambeau River State Forest Integrated Meeting

The Flambeau River State Forest is planning an internal integrated meeting to discuss last year's accomplishments and upcoming work plans. We have set up a date of **Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 am.** We will be meeting in the conference room at the FRSF Headquarters, and *lunch will be provided.* There are many topics on the table for the upcoming year, and we are looking forward to an open conversation. I have listed the main categories of discussion, and encourage you to email me any additional items that you would like to discuss. If you are unable to attend, please let me know.

**AGENDA**

- **Introductions:** Larry Glodoski, Matt Blaylock, Chris Bender
- **Forest Management:** Heidi Brunkow, Pat Zimmer, Maggie Lorenz
- **State Forest Roads & Trails:** Roy Gilge, Chris Bender, Dan Yankowiak
- **Road and Trail BMP's and Water Regs.:** Doug Casina, Dave Kafura
- **Land Control:** Chris Bender, Maggie Lorenz
- **Real Estate:** Rhonda Kenyon
- **Forest Protection:** Coleen Matula, Paul Cigan?
- **Endangered Resources:** Ryan Magana
- **Wildlife:** Laine Stowell
- **Fisheries:** Jeff Scheirer
- **Recreation:** Chris Bender, Dan Yankowiak, Diane Stowell
- **LE:** Chris Bender, Scott Bowe
- **Research Projects:** Coleen Matula
- **Master Plan Updates:** Chris Bender, Heidi Brunkow
- **Alignment Updates on the FRSF:** Larry Glodoski or Matt Blaylock, Scott Bowe, Dan Yankowiak