

North WI Resource Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2023

The North WI RAC was convened at 9:00 A.M. on May 3, 2023, at the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Supervisor's Office, 500 Hanson Lake Rd., Rhinelander, WI. The meeting also had virtual and phone options. meeting to review project proposals, voting of co-chairs, and recommendation voting on project proposals.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The meeting was open to the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of Tittle II proposals.

**Committee Members Present:**

Category A:

- Steve Kircher (in person)
- Dave Wager (virtual)
- Jim Engebretson (in person)
- Sarah Connor\*\* (virtual; left meeting at 1 p.m.)
- Henry Severson (in person)

Category B:

- Sherry (Sheryl) Pethers (in person)
- John Berg (virtual; left meeting at noon)
- Susan Borchardt (in person)
- Rich Kirchmeyer\*\* (in person)

Category C:

- Sandy (Sandra) Raspotnik (in person)
- Andy (Andrew) Edwards (in person)
- Michelle Gobert (virtual)
- Cindy Skinner (in person)

**Forest Service Staff in attendance:**

- Sarah Holmes – Acting DFO (in person)
- Adam Felts – DFO (virtual)
- Penny McLaughlin – RAC Coordinator (in person)
- Sitka Pence – Deputy Forest Supervisor (in person)
- Ginger Molitor – Great Divide District Planner (virtual)
- Eric Lynch - Supervisory Civil Engineering Technician (virtual)

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON & VOTING FOR CHAIRPERSON FOR 2023/2024**

North WI RAC Chairman voting for the next year occurred. Two nominations were received, Rich Kirchmeyer and Sarah Connor. A motion was made by Sandra Raspotnik for a call for

unanimous vote and second by Henry Severson. All members present voted unanimously to keep Rich Kirchmeyer and Sarah Connor as co-chairs.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public presented oral or written statements.

### **REVIEW VOTING PROCESS, CONSIDERATION OF ABSENTEE VOTING & MEETING GUIDELINES**

For the record, the committee has agreed to allow for absentee voting, members will submit/cast their votes prior to meeting or voting begins if they are unable to attend in-person or virtually.

For the record the committee would like to meet mid-winter (January/February) for project review. The committee would like to start the scheduling in the early fall for the 2024 meeting.

For the record the voting process the committee has agreed upon is: a motion will be made, committee member will state their name, then it will need to be seconded. We will then vote by roll calling each category or unanimous voting by category (yay or nay).

### **BUDGET: REVIEW RAC FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Sarah Holmes presented the follow information to the committee: the 2022 approved project status, 2023 Title 11 Funds Available, and County Contributions. Please see attached for information handed out at the meeting.

### **PROPOSAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSALS**

Sarah Holmes introduced this agenda item by presenting an overview of the 2023 project proposals requested and a review of the Tittle II funding overview. Please see attached for information handed out at the meeting.

Project Sponsors able to attend presented on their project submission to the North WI RAC Committee. Proposal sponsors included: Cody Brauner, Al Murray, Darrell Richards, Ron Bergin, Jenifer Bratsch (FS), Justin Boysen (FS), Paul Precour, Dale Houdek, Sandy Raspotnik, Katie LeMoine (FS), and Ginger Molitor (FS).

After all project submissions were presented, the committee then moved into recommending projects for approval.

### **PROJECT PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sara Connor and Richard Kirchmeyer led the committee through the voting process. Members present for voting per category:

Category A:

Steve Kircher; Dave Wager; Jim Engebretson; Sarah Connor; Henry Severson

Category B:

Sherry (Sheryl) Pethers; John Berg; Susan Borchardt; Rich Kirchmeyer;

Category C:

Sandy (Sandra) Raspotnik; Andy (Andrew) Edwards; Michelle Gobert; Cindy Skinner

**Project 11, Town Of Worcester Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Roads**: motion was made by Sherry Pethers to recommend partial funding of 100,315.00 with a second by Andy Meyers.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 1, Re-establish Wildlife Openings with Mechanical Treatment**: motion was made by Henry Severson to fully fund the project, 6,804.00, and seconded by Jim Engebretson.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 9, Northland College Outdoor Pursuits Program**: motion made by Sherry Pethers to partially fund the project, 30,000.00, and seconded by Cindy Skinner.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 15, Silver Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Treatment**: motion made by Steve Kircher to fully fund the project, 11,380.00, and seconded by Sherry Pethers.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 4, Recreation Site Management Efficiency with Wiscorps**: motion made by Sherry Pethers to fully fund the project, 16,146.00, and seconded by Andy Meyers.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 14, Improving Access and Wayfinding on West Zone of the CNNE**: motion made by Sandra Raspotnik to fully fund, 30,000.00 and seconded by Cindy Skinner.

Motion failed

A new motion was made by Sherry Pethers to partially fund the project at 15,000.00 and seconded by Jim Engebretson.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project #7, Boulder Lake to Fish Hatchery Road**: motion made by Steve Kircher to fully fund the project, 199,765.00 and seconded by Henry Severson.

Motion failed – Category B

A second motion was made by Susan B. to partially fund the project at 95,000.00 and seconded by Cindy Skinner.

Motion failed – Category B

**Project 13, CAMBA Trail Maintenance and Rehab Initiative - Phase 2**: motion made by Cindy Skinner to fully fund, 85,460.00 and seconded by Susan Borchardt.

Motion failed – Category B and C

**Project 3, FR 251 Blacktop Replacement**: motion made by Sherry Pethers to fully fund the project, 197,700.00 and seconded by Steve Kircher.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 8, Campground Improvements for Volunteers:** motion made by Jim Engebretson to fully fund the project, 20,000.00 and seconded by Steve Kircher  
Motion passed in each category.

**Project 10, Improving the Efficiency of the West Zone Recreation Program during Spring and Fall Campground and Trails Opening and Closing:** motion made by Andy Meyer to fully fund the project, 17,000.00 and seconded by Sherry Pethers.  
Motion passed in each category.

**Project 6, Northern Great Lake Visitor Center Trail Maintenance:** motion was made by Sherry Pethers to partially fund, 37,000.00 and seconded by Sandra Raspotnik.  
Motion passed in each category.

**Project 16, FR 132 Reconditioning:** motion was made by Sandra Raspotnik to partially fund at 125,000.00 and seconded by Steve Kircher.

Motion failed

A motion was made by Sandra Raspotnik to partially fund at 100,000.00 and seconded by Rich Kirchmeyer

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 12, Morgan Falls/St. Peter's Dome Trailhead Parking Area Improvements:** motion made by Sherry Pethers to fully fund the project, 34,356.00 and seconded by Steve Kircher.  
Motion passed in each category.

**Project 2, FR 251 Gravel:** motion made by Sandra Raspotnik to partially fund the project at 100,000.00 and seconded by Cindy Skinner.

Motion passed in each category.

**Project 5, FR 439 (North Boundary Rd) Stabilization/Improvement:** Motion was made by Sherry Pethers to not fund this project and seconded by Susan Borchardt

Motion passed in each category.

Title II funds available for distribution: \$684,756.65

Title II fund allocated: \$684,701.00

50% Roads and Watershed allocated (YES): \$498,015.00

The committee completed their business for the year. The May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting will be cancelled.

Thank you to the North WI RAC Committee for their service, it is greatly appreciated.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 3:01 p.m. was made by Sandra Raspotnik and seconded by Cindy Skinner.  
All in favor to adjourn.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Sarah Holmes  
Acting Designated Federal Official  
USDA – Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Sara Connor  
Co-chairperson  
North Wisconsin Resource Advisory Committee

Richard Kirchmeyer  
Co-chairperson  
North Wisconsin Resource Advisory Committee