

**North WI Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes**

April 23, 2024

The North Wisconsin Resources Advisory Committee was convened at 9:15 A.M. on April 23, 2024, at the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Forest Supervisor's Office, 500 Hanson Lake Rd., Rhinelander, WI. The meeting also had virtual and phone options. The goals of this meeting was to review project proposals, vote for next year's committee chair, vote for Secure Rural School (SRS) project recommendations, and vote to hear Recreation Fee proposal on May 2nd. *[side note: the meeting start time was delayed a little from the 9am time due to not having enough members to meet a quorum]*

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 Secure Rural School Title II proposals.

Committee Members Present: (I-P = in person; V = virtual)

Category A: Steve Kircher (I-P), Dave Wager (V), RT Kroger (proxy for Jim Engebretson) (I-P), Sara Connor** (I-P), and Henry Severson (I-P)

Category B: Sherry (Sheryl) Pethers (I-P), John Berg (V), Susan Borchardt (I-P), and Rich Kirchmeyer** (I-P)

Category C: Sandy (Sandra) Raspotnik (I-P), Michelle Gobert (V), and Cindy Skinner (I-P)

**Co-Chairs

Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Staff in attendance:

Adam Felts – Designated Federal Official (DFO; I-P)

Karen Katz- Recreation Program Manager (I-P)

Adrian Ackley- Tribal Liaison (I-P)

Jennifer Youngblood- Forest Supervisor (I-P)

Ann Dassow- Natural Resource Staff Officer (I-P; meeting minute recorder)

Eric Lynch- Civil Engineering Technician (V)

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON & VOTING FOR CHAIRPERSON FOR 2024/2025

North Wisconsin Resources Advisory Committee Chairman voting for the next year occurred.

Two nominations were received, Rich Kirchmeyer and Sara Connor. A motion was made by Sandra Raspotnik to vote for Co-chairs, 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

Rich Kirchmeyer gave a review of the purpose of the Resources Advisory Committee and meeting etiquette. Meeting is being recorded with minutes taken. Voting process was reviewed.

The committee agreed to use a two phased voting approach. They will vote first to fully fund, partially fund, or not to fund a proposal, and then, secondly, vote on a specific funding level.

BUDGET: REVIEW RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Adam Felts presented the following information to the committee: status of the past approved projects, 2024 SRS Title II funds available, and what counties contributed. Total funding amount available is \$115,000.

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSALS

Adam Felts introduced this agenda item by presenting an overview of the 2024 project proposals requested and a review of the Title II funding overview. There are 8 projects proposed, totaling over \$311,332 and requests ranging from \$10,000 to \$151,654.

Project sponsors able to attend presented on their project submissions to the North WI RAC Committee. All projects completed a presentation. Proposal sponsors included: Ron Stromeck (Town of Grover, Chairman), Dave Grawvunder (Forest Service), Evan Paulson (Northland College, Sigurd Olsen Institute), Ginger Molitor (Forest Service), Jamee Peters (Langland Area Mountain Bike Association), Paul Precour (Town of Worcester), Chris Geidel (Forest Service; presented for two projects).

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Fee Proposal

Krystal Fleeger, Regional Recreation Fee and Reservation Coordinator, gave a presentation on the REA as it pertains to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest recreation fee proposal. The objective of this presentation was to see if the RAC would want to review the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest fee proposal and vote on it. The fee proposals would be fully reviewed and voted on May 2nd. It was outlined that voting for this proposal would parallel the voting process used for SRS project recommendations. Sherry Pethers made a motion to agree to review the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest fee proposal at our next meeting (May 2nd) and Cindy Skinner second the motion. Motion passed.

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, RT Kroger (proxy for Jim Engebretson), Sara Connor, and Henry Severson

Category B: Sherry (Sheryl) Pethers, John Berg, Susan Borchardt, and Rich Kirchmeyer

Category C: Sandy (Sandra) Raspotnik, Michelle Gobert, and Cindy Skinner

Project 4, Medford-Park Falls District Parking Lot: motion was made by Sherry Pethers to recommend partial funding with a second by Sandy Raspotnik.

Project 3, Lakewood-Laona District LAMBA Trail Maintenance: motion made by Sandy Raspotnik to fully fund the project, at \$15,000, and seconded by Henry Severson. Motion passed in each category.

ADJOURNMENT

Due to a family emergency and departure of a category C member, the committee could not make a quorum and agreed to adjourn. Committee meeting adjourned at 2pm to reconvene at 9am on May 2nd.

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

Adam Felts

Designated Federal Official

USDA – Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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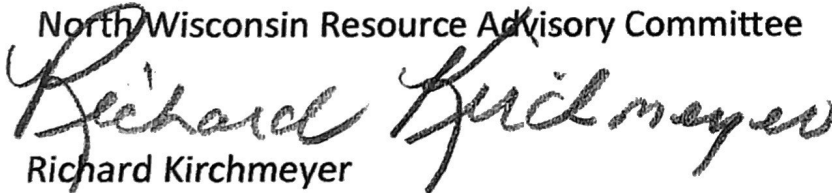
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Sara Connor

Co-chairperson

North Wisconsin Resource Advisory Committee



Richard Kirchmeyer

Co-chairperson

North Wisconsin Resource Advisory Committee

North WI Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024

The North Wisconsin Resources Advisory Committee was convened at 9:00 A.M. on May 2, 2024, virtually on Microsoft TEAMS platform. Continuation of April 23rd meeting to review SRS project proposals and USDA FS Region 9 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) Recreation Fee Proposal.

Committee Members Present: (all virtual)

Category A: Steve Kircher, Dave Wager, Jim Engebretson, Sara Connor**, and Henry Severson

Category B: Sherry (Sheryl) Pethers, John Berg, Susan Borchardt, and Rich Kirchmeyer**

Category C: Sandy (Sandra) Raspotnik, Michelle Gobert, Cindy Skinner, and RT Kroger (Proxy for Mark Ferris)

**Co-Chairs

Forest Service Staff in attendance:

Adam Felts – Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest Designated Federal Official

Sitka Pence- Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor

Karen Katz- Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest Recreation Program Manager

Adrian Ackley- Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest Tribal Liaison

Ann Dassow- Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest Natural Resource Staff Officer (meeting minute recorder)

Todd Harbin- Assistant National Recreation Fee Program Manager

Sam Snider – Recreation Fee Program Specialist

Krystal Fleeger – Region 9 Recreation Fee and Reservation Coordinator

Ginger Molitor - Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest

Joanna Wilson – Washington Office Fee Program Manager

Allison Remley – Washington Office Fee Program Manager

Mark Beuning - Cheq.-Nicolet National Forest Technical Services Staff Officer

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public presented oral or written statements.

REVIEW VOTING PROCESS & MEETING GUIDELINES

Adam Felts gave a review of the purpose of the Resources Advisory Committee and meeting etiquette along with TEAMS logistics. Meeting is being recorded with minutes taken.

The committee agreed to use a two phased voting approach. They will vote first to fully fund, partially fund, or not to fund a proposal, and then, secondly, vote on a specific funding level.

BUDGET: REVIEW RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Total funding amount available is \$115,000.

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, Sara Connor, and Henry Severson

Category B: Sherry (Sheryl) Pethers, John Berg, Susan Borchardt, and Rich Kirchmeyer

Category C: Sandy (Sandra) Raspotnik, Michelle Gobert, Cindy Skinner, and RT Kroger (Proxy for Mark Ferris)

Individual voting record for each project can be found in the local Forest's Pinyon folder.

Project 4, Medford-Park Falls District Parking Lot: motion was made by Sherry Pethers to recommend partial funding with a second by Sandy Raspotnik.

Motion carried in each category.

Motion by Sue B. for \$23,000 and seconded by Cindy Skinner. Motion withdrawn and would like to look at the trail groomer first.

Motion by Sherry to fund this project at \$29,000 and John Berg second the motion.

Motion carried.

Project 2, West Zone Northland Outdoor Pursuits 2024: Previous meeting (on 4/23) motion was made by Sandy Raspotnik to postpone decision to the end of proposal consideration.

Motion carried in each category.

5/2 motion was made by Sandy Raspotnik and RT Kroger seconded to fully fund the project.

Motion failed.

Sandy Raspotnik motioned to partially fund and Sue Borchardt seconded the motion.

Motion failed in Category B.

Because it failed to fully or partially fund, the project was dropped from further consideration.

Project 3, Lakewood-Laona District LAMBA Trail Maintenance: motion made by Sandy Raspotnik to **fully** fund the project, \$15,000, and seconded by Henry Severson.

Motion carried in each category.

Project 8, Worcester Road Maintenance: motion made by Sandy Raspotnik to partially fund the project and seconded by John Berg.

Motion failed in Category C.

Because it failed to get partially funded, the project was dropped from further consideration.

Motion made by Sue to reconsider the project. Second by Cindy.

Motion failed in Category A.

Project 5, Great Divide District Recreation Solar: motion made by RT Kroger to **partially** fund the project and seconded by Sherry Pethers.

Motion failed in each category.

Henry Severson motion to **fully** fund the project at \$10,000 and seconded by Sherry Pethers.

Motion carried.

Project 1, West Zone Boat Landing Improvement: motion made by Sherry Pethers to fully fund and seconded by Steve Kircher.

Motion failed in each category.

Cindy Skinner motioned to partially fund and Henry Severson second.

Motion carried.

Sue Borchardt motion to fund \$32,000 and Sherry seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Henry Severson motioned to add \$7,000 (the remainder of the 2023 SRS funds) to the project and seconded by Sherry P.

Motion carried.

Project 6, West Zone Trail Grooming: motion made by Cindy Skinner to fully fund and seconded by Dave Wager.

Motion failed.

Motion by Sherry Pethers to partially fund project and second by Henry Severson.

Motion carried.

Sandy Raspotnik motion to fund the project at \$9,000 and second by Henry Severson.

Motion carried.

Project 7, West Zone Sign and Access: motion made by Sandy Raspotnik to fully fund at \$13,000 and seconded by John Berg.

Motion carried.

Sandy B. motioned to carry over the remaining funds (\$7,000), Jim second. Motion Withdrawn by Sandy.

Title II funds available for distribution: \$115,000

Title II fund allocated: \$115,000

50% Roads and Watershed allocated (YES): \$66,000

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Fee Proposal - CNNF Presentation

Karen Katz presented the details of the 2019 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest recreation free proposal. It was noted that Emily Lake Group Campground is no longer part of the CNNF fee proposal. After the presentation, the floor was open for questions from the Resources Advisor Committee.

The official public comment period for the REA proposal was from 12:00pm – 12:30pm C.T. No members of the public presented oral or written statements.

Sherry Pethers motioned to move forward with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest fee proposal in its entirety. Michelle Gobert seconded the motion.

Steve, yes; Dave, yes; Jim, yes; Sara, no; Sherry, yes; Henry, yes; Sue, yes; John, yes; Rich, yes; Sandy, yes; Michelle, yes; Cindy, yes; and RT, yes
Motioned carried in all Categories.

Thank you to the North Wisconsin Resources Advisory Committee for their service, it is greatly appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn at 1:35p.m. was made by RT and seconded by Henry. All were in favor to adjourn.

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

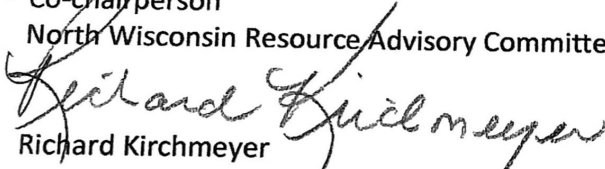
Adam Felts
Designated Federal Official
USDA – Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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Sara Connor
Co-chairperson
North Wisconsin Resource Advisory Committee


Richard Kirchmeyer
Co-chairperson
North Wisconsin Resource Advisory Committee