

**Chippewa County
Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee
Regular Meeting
January 21, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
11:00 AM**

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt

Members Absent:

Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

All supervisors were present except Supervisor Peterson and Supervisor Seidlitz.

County Supervisors present at times throughout the meeting was L. Hennick.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were A. Albarado (Co. Administrator), L. Simington (Finance), B. Seidlitz (Assistant Corporation Counsel), A. Foehringer and C. McTaggart (DNR), K. Clow, H. Donnellan, M. Hansen, J. Puig, L. Schweikert, R. Yohnk, and J. Schemenauer-Recorder (LCFM).

Members of the public present at times throughout the meeting were V. Christianson, R. Davis, A. Hansen, and P. Krumenauer.

3. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

R. Davis addressed the Committee. He is an adjacent landowner to the proposed Dog Island Bike Route with a private shooting range on his property. He expressed concern to M. Hansen about the bike route being too close to his property. He was appreciative that the County is willing to revise the route but wanted to discuss if the revised route could be moved further away.

V. Christianson, Chapter Coordinator for the Ice Age Trail Alliance - Chippewa Moraine Unit, addressed the Committee. She gave a brief history of the Ice Age Trail Alliance - Chippewa Moraine Unit and their support for the proposed Yellow River Woods Corridor Project.

4. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Rocky Kempe
Seconder:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes - 11/19/25
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - February 18, 2026

5. Reports

1. Land Conservation & Forest Management Department Data Dashboard - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by a table titled: 2025 Land Conservation Forest Management Department Dashboard, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The table provides an ongoing picture of what is happening in the Department by division (Conservation, Non-Metallic Mining, Stormwater, Recycling/Solid Waste, and Forestry).

2. Introduce Lake Wissota Stewardship Project Winter Intern - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert introduced Hope Donnellan, the 2026 Lake Wissota Stewardship Project Winter Intern.

3. WI Land+Water Conference, March 4-6, 2026 - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by an announcement by the WI Land+Water Conservation Association providing information on their 73rd annual conference to be held in Wisconsin Dells, WI on March 4-6, 2026.

6. Business Items

1. Ordinance to Amend Chapter 62, Article III, Division 2 of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances Regarding Recycling - Renee Yohnk

Motion:	Forwarded to the County Board
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Ken Schmitt
Seconder:	James Flater
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

R. Yohnk presented an oral report. The report was supported by an ordinance amendment titled: Ordinance to Amend Chapter 62, Division 2 of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances Regarding Recycling, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The ordinance amends Chapter 62, Article III, to be consistent with operational changes within the recycling industry and the DNR. A review by the DNR has determined the proposed revisions are consistent with Wis. Admin. Code Chapter NR 544.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on Sec. 62-87(c), which has been updated by the DNR to strike out language regarding responsibility for batteries, waste oil, appliances, waste tires and yard waste for multi-family dwellings. It was questioned whose responsibility this is now that the specifics have been struck out.

Motion to approve the changes (as presented) with the caveat that staff research who is responsible for recycling batteries, waste oil, appliances, waste tires and yard waste for multi-family dwellings, and forward to the County Board for approval: Schmitt/Flater. Motion carried by voice vote.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 2/10/26 meeting.

2. Land Conservation & Forest Management Capital Improvement Projects (2027-2031) - Lynda Schweikert

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by:

1. Document titled: 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan Calendar, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The document outlines the process and schedule for requesting Capital Improvement Project funds.
2. Spreadsheet titled: Department of Land Conservation & Forest Management, 2027—Capital Improvement Plan Ranking at 1/21/26 Committee Meeting, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached).
3. Spreadsheet titled: Department of Land Conservation & Forest Management, Capital Improvement Plan Requests & Adjustments, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached).
4. Forms titled: Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Justification Forms for the LCFM for 2027-2031 fiscal years, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached).

There was general discussion.

Motion to approve the CIP plan ranking, as presented: Flater/Bergeron. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Consider Request to Authorize Chippewa 50K Race Permit in County Forest - Matt Hansen

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Jason Bergeron
Seconder:	Rocky Kempe
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by an agreement titled: Chippewa County Forest Special Event Permit and Agreement, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The permit and agreement grants True North Adventures non-exclusive use of certain Chippewa County Forest property to conduct a 50K running event on the Ice Age Trail.

There was limited discussion.

Motion to approve the 50K race permit, pending proof of insurance: Bergeron/Kempe. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. Ice Age Trail Yellow River Woods Corridor Project - Matt Hansen

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	James Flater
Second:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by the following materials:

1. Map titled: Yellow River Ice Age Trail Proposal, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The map shows the location of the proposed trail in the Chippewa County Forest.
2. Correspondence from The Ice Age Trail Alliance – Chippewa Moraine Unit, (1/8/26), supporting committee action that would authorize the development of the Ice Age National Science Trail at the Yellow River Woods Special Management Unit of the Chippewa County Forest, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached).

There was general discussion.

Motion to approve the proposal, as presented: Flater/Bergeron. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Dog Island Bike Route Amendment - Matt Hansen

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Ken Schmitt
Second:	James Flater
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by the following materials:

1. Map titled: Tract 12-25 Bear Den Hardwood, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The map shows the currently revised bike trail expansion plan.
2. Map titled: Tract 12-25 Bear Den Hardwood, (Distributed 1/15/26 – copy on file & attached). The map shows the original bike trail expansion plan.

There was general discussion. M. Hansen stated that, taking into consideration the surrounding topography, this revised bike route expansion plan is the safest compromise reached between the adjacent landowner and the County.

Motion to approve, as presented: Schmitt/Flater. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. The Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee will go into closed session pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for the purposes of "deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" (Consider real estate transaction for parcel

in T32N, R8W, Section 23) - Matt Hansen

The Committee went into closed session at 11:41 a.m. Closed session to include: LCFM Committee members, A. Albarado, L. Schweikert, M. Hanson, J. Schemenauer, and Supervisor L. Hennick.

7. The Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee will reconvene to open session.

The committee reconvened to open session at 11:58 a.m.

7. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

The following items were discussed for future agenda items:

1. Notifying adjacent landowners of any proposed trails in the County Forest.
2. Advisory resolution regarding reauthorizing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 12:00 PM

Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Jason Bergeron
Second:	Ken Schmitt
Ayes:	Charles Bomar, James Flater, Jason Bergeron, Rocky Kempe, Ken Schmitt
Absent:	Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz

Motion to adjourn: Bergeron/Schmitt. Motion carried by voice vote at 12:00 p.m.