

**Chippewa County
Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee
Regular Meeting
May 20, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
11:00 AM**

1. Call to Order

The County Administrator called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were A. Albarado (Co. Administrator), A. Foehringer (DNR), J. Sadler (Co. Clerk), K. Clow, M. Hansen, J. Puig, L. Richardson, L. Schweikert, T. Shutter, E. Theiler, R. Yohnk, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCFM).

Members of the public present at times throughout the meeting were M. Buchmann, C. Ducommun, and P. Krumenauer.

3. Election of Chair

At 11:00 a.m., A. Albarado opened nominations for Chair of the Land Conservation & Forest Management (LCFM) Committee.

Supervisor Flater nominated Supervisor Bomar. Supervisor Seidlitz seconded the nomination.

A. Albarado called for further nominations. No further nominations were made and the nominations for Chair were closed.

Supervisor Peterson made a motion for unanimous consent for Supervisor Bomar. Citizen Representative Schmitt seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Supervisor Bomar was elected Chair of the LCFM Committee.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Bomar opened nominations for Vice-Chair of the Land Conservation & Forest Management (LCFM) Committee.

Supervisor Flater nominated Supervisor Peterson. Citizen Representative Schmitt seconded the nomination.

The Chair called for further nominations. No further nominations were made and the nominations for the Vice-Chair were closed.

The Chair asked the Committee if they were all in favor of the nomination. All members voted Aye by voice vote.

Supervisor Peterson was elected Vice-Chair of the LCFM Committee.

5. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

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

C. Ducommun addressed the Committee. He is land manager for Strzok Logging and asked the Committee for a 0% increase on the Maxfield Clear Cut that is on the agenda for an extension. He indicated that the site was difficult to cut due to winter cutting only and weather restrictions.

M. Buchmann addressed the Committee. He asked for Committee permission for the Chippewa Valley Century Ride Foundation to use a portion of the Old Abe Trail for their upcoming Chippewa Valley Century Ride on May 24, 2026.

6. Consent Agenda

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

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	Rocky Kempe
Seconder:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - March 18, 2026

7. Reports

1. Committee Meeting Notification Signup - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by a handout (Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached) which provides step-by-step instructions for the County Board and Committee members to sign up to receive email notifications when the County Board and/or committee agendas are posted.

2. Annual Report - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an annual report titled: Department of Land Conservation & Forest Management, Annual Performance Report, 2025, (LCFM 5/20/26 – Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached). The report is a summary of 2025 activities for the Land & Water Division, Forest & Trails Division, and Recycling Division.

There was general discussion.

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

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by a table titled: 2026 Land Conservation Forest Management Department Dashboard, (LCFM – Distributed 5/13/26 – 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).

There was general discussion. L. Schweikert indicated that she would add usage from the water refill stations in Chippewa County to the dashboard.

4. Land Conservation Committee Trainings - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by an announcement by the WI Land+Water Conservation Association, which provided information on training for LCFM Committee members and a chance to meet with association leaders and agency partners, as well as learn about programs that support locally-led conservation. Committee members may register on their own if interested.

5. West Central Area Land+Water Conservation Association Summer Tour (6/24/26) - Lynda Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by an announcement by the West Central Area Land+Water Conservation Association that the summer tour showcasing local conservation practices will be held in Clark County on June 24, 2026. Committee members are to let Lynda know by June 5, 2026, if they want to attend.

8. Business Items

1. Establish Regular Committee Meeting Time and Date - Chair

The Chair asked the Committee if the previous meeting schedule was acceptable or if they were interested in a change of date/time.

There was agreement that 12:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month would work for all Committee members.

Motion to schedule the LCFM Committee meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m.: Flater/Seidlitz. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	

2. Review Summary of Spring, 2026, Timber Sale Bids and Award Contracts - Matt Hansen

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

1. Table titled: Chippewa County Dept. of Land Conservation & Forest Management Weighted Average of High Bids – 5/18/26, (LCFM – copy on file & attached). The table outlines the wood types marketed through the Spring, 2026, timber sale process, the weighted average by wood product type, and the % change from the accepted November 2025, timber sale process.

2. Summary Table titled: Chippewa County Forest Listing of High Bids Submitted at May 18, 2026, Bid Openings, (LCFM – copy on file & attached). The table outlines the volume of highest bidder, and the value of the accepted bid from the Spring, 2026 timber sale.

3. Summary tables from the Spring, 2026, Timber Sale Bids for Tracts #1-26, #2-26, #3-26, #4-26, #5-26, #7-25.

4. Maps and prospectuses for Tracts#1-26, #2-26, #3-26, #4-26, #5-26, #7-25. There was general

discussion.

Motion to approve the timber sale contracts to the highest bidder, as presented: Seidlitz/Flater. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Second:	James Flater
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	

3. Review Timber Sale Contract Extensions - Matt Hanson

M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by a table summarizing timber sales that need extensions (Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached).

There was general discussion regarding policy. If the operator wants a reduction in penalty, they need to present their case to the Committee.

Motion to allow extension without penalty for Theodore Strzok, based on Ducommun's testimony, but maintain the 10% penalty for David Hakes, as presented: Flater/Seidlitz. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	James Flater
Second:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	

4. Consider Request to Authorize a Reroute of the Harwood Lakes Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail West of the Deer Fly Trail in the Chippewa County Forest - Matt Hansen

M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by a map titled: Deer Fly West Reroute, (Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached). The map shows the proposed trail reroute in relation to the existing ATV Trail and Deer Fly Trail.

There was general discussion regarding the request to reroute the trail to a dryer section. Work will be done by Ice Age Trail volunteers.

Motion to approve the moving of the trail, as presented: Flater/Kempe. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	James Flater
Second:	Rocky Kempe
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	

5. Consider Request to Authorize the Chippewa Valley Century Ride Foundation to use the Old Abe State Trail - Matt Hansen

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

1. Correspondence from the Chippewa Valley Century Ride Foundation to M. Hansen, (5/4/26), which outlines their intent to utilize a portion of the Old Abe Bike Trail as an optional route for their participants on their annual ride on 5/24/26, (Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached).
2. Map illustrating the Chippewa Valley Century Ride routes for 5/24/26 (35, 50, 75, and 100 miles), (Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached).
3. Document titled: Certificate of Liability Insurance, ((Distributed 5/13/26 – copy on file & attached). The document certifies insurance has been issued for the Chippewa Valley Century Ride Foundation for 5/24/26.

There was general discussion.

Motion to approve the request from the Chippewa Valley Century Ride Foundation to use the Old Abe State Trail, as presented: Peterson/Schmitt. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	Matthew Peterson
Second:	Ken Schmitt
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	None
Absent:	

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

Motion for the Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee to 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 with the LCFM Committee, Andy Albarado, Lynda Schweikert, Matt Hansen, and Joan Schemenauer, in closed session attendance: Peterson/Flater. Voting Aye: Bomar, Eisold, Flater, Kempe, Peterson, and Schmitt. Voting Nay: Seidlitz. Motion carried by 6-1 at 11:49 a.m.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	Matthew Peterson
Second:	James Flater
Ayes:	James Flater, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nays:	Joel Seidlitz
Absent:	

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

Motion to go into open session: Flater/Schmitt. Motion carried by voice vote at 12:08 p.m.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Ken Schmitt
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

Motion to approve the purchase of property at T32N, R8W, Sec. 23, contingent that the purchase is at the appraised value and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funding (50%) is awarded: Seidlitz/Flater. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Seconder:	James Flater
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

9. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Supervisor Seidlitz asked what the LCFM's role would be if data centers are proposed to be built in the County. L. Schweikert indicated that the oversight of data centers would be under local, State and Federal agencies, but our department may be able to provide groundwater information, as needed.

L. Schweikert mentioned that UW-Stevens Point will be presenting the current groundwater testing results at a LCFM meeting this summer.

The Chair mentioned if anyone has any future agenda items, to contact himself or L. Schweikert.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 12:13 PM

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	Rocky Kempe
Seconder:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	James Flater, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Charles Bomar, Rocky Kempe, Nina Eisold, Ken Schmitt
Nayes:	None
Absent:	