

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**September 22, 2022**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman Philip Curran.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Chairman Philip Curran.

**Roll Call:** P. Curran, G. Barnes, D. Fanton, G. Hanchett, J. Ricketts-Swales, P. Stockin, (Absent: A. Cyr)

**Other Attendees:** T. Boyde, J. Burdick, A. Carrow, K. Demick, M. Denhoff, K. Dirlam, B. Harris, S. Havey, D. Healy, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Jones, C. Knapp, T. Linn, B. Perkins, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, D. Scholes, P. Stockin, T. Windus

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried to approve the August 17, 2022, Resource Management Committee minutes.

**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey was unable to attend the meeting but previously submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

**YOUTH BUREAU**

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Perkins briefly highlighted items from his report.

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review.

Ms. Hunsberger stated that they are in the process of hiring a new Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) educator and they will look through candidates and hold interviews soon.

Ms. Hunsberger stated that she attended an ELC Executive Leadership Conference that past week. Ms. Hunsberger stated that they met in Geneva so that they could visit the research farms. They were able to take tours of the different types of products that people in New York State are developing and how the programs are bringing people together. Ms. Hunsberger stated that if any of the Legislators were interested in a tour like this, she could probably arrange for a field trip nearby.

Legislator Root asked if there were discussions regarding the spotted lantern fly. Ms. Hunsberger stated that there were discussions. She explained that the spotted lantern fly is an attractive insect but can devastate the grape industry, hop industry, and other economic crops. Ms. Hunsberger stated that she can provide detailed information if anyone is interested.

**County Forest Land Proposal**

Legislator Brooke Harris thanked the committee for allowing him to present the County Forest Land Proposal. Legislator Harris stated that the PowerPoint presentation was attached to the agenda and discussed the highlights from each slide. Legislator Harris then turned the discussion over to Department of Public Works Supervisor Tom Windus.

Mr. Windus referred to the estimates that had been provided in the agenda and stated that most of the lots required a small amount of clearing, grading, leveling, and gravel. Mr. Windus stated that a lot of that could be done by DPW and explained that the \$53,000 estimate would be for paying them back for necessary equipment and labor, and then material costs would be approximately \$10,000 per location. County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that they would look at the best option and that they can certainly work within that budget.

Legislator Healy asked if any annual maintenance costs, benefit analysis, or potential additional funding brought in by tourism or sales tax was included in the proposal. Legislator Harris stated that he did not bring a cost-benefit analysis for any direct tourism benefit. Legislator Harris stated that he had a brief discussion with DPW regarding maintenance and it will depend upon how much you develop the locations, but DPW felt comfortable that they had the manpower to include the typical maintenance you would have at one of these spaces with existing employees. Mr. Windus stated that they could have summer help available to mow various locations throughout the County, but if there are picnic tables, pavilions, or camp stoves, they may require a few more bodies. Mr. Windus explained that those areas would need to be policed to make sure garbage is picked up. Legislator Harris stated that the County Attorney made sure this was covered by NYMIR as well as confirmed existing coverage, and that there would not be a significant increase if any for any additional liability. Legislator Healy stated that he had concerns about any additional liabilities they may incur with the improvements encouraging additional use by the public. Legislator Harris stated that they do not have an answer for that yet, but in his opinion, if you're making property safer to access, it could potentially lower liability concerns. Legislator Healy stated that he is not against the proposal, but he wanted to make sure they were covering all the bases. Ms. Carrow stated that there is a provision in the General Obligations Law pertaining to these situations regarding liability in these situations, and she can provide that information to be reviewed.

Ms. Knapp commented that Legislator Harris has had an interest in this since he became a Legislator in 2018. Ms. Knapp stated that they did have a Trails Committee and a Trails Task Force in 2019. Ms. Knapp stated that this supports the mission that came out of that trails plan, and improving accessibility is a good first step to using County forests toward trail development.

Legislator Root thanked Legislator Harris for a well thought out plan that she would certainly support. Legislator Root asked for the final amount of ARPA funds being requested. Legislator Harris stated that the amount is approximately \$321,000.

Legislator Demick stated that this is a great idea and that the Town of Angelica included a similar proposal in their comprehensive plan. Legislator Demick stated that many of the seasonal use roads that are local municipality roads may not be plowed in the winter and therefore would not be accessible. Legislator Demick stated that it is important that these municipalities should be involved to get their input on how they feel about that much traffic possibly going across those roads. Legislator Demick stated that the County Attorney may have to address potential liability for use of seasonal use roads. Legislator Healy asked if they would consider an agreement between the municipalities and the County for seasonal road maintenance. Legislator Harris stated that the County may not want to maintain those roads. Legislator Healy stated that they may have more demand for emergency services. Ms. Knapp stated that once this proposal is moved forward through the committee, they will have discussions with the municipalities to make sure they are on board with it before it goes to the full Board.

Legislator Fanton asked Mr. Windus what the cost of the parking areas included. Mr. Windus stated that the cost was to level it by bulldozing or excavating when needed and then filling it with gravel. Legislator Fanton asked who would plow those areas in the winter. Legislator Harris stated that it would depend on the usage of a particular area.

Legislator Hanchett thanked Mr. Harris for putting this proposal together, noting that there are a few avenues they can look at for maintenance of the parking areas. Legislator Hanchett explained that there are organizations and groups like Friends Improving Allegany County Trails (IMPACT) that utilize these trails and organize days to perform necessary maintenance.

Legislator Harris stated that his request today from the committee is for a resolution to the full Board to consider the proposal. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary  
Allegany County Board of Legislators