

LUMBERJACK RC&D COUNCIL, INC.

GRANT INTAKE SHEET

2026-003

Use to determine if the project submission has met the initial requirements...

PROJECT NAME	Laona School Forest Revitalization Project
PROJECT NUMBER	2026-003
DATE RECEIVED	9/10/2025
PROJECT COUNTIES	Forest
PROJECT PARTNERS	Laona School Forest Committee, Blackwell Job Corp, Funn Farm, Marc Biedermann
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 10,000.00
PRIOR FUNDING YEARS/AMOUNTS	N/A

	YES/NO
Project was received by the deadline	Yes
Project fulfills Match Requirements (50% & minimum 15% Cash)	Yes
Project budget shows more than 15% Cash Match - Show Percentage	52%
Project has been presented to county LCC	Yes 8/27/2025
If funded in the past, project has met all post-funding requirements and presentations	N/A
Letter of Support from each match partner	Yes
Approved to move on to Council Meeting	Yes

NOTES:

LUMBERJACK RC&D COUNCIL, INC.

2026-003

GRANT RANKING GUIDELINE SHEET

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Use this sheet to help formulate questions & determine how the project aligns with the Lumberjack Mission.

NAME: Laona School Forest Revitalization

ASKING FOR...

COUNTY: Forest

\$10,000

PARTNERS: Laona School Forest Committee, Blackwell Job Corp, Funn Farm, Marc Biedermann

PRIOR FUNDING years/amounts:

\$ AMOUNT

Match Information (List Match Percentage)	52%
If funded in the past, project has met all post-funding requirements and presentations	N/A

MISSION Statement: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.

The following statments should be considered when determining if you feel the project aligns well enough with the Lumberjack Mission Statement. Project critiques should be based on their merits and mission alignment points, not on location, past funding or whether funds are available for all projects.

Enhances Area Natural Resources. Does this project directly enhance natural resources? Consider the area and population covered. Consider how many Lumberjack counties are covered? Lumberjack serves nine counties. Consider the diversity of natural resources benefitting from the project. Is it one, two or a range?

Promotes a Higher Standard of Living & Improves Quality of Life. Does this project directly promote a higher standard of living and/or improve quality of life? Consider the economic impact and how the project affects disposable income, wages, job creation. Consider the health benefits. Does the project lead to better air or water quality, a cleaner environment? Does the project enhance accessibility to resources that lead to healthier living?

Fosters Partnerships Between Public & Private Sectors. Consider the number and diversity of the partnerships involved in this project. Do the partners represent a good cross section of public/private entities? Consider all partners, whether they are contributing monetarily or not. (Example: A school/classroom is involved in the project but they cannot committ with a Letter of Support. This would not qualify at cash match, but would qualify as fostering partnerships.)

Council Members: Use this space to jot down comments or specific questions you have after reading the project proposal. You'll have an opportunity to question the applicant at the October Council meeting.

Lumberjack Grant Application

Project Title: Laona School Forest Revitalization

Submitted by: Karen Biedermann

Organization: Laona School Forest Foundation

Address: 5216 Forest Ave, Laona, WI 54541

Phone: 715-674-2143

Email: kbiedermann@laona.k12.wi.us

Counties: Forest

SUMMARY: Review the Lumberjack Mission Statement above. How does your project align with Lumberjack's mission? Be specific. The more alignment points, the better your project is viewed.

The Laona School Forest Revitalization Project aligns strongly with the mission of the **Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.** in several ways:

1. **Enhancing Natural Resources:** The revitalization of the school forest directly contributes to the enhancement of a local natural resource. By restoring the forest, including planting native species and improving its ecological health, the project ensures the sustainability and resilience of the area's natural environment, which is a key goal of the Lumberjack RC&D Council.
2. **Promoting a Higher Standard of Living:** The project aims to improve access to green spaces for students, educators, and the local community. Well-maintained and revitalized forests provide a healthier environment, promote mental and physical well-being, and offer outdoor recreational opportunities, which contribute to a higher standard of living for area citizens.
3. **Improving Quality of Life:** Through hands-on learning experiences and outdoor education programs, students and community members can engage with nature in meaningful ways. These experiences foster environmental stewardship, build awareness of conservation efforts, and improve the quality of life by reconnecting people with the natural world.
4. **Fostering Public-Private Partnerships:** This project will create opportunities for partnerships between community organizations, businesses, and government agencies. These collaborations align with the Lumberjack RC&D Council's mission to foster partnerships between public and private sectors, building a stronger sense of community involvement and shared responsibility for local natural resources. Partnerships are already in place with various organizations, including the following:
 - a. National Park Service
 - b. Blackwell Job Corps
 - c. Forest County Land and Natural Resources
 - d. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- e. United States Forest Service
 - f. Forest County ATV Association
 - g. Forest County Potawatomi
5. **Strategically Investing in Natural Resources:** By investing in the revitalization of a school forest, the project makes a strategic contribution to the long-term sustainability of the area's natural resources. It helps ensure the forest remains a valuable environmental, educational, and recreational asset for the community, now and in the future.

Overall, our project complements the mission of the Lumberjack RC&D Council by actively contributing to the conservation of natural resources, enhancing community well-being, and fostering partnerships to support sustainable development in the region.

OBJECTIVES: What problems, concerns or opportunities will this project address? You will be asked to show how your objectives were met when you present your follow-up presentation to the council.

1. **Environmental Degradation:**
 - **Problem:** Without proper management, forests can suffer from soil erosion, invasive species, loss of biodiversity, and poor health, which diminishes their ability to serve as ecosystems.
 - **Solution:** The project will focus on restoring the forest ecosystem by removing invasive species, planting native plants, and managing tree growth, thus restoring the forest's natural balance.
 - **Opportunity:** The project provides a model for sustainable land use, conservation practices, and environmental responsibility, inspiring other schools or community groups to implement similar initiatives.
2. **Lack of Accessible Outdoor Learning Spaces:**
 - **Problem:** Many schools lack adequate outdoor classrooms or safe, well-maintained natural spaces where students can engage in environmental education and hands-on learning experiences.
 - **Solution:** The revitalization will update outdoor learning areas, which will encourage outdoor education, environmental stewardship, and a more interactive curriculum.
 - **Opportunity:** The revitalized forest can be integrated into the school's curriculum, offering a wide range of interdisciplinary learning opportunities—from science and ecology to art and physical education—through outdoor, experiential learning.
3. **Potential Hazards or Safety Concerns:**
 - **Problem:** Overgrown or poorly maintained forests can pose safety hazards, such as fallen trees, unmarked trails, or damaged infrastructure, which can limit accessibility and discourage use.
 - **Solution:** The project will improve the safety and accessibility of the forest by maintaining trails, removing dangerous debris, and installing new infrastructure like benches and safety signage.

- **Opportunity:** A well-maintained and revitalized forest can attract visitors, potentially leading to economic benefits for the community through eco-tourism, recreational activities, or educational programs.
4. **Community Disconnection from Nature:**
- **Problem:** Urbanization and modern lifestyles often create a disconnect between communities and nature, limiting opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental appreciation.
 - **Solution:** The project will provide a space for students, families, and the community to enjoy the outdoors, encouraging more interaction with the local environment and fostering a deeper appreciation for natural spaces.
 - **Opportunity:** Access to green spaces has been shown to improve mental health, reduce stress, and encourage physical activity. The project provides a natural space for individuals to walk, explore, and spend time outdoors, promoting overall well-being.

FORMULATION & EVALUATION: Why is this project the best way to address the issues described above? How will the outcome be evaluated? Be specific – outcomes that can be measured are viewed more favorably.

This school forest revitalization project is the best way to address the issues outlined above because it provides a holistic, sustainable, and community-based solution that combines environmental restoration, education, and community engagement. Here is why it is the most effective approach and how the outcomes will be evaluated:

Why This Project Is the Best Way to Address the Issues:

1. **Comprehensive Environmental Restoration:**
 - **Ecological Restoration:** By directly addressing forest degradation, the project focuses on tangible ecological restoration. It doesn't just fix the symptoms but tackles the root causes of forest decline through expert management and sustainable practices.
 - **Sustainable Practices:** Planting native species, improving soil health, and creating a long-term forest management plan ensures that the forest will not only recover but thrive for years to come.
2. **Creation of Outdoor Learning Space (increased outdoor classroom space with new benches, storage shed):**
 - **Integration with Curriculum:** Establishing designated outdoor learning areas within the revitalized forest allows teachers to integrate nature-based learning into the curriculum. This enhances students' understanding of environmental issues while fostering a connection with the natural world.
 - **Hands-On Learning:** Rather than relying solely on classroom-based environmental education, this project provides students with real-world, hands-on experiences in a living laboratory. These experiences are proven to improve retention and foster environmental stewardship.

3. **Addressing Safety and Accessibility:**

- **Improved Safety:** By enhancing trails, removing hazards, and installing signage, the forest will become a safer and more accessible space. This will encourage more frequent use of the forest and promote healthy outdoor activities.

4. **Promoting Health and Well-Being:**

- **Accessible Green Space:** The revitalized forest will serve as a natural space for physical activity and mental relaxation, benefiting the health and well-being of both students and the community. Numerous studies show that access to nature reduces stress, improves mood, and promotes physical fitness.

How the Outcomes Will Be Evaluated: To measure the success of the project and demonstrate the tangible benefits, several specific outcomes will be tracked using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods.

1. **Ecological Health:**

- **Tree Health and Biodiversity:**

- **Measure:** Track both the amount of invasive species removed and native species planted, and the overall increase in biodiversity within the forest.
- **Target:** Increase in the diversity of native plant species by at least 15% within three years.
- **Evaluation Method:** Conduct annual ecological surveys

2. **Outdoor Education:**

- **Student Participation:**

- **Measure:** The number of classes and students participating in outdoor learning activities.
- **Target:** At least 5% of the middle/high school's curriculum incorporates outdoor learning within the first year.
- **Evaluation Method:** Track the number of lessons and hours spent in the outdoor classroom by teachers across multiple subjects, and gather feedback from teachers and students on the effectiveness of these lessons.

3. **Safety and Accessibility:**

- **Improved Safety:**

- **Measure:** Reduction in the number of incidents or safety concerns reported in the forest.
- **Target:** A 100% reduction in safety incidents related to poor forest maintenance (e.g., trips, falls, debris).
- **Evaluation Method:** Regular safety audits of the trails and infrastructure, along with incident reports tracked by the school or forest management team.

4. **Health and Well-Being:**

- **Physical and Mental Health Benefits:**

- **Measure:** Feedback from community members and students on the perceived mental and physical health benefits of using the revitalized forest.
 - **Target:** At least 75% of surveyed users report positive impacts on their health and well-being.
 - **Evaluation Method:** Distribute surveys to students, teachers, and the community to assess how often they use the forest and the impact on their physical and mental health.
-

By implementing these specific, measurable outcomes, the project will provide clear evidence of its success in improving the ecological, educational, and community well-being in the region. The combination of rigorous evaluation methods and clear targets ensures that the project can demonstrate both short- and long-term benefits to stakeholders and funders alike.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Why is assistance needed from Lumberjack? Who within your organization will run the project? Describe the assistance you are receiving from other partners. Include Letters of Support as outlined in Lumberjack's Granting Policy.

The Laona School Forest Foundation is requesting a sum of \$10,000 from the Lumberjack RC&D to help the revitalization project in these areas:

1. **Expertise in Natural Resource Management:**
 - **Need:** The success of the school forest revitalization project relies on implementing best practices in ecological restoration, habitat enhancement, and long-term forest sustainability.
 - **Lumberjack's Role:** As a multi-county nonprofit with a mission to enhance natural resources, Lumberjack RC&D brings vital expertise in managing such projects. Their knowledge of sustainable land use, invasive species control, and native plant restoration will be crucial in guiding the project's ecological efforts.
2. **Strategic Investment in Natural Resources:**
 - **Need:** This project requires both financial and material resources to carry out the revitalization activities, such as trail development, planting, and creating outdoor learning spaces.
 - **Lumberjack's Role:** Lumberjack RC&D has a proven track record of strategically investing in natural resources. Their assistance with grant funding, resource allocation, and securing equipment or materials will ensure the project is fully funded and properly resourced, allowing it to reach its full potential.
3. **Partnerships and Community Engagement:**
 - **Need:** The revitalization effort aims to engage a wide range of stakeholders, from students and educators to community volunteers and local businesses. Building partnerships is key to fostering long-term stewardship.
 - **Lumberjack's Role:** Lumberjack RC&D excels in fostering partnerships between public and private sectors. Their ability to bring together government agencies,

nonprofits, businesses, and volunteers will help strengthen the community's involvement and ensure broad support for the project.

4. Long-Term Sustainability and Monitoring:

- **Need:** The project ensures long-term forest health and sustainability, which includes ongoing monitoring, maintenance, and adaptation.
 - **Lumberjack's Role:** Lumberjack RC&D can provide guidance on long-term management plans and offer support for continuous monitoring of the forest's ecological health. Their experience with similar projects will be invaluable in ensuring the forest thrives for years to come.
-

The project will be led by a dedicated team, ensuring both strong leadership and clear oversight of all revitalization efforts:

1. Project Manager: Karen Biedermann

- **Role:** As the head of the Laona School Forest Foundation and Laona Middle School Science Teacher, Karen will serve as the primary project manager. Responsibilities will include coordinating with Lumberjack RC&D, overseeing all phases of the project to ensure it aligns with the school's educational goals, and managing the overall budget and timeline.

2. Forest Restoration Specialist: Susan Krage, U.S. Forest Service, Cori Semler, Job Corps Forester, Louis Hall, Job Corps Forester

- **Role:** Provide technical expertise in ecology, native species restoration, and invasive species management. Susan and Cori will perform annual invasive species surveys. Cori and Louis will also oversee removal of hazardous trees and trail maintenance.

3. Educational Coordinator: Karen Biedermann, Amy Vaclav, Noah Shea, Bailey Vealhj

- **Role:** These individuals will work with the Laona School District to integrate outdoor learning into the curriculum and develop educational programming that aligns with the forest's revitalization. They will ensure that students have access to meaningful learning experiences throughout the project.

4. Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator: Mary Thornton

- **Role:** As vice president of the Laona School Forest Foundation, Mary will manage volunteer recruitment, oversee community involvement, and coordinate with local organizations to maximize community engagement.

5. Argonne Lumber & Supply, Inc

- **Role:** This local company will furnish lumber and materials for construction of the tables/benches for the outdoor classroom area.

6. Boulder & Stone Company

- **Role:** This local company will provide trail materials such as rock/stone needed to repair certain trail segments.

7. Precision Vinyl Graphics

- Role: This Laona based company will design and manufacture the trail signs.

8. School District of Laona

- Role: The school district fully supports revitalizing the forest, and with grant approval, will support funding for a storage shed, gravel, and native species with the expectation of reimbursement from the Lumberjack RC&D.

9. Blackwell Job Corps - Kathy McLaughlin (educational coordinator)

- **Role:** As a *project match partner*, Blackwell Job Corps has already spent the last two years working closely with the Laona School Forest Foundation on trail improvement and safety hazards. They have pledged their continued dedication to the school forest through the construction of benches for the outdoor classroom, invasive species management, trail maintenance, and addressing safety concerns within the forest.

10. Skip Yaeger, Funny Farm LLC and Laona School Forest Foundation volunteer

- **Role:** As a *project match partner*, Skip volunteers his time and equipment including tractor, harley rake, and fuel to extend the outdoor classroom area including ground leveling and trail work.

11. Marc Biedermann, Laona School Forest Foundation volunteer

- **Role:** As a *project match partner*, Marc volunteers his time and equipment including tractor and skidsteer, and trail materials such as wood chips to be used for trail improvements

Conclusion:

Assistance from **Lumberjack RC&D** is essential for the success of the school forest revitalization project due to their expertise in natural resource management, ability to form strategic partnerships, and commitment to long-term sustainability. With a well-rounded team from the Laona School Forest Foundation leading the effort, the project will have the leadership, expertise, and community focus necessary to restore the forest, enhance educational opportunities, and engage the broader community.

PROJECT OUTLINE & TIMETABLE: List the project steps and expected completion dates. Could there be any possible roadblocks? If so, list them here.

Environmental Degradation:

The initial project steps will be an invasive species survey in October 2025. This will be performed by the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with Blackwell Job Corps. The survey will include identification of invasive species, survey maps, and best practices for mitigation. Mitigation will be performed during Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 by Laona Environmental Science and Blackwell Job Corps students. A secondary survey will be performed in Fall 2026 to plan for

ongoing mitigation. The Lumberjack grant will allow for purchase of native tree seedlings from the Wisconsin DNR for the school and community to plant in the spring. In addition, the Forest County Potawatomi will be furnishing native blueberry plants to the school district for planting of cutover areas. Expected completion date: November 2026

Lack of Accessible Outdoor Learning Spaces:

During the month of October, planning of the outdoor classroom will occur with the National Park Service. A representative will be visiting the school forest and meeting with the committee to plan for a new outdoor classroom space. Construction plans will be provided to Blackwell Job Corps to build the benches during January-March. Materials will be provided from Argonne Lumber & Supply, Inc. Installation will occur in May. Expected completion date: June 2026

Potential Hazards or Safety Concerns:

In May 2026, Boulder & Stone Company is expected to provide the materials needed to elevate approximately 50 feet of trail. This space of trail has long been an issue as it meanders through wetland and remains waterlogged throughout much of the year. It has long remained a deterrent to utilize the trail due to its deteriorated condition. Expected completion date: May 2026

Trail maintenance including identification of potential hazards and safety concerns is an ongoing collaboration between the Laona School District and Blackwell Job Corps and is addressed during the late spring and fall months with an ongoing completion date.

Trail signage will be made by Aaron Enders from Precision Vinyl Graphics. Initial planning will occur in February 2026 with construction of the signs in March, and placement in May 2026.

School and Community Involvement and Stewardship:

Community engagement will occur over the course of the year and will include several events. An initial event will be held on October 3rd, 2025 and includes a luminary hike, library walk, arts & crafts, dinner, campfire, and homemade apple cider. This event allows members of all ages to engage in various activities within the school forest. Plans are already being made for several community events in February, May, and October 2026. The community will also be invited to participate in mitigation of invasive species and planting of native species.

Within the school district, Karen Biedermann and Amy Vaclav will work with teachers to plan and implement various activities in the school forest. Many teachers have not used the forest due to safety concerns, however, with improvement of the trails through this grant, many teachers have expressed interest in utilizing the forest. Recently, there have also been several new teachers who have joined the staff who have received minimal training on implementing environmental education in their curriculum. Karen and Amy will be training staff in the LEAF curriculum throughout several grade levels over the next three years.

Potential Roadblocks:

With any project, there are bound to be roadblocks and/or obstacles that can hinder progress. One potential obstacle is the possible closure of the Blackwell Job Corps Center. There have been several governmental entities that have been shut down within the past few months and although the center has remained open, it remains a concern. This could affect the project's proposed invasive species management goals, construction of the outdoor classroom, and trail maintenance.

There is also the possibility that a project partner will be unable to fulfill their obligation which means that the Laona School Forest Committee would have to identify another vendor to help meet the aforementioned goals such as trail materials, trail signage, or other materials. If this situation were to occur, the committee would contact the Lumberjack Association for further assistance and guidance.

LUMBERJACK BUDGET FORM



Project Name: _____ Laona School Forest Revitalization

Starting Project Date
1/1/2026(Year)

Ending Project Date **1**
12/31/2026(Year)

Income (SPECIFY)		Cash	Match (Cash & In-Kind) 2,3	Total
	YOUR Request of Lumberjack RC&D	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
	Laona School Forest Committee Cash		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Blackwell Job Corp		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Skip Yaeger, Funny Farm LLC		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
	Marc Biedermann		\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
Total Income		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 15,150.00

Percent of Match=Match Total/Lumberjack Request **52%**

LJ Percent of Total = YOUR LJ Request/Total Expenses **66%**

General Expenses (SPECIFY & include Match expenses)			
	Lumber	\$ 2,500.00	
	Trail Materials - rock/crushed concrete	\$ 2,000.00	
	Shed	\$ 3,500.00	
	Gravel pad	\$ 500.00	
	Trail Signs & Posts, Trailhead sign	\$ 1,500.00	
	Fabrication of benches/invasive species	\$ 3,000.00	
	Equipment/Time (Skip Yaeger)	\$ 600.00	
	Equipment/Time (Marc Biedermann)	\$ 550.00	
	Native Species (School Forest Committee)	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 15,150.00	
NET 4		\$ -	

- 1 Lumberjack Project funds are available for one year from the date of the approval notice
- 2 Match Value must equal at least 50% of the Lumberjack Request and 15% must be in cash
Volunteer Services=\$15/hour & Professional Services=current hourly wage
- 3 A Letter of Support is required for all match partners listed above & must include a description & match value
- 4 Explain a **NET** balance other than Zero (\$0.00) in the box below:

8/25/2025

Dear Lumberjack Grant Committee,

The Laona School Forest Committee pledges a cash match of \$1,000. The money will be used to purchase plant species native to Northern WI in order to revitalize the forest following mitigation of invasive species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Biedermann".

Karen Biedermann

President
Laona School Forest Foundation

5216 Forest Ave
Laona, WI 54541
262-443-1215

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, a residential, career training center for low-income young adults, ages 16-24, managed by the United States Forest Service. We would like to express our strong support for the proposed School Forest Revitalization Project at the Laona School District. This project will provide critical resources and enhancements to the school's forest, a vital educational and community asset.

At Blackwell Job Corps, we are committed to fostering environments that promote physical health, mental well-being, community resilience and appreciation of the world around us. Natural spaces, such as the Laona School Forest, are integral to the health of both the students and the larger community. Our program often utilizes this school forest in our own forestry conservation training trade. Revitalization will offer countless benefits, including additional outdoor educational opportunities, increased engagement with nature, and the fostering of environmental stewardship among learners of all ages.

The proposed improvements, including trail maintenance, bridge maintenance, planting of native species, revitalization of outdoor learning spaces, and eradication of invasive species, align perfectly with our organization's mission as part of the USFS in striving to care for the land and serve people. We are particularly excited about the educational programs that will be integrated into this revitalization effort, allowing students to experience hands-on learning about ecosystems, conservation, and environmental science.

This project will also positively impact the community, offering a safe and accessible natural space for families, educators, visitors, and residents. The planned initiatives will transform the forest into a sustainable and thriving ecosystem, benefiting current and future generations.

Blackwell Job Corps students and staff have assisted our Laona School Forest partners on an estimated \$2,000 worth of labor on trail restoration in the last year with plans to contribute additional resources of \$3000 for invasive species control, continued trail and educational space maintenance, tree cutting, and construction of tables, benches and location markers.

We enthusiastically support the grant application for the School Forest Revitalization Project and are confident in its potential to be a tremendous success. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions regarding our support.

Thank you for considering this vital initiative. We look forward to witnessing its positive effects on the school and the surrounding community.

Sincerely,
Kathy McLaughlin
USFS Blackwell Job Corps Liaison Specialist

8/25/2025

Dear Lumberjack Grant Committee,

To help support the Laona School Forest Committee in their efforts to revitalize the school forest, Skip Yaeger pledges an in-kind contribution of \$750. The contribution includes donated time and equipment including tractor, harley rake, and fuel. Donated time consists of 20 hours (\$300) and professional equipment use (\$450). The time and equipment will be used to extend the outdoor classroom area including ground leveling and trail work for the 2026 Lumberjack RC&D grant cycle year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arleigh Yaeger".

Arleigh Yaeger

Laona School Board Member
Owner - Funny Farm, LLC

8/25/2025

Dear Lumberjack Grant Committee,

To help support the Laona School Forest Committee in their efforts to revitalize the school forest, Marc Biedermann pledges an in-kind contribution of \$550. The contribution includes donated time and equipment including tractor, skidsteer, and trail materials such as woodchips. Time donation consists of 15 hours (\$225) and equipment and trail materials of \$325. The time, equipment, and trail materials will be used for trail work during the Lumberjack RC&D 2026 grant cycle year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Biedermann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marc Biedermann

Laona School Forest Committee Member

FOREST COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION-LAND INFORMATION-GIS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FOREST COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION-LAND INFORMATION-GIS-COMMITTEE
DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025
TIME: 3:30 PM
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM, ROOM 107

CALL TO ORDER:

Ron Skallerud called the meeting to order at 3:30PM

ROLL CALL:

Present: Land Conservation-Land Information-GIS Committee: Ron Skallerud, Ron Karl, Tom Tallier, Scott Goode, and Brian Piasini

Others Present: Lucas O'Brien, Karen Biedermann, and Mary Thornton

Land Information Council:

Present: Kayla Littleton, and Stephanie Montgomery

Absent: Jamie Anderson, Cortney Britten Cleereman, Rick Denton and Christy Conley

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Tallier to approve the agenda, second by Goode. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

Motion by Karl to approve the LC-LI-GIS Committee minutes from July 30th, 2025, second by Piasini. All present voting. AYE. Motion carried.

UW-EXTENSION

No Items - No action taken

LAND CONSERVATION

- a. There was a presentation by Karen Biedermann who is applying for a Lumberjack Grant. Motion of encouragement and support of the Lumberjack Grant made by Tallier, second by Goode. All present voting. Skallerud – AYE, Tallier – AYE, Goode – AYE, Piasini – AYE, Karl – Abstained. Motion Carried.
- b. Littleton informed the committee that there is no update on the Napoli Shkolnik PFAS Litigation
- c. Discussion on the Kentuck Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District. Littleton updated the Committee that there has not been any interest from anyone on becoming a county appointee. Committee and Littleton will continue efforts to fill the vacancy until they find someone.

- d. Littleton asked if there were any questions about the July 2025 Budget Report. No questions.
- e. There was a discussion on the 2026 Land Conservation Budget. Motion to approve the 2026 Land Conservation Budget, with changing the line-item name of miscellaneous to contingency and forward to the Finance Committee made by Piasini, second by Karl. All present voting. AYE. Motion carried.
- f. There was a discussion on the Conservation Technician's Degree and Certification. Motion to approve the Drone Part 107 Pilot license, forward to Nora Matuszewski, County Clerk made by Tallier, second by Piasini. All present voting. AYE There was a discussion on the Pesticide Applicator license for O'Brien. Motion to approve the Pesticide Applicator license for O'Brien made by Goode, second by Karl. All present voting. AYE. Motion carried.
- a. There was an update given on the Land Conservation projects by Littleton. Littleton and O'Brien completed the lawn care at Bogbrook. There is one (1) Non-metallic mine pit left to fly, all others are completed. The Forest County Association of Lakes Fall Environmental day was discussed and Littleton and O'Brien will be participating in the event. There was an update on Lumberjack RC&D At-Large Member for Forest County. Littleton informed Committee that it is not associated with the county at all. Lumberjack is the one that pays for at-large members.
- g. There was a discussion on two (2) travel requests. Motion by Goode to approve the two (2) travel requests, second by Piasini. All present voting. AYE. Motion Carried.

LAND INFORMATION/GIS

- b. Littleton asked if there were any questions on the July 2025 Land Information budget. No. questions
- c. There was a discussion on the 2026 Land Information/GIS Budget. There is no levy associated with the budget. Motion to approve the 2026 Land Information/GIS Budget, with changing the line-item name of miscellaneous to contingency, and changing the Travel & Training to \$2,000.00, then forward to the Finance Committee made by Goode, second by Tallier. All present voting. AYE. Motion carried
- d. There was an update given on the Land Information Projects by Littleton. Littleton informed Committee that the 2023 WLIP Grants have been closed and money coming in and still waiting to hear about 2026 at this time. Littleton and Anderson were able to survey for the ADRC, getting the line marked for the generator project. Littleton and Anderson did the topo for the highway, talked to Terry Lucas and Jeff Musson got what they needed. GIS maintenance is going well and making progress. Town of Lincoln, request for proposal, for a project on 2026, will go out for bids on September 8th, 2025

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Land Conservation/Land Information Budget updates
 Travel requests
 Napoli Shkolnik PFAS lawsuit
 5-year plan
 Certification update

SET NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

The next LC-LI-GIS Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 3:30 pm in the County Board Room, 107.

ADJOURN

Motion by Tallier to adjourn, second by Karl. All present voted AYE. Motion carried. 4:28pm

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Land Conservation – Land Information – GIS Committee meeting.