

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
December 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Vice- Chairperson Carl Kubley at 8:00 AM.

Members present: Carl Kubley, Gary Mertig, Frank Kempf and Helen Croteau.
Member absent: (excused) Jerry Teague

Others present: County Board Chairperson-Pete Russo, ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl, Ashland Daily Press-Seth Carlson, Mellen Chamber of Commerce-Sue Amman & member, Clam Lake Forest Riders-Bud Rubick, Gail McDonnell and other members.

The minutes of the November 6, 2013 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting were approved with a motion by Frank Kempf, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

Chris said the City of Mellen re-submitted their request for financial assistance to repair a route (not a trail) on the correct form requested by the Committee. Pete said this route is not a gas tax road. Frank K asked how the City of Mellen will prevent washouts from happening again. Pete explained culverts will be installed on the top of the hill. The City of Mellen's request is \$3,500. A motion was made by Helen Croteau, second by Gary Mertig is give the City of Mellen \$3,500 to come from the 2014 budget. Motion carried.

Chris reported that he wrote up reimbursement guidelines for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress's request of \$500 for members' travel expenses going to conventions and meetings out of town. The members would have to submit their receipts to get reimbursed. The Committee approved the guidelines and the financial request of \$500 with a motion by Frank Kempf, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried. The reimbursement will start in 2014.

Sue Amann of the Mellen Chamber of Commerce reported she got the City of Mellen's ordinance regarding snowmobile trails in Mellen for Jim Clapero.

Sue also gave the Committee the Chamber's Federal ID number and she got estimates for the chain link fence they want to put up along a connecting dual purpose trail from Thomas Street to downtown Mellen. Sue is asking for \$3,000 from the Committee for the fence project. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Helen Croteau to give the Mellen Chamber of Commerce \$3,000 to come from the 2014 budget towards their fence project. Motion carried.

Snowmobile trail business - Chris invited the Clam Lake Forest Riders to the meeting to discuss the grooming they will be doing. Bud Rubick reported that the trail the Club will be grooming and maintaining is Trail #9A which is a club trail. The trail has been named the "Jack Dudley Memorial Trail". Bud stated that the Club bought a "Gator and an ultra mini groomer. Through private donations and businesses' contributions, the Club was able to purchase the equipment. Bud also stated that the Club has the standard umbrella policy of \$1M insurance. Frank K told Bud to let the Committee know if there are problems right away. Bud said the Club would be willing to help the ACSA if needed or anyone else.

Bill C reported that there has been a lot of brushing and trail clearing of blow down around Old Baldy trail. Bill said the target date to open the trails is December 20th.

Recreation Officer's report - Chris reported that Jim Clapero is on vacation for a few days and gave his report of November activities. Jim's report is attached.

Tourism report - Frank K reported that the Discover Wisconsin restaurant feature will air June 21st and 22nd. Discover Wisconsin filmed restaurants in Ashland and Glidden.

Frank also reported that Discover Wisconsin wants to do a film on county forests. The cost is \$30,000 for a show. The Ashland Tourism Committee said they would pay a portion of the cost.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported he is working on two timber sales in the town of Morse. Tom also said he is doing more cruising of timber during the winter months.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H reported that the timber sale bids were opened on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. Chris gave the Committee a summary of all the bids. Chris said four of the five sales were sold. The unsold timber sale will be part of the spring timber sale offering. Chris

asked the Committee to approve the high bidder of each sale. A motion was made by Gary Mertig, second by Helen Croteau to accept the high bid on each sale providing all requirements are met. Motion carried.

Chris said he received a bill from the Town of Gordon regarding the Day Dam in Clam Lake for maintenance done. Chris asked the Committee for clarity of the intent to pay \$500 in maintenance costs. Frank K said the intent was to pay for repair or maintenance costs up to \$500.00 yearly.

Chris said there are seven active sales going on. The timber sale revenue is at \$896,500.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Helen Croteau, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 8:00 AM, Forestry Dept office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Helen Croteau, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Submitted by

Marion Pohl