

MINUTES  
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee  
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office  
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514  
February 5, 2014

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Teague at 8:00 AM.

Members present: Jerry Teague, Carl Kubley, Frank Kempf, Helen Croteau and Gary Mertig.

Others present: Recreation Officer-Jim Clapero, ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, Ashland County Tourism-Mary McPhetridge, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek and Secretary-Marion Pohl.

The minutes of the January 8, 2014 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried.

Snowmobile business - Bill C said trail conditions are extremely good. The cold weather has many snowmobiling enthusiasts staying home. But there is still a good amount of snowmobilers around.

The Butternut groomer needs repairs. The heavy amount of snow has been hard on the grooming equipment as other groomers needed repairs also. Bill said between the repairs and the price of fuel, the ACSA has hardly any money left.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C had an ankle injury and did not do much patrol work in January. Jim said he did paperwork during this time. Jim said the "Ice Angel" is out of commission and got another air boat from GLIFWC to use. Jim said he asks snowmobilers about trail conditions, and they are saying the trails are great.

Jim said a new idea people are doing is putting tracks on their UTVs and then going on the trails. According to the law, this is not legal to run on the snowmobile trails as technically this is still an UTV.

Bill C said the Tri-County Corridor trail was listed as a highway many years ago.

At some point the trail was changed to be listed as a corridor. Bill said when the trail is listed as a highway, the snowmobilers and other riders do not stop for each driveway along the trail. The people with the driveways would have to stop. Bill said if people want to change the trail back to being listed as a highway, and if this would come to the full county board, Bill encouraged the Committee to vote in favor of changing the trail to be listed as a highway. Bill said this would make the trail much safer for the riders.

Ashland Chamber of Commerce and County Tourism Director Mary McP came to the meeting to update the Committee on the Tourism activities. Mary gave out the new Ashland County activity and tourism guide for 2014. She also showed the Committee the winter ads that are put in various publications and brochures.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported that he has been cruising completed timber sales. He is also working on setting up a new timber sale on Long Lake Boat Landing Rd.

Forest Adm's report - Chris said it is busy in the woods. The wood markets are wide open and the cold weather is helpful.

Chris said he was approached by a Committee member about changing the meeting time from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. After some discussion, a motion was made by Jerry Teague, second by Helen Croteau to change the meeting time to 9:00 AM. Motion carried.

Assist Forest Adm Matt Schultz gave the Committee his "Timber Sale Status Report" as of January 27, 2014. The report showed the timber sales' productivity, the projected amount of revenue of each sale, revenue that has been received, if the contract has or has not been active. There are 33 sales of which 17 sales have been worked on and there are 7 active sales.

Helen C asked Chris if he knew anything about the federal forest trying to get more timber sales set up. Chris said counties are forming committees trying to assess the timber sale situation. Frank K said he has talked to Robert Hennessy of the Park Falls District about upping their timber sale numbers. Frank suggested inviting Robert Hennessy to a Committee meeting to explain what their plans are. Also Helen suggested inviting the Ashland Press when Robert H comes to a meeting.

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

Frank K asked the Committee if the next meeting could be Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> instead of March 5<sup>th</sup> as he will be out-of-town for two weeks. The Committee agreed that Tuesday, March 4, 2014 will be the next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting, 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Helen Croteau, second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 AM.

Submitted by

*Marion Pohl*