

Minutes
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
March 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Teague at 9:00 AM.

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

Others present: ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Watochek, Secretary-Marion Pohl and Glidden Fair Board President-Sue Motola.

The minutes of the February 5, 2014 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

Glidden Fair Board President Sue Motola presented a roof repair project for some buildings and putting a new roof on the Merry-Go-Round building at Marion Park. Sue got an estimate from a contractor for \$8,651.00. Sue asked each of the four townships to contribute \$500.00. The townships thought the work should be bid out, and therefore, would not contribute until the bidding process was complete. The bidding of this project will not happen until Spring. The town of Peeksville thought they should contribute less as they are a smaller township. Sue asked the Forestry and Recreation Committee for \$4,000.00. After some discussion Frank Kempf made a motion, second by Helen Croteau to give the Glidden Community Fair \$4,000.00 (not to exceed \$4,000) towards their roof project. If the bid comes in less than the \$8,651.00, the Forestry and Recreation Committee would pay less. Motion carried.

Snowmobile trail business - Bill C said the trails are in excellent shape. Bill said this year has been very trying with groomers breaking down and fuel costs. Another concern, is the high banks of snow left after a snowplow has gone through.

Bill said the county has four groomers, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2004. Bill would like

to get a 2010 groomer to replace the 1998. He said he would like to keep the 1998 as a back up. Bill said the 2010 groomer costs \$145,000. He would try to negotiate the price down because there would be no trade-in. Chris said he talked to Jeff Bierl about how the county has financed the groomers in the past. Chris will let the Committee know what's going on.

Bill also reported that a groomer was misused by the driver and cost the ACSA \$20,000 in repairs. The driver was fired. The snowmobile trail goes through the driver's property and the driver would not let the ACSA trim any brush on the trail.

Frank K asked about the snow banks from plowing. Bill said it is hard to keep up clearing the banks, but have an agreement with towns to keep banks from the trails.

Tourism - Frank K reported that Discover Wisconsin would like to do a film on the county forests. The Wisconsin County Forest Association will help coordinate the filming. Frank said he talked to Jane Severt, the Executive Director of WCFA and she said the cost is \$36,000, and would like \$1,000 from each county involved. Bigger county forests would pay more. Frank would like the \$1,000 request from the WCFA be on the April meeting agenda to be acted on then.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P said he has been working on law enforcement cases. The DNR Tech is establishing a timber sale that needs property boundaries put in.

Forest Adm's report - Chris went through the 2013 Annual Forestry Dept report with the Committee.

Chris said the markets are in need of wood, and would like to have the road bans delayed going on so wood can be hauled. The timber sale revenue as of today is \$205,000.

Bill C said he is going to ask the Forest Service for a 15- day extension to keep the snowmobile trails open. Their trails close March 15th, whereas, the county trails stay open until March 31st. Bill said he asked for the extension last year and the Forest Service approved the 15- day extension.

Frank K said he talked to Bill H of the Forest Service about discussing the

Forest Service's plan on increasing their harvest. Bill H said he would have a person from the Hayward District come talk to the Committee about their timber sale plan. Jane Severt has also been in contact with the Forest Service about their timber sale plans.

Frank also reported that two huge paper mills closed, and the Park Falls paper mill is getting more orders because of the two mills closing.

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept office, Butternut, WI.

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

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Helen Croteau, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.

Submitted by

Marion Pohl