

MINUTES  
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee  
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office  
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514  
May 7, 2014

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The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairperson Pete Russo at 9:00 AM.

Members present: Jerry Teague, Gary Mertig, Frank Kempf, Carl Kubley and Kathy Schutte.

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

Pete R asked for nominations for Chairperson. Carl Kubley made a motion to nominate Jerry Teague, second by Kathy Schutte. Pete R asked for any other nominations three times. A motion by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte to cast an unanimous vote for Jerry Teague as Chairperson. Motion carried.

Jerry T asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Gary M made a motion to nominate Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried. Jerry T asked for any other nominations three times. A motion by Gary M second by Kathy Schutte to cast an unanimous vote for Carl Kubley as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 2, 2014 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting were approved with a motion by Gary Mertig, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried.

Snowmobile business - Chris H presented a resolution to approve the purchase of a groomer. The purchase had been approved, but a resolution from the Forest and Recreation Committee was needed. Frank K asked if there is a written agreement with the ACSA with regards to the payments. Chris said no, and the resolution is binding. Frank K said there should be a written agreement with the ACSA for repayment of the groomer purchase.

Chris said he will talk to Jeff Bierl and Corp Council about writing up an agreement. Frank Kempf made a motion, second by Kathy Schutte to approve

the resolution with the understanding there will be a written agreement with the ACSA and Ashland County in regards to the repayment of the groomer. The resolution will be presented at the next county board meeting. Motion carried.

Bill said more maps were distributed than before. Kathy S said the snowmobile trail goes through her property and had no complaints. Frank K asked about snowmobile accidents. Bill said there are many accidents but not reported. Bill says he sees snowmobile parts as evidence of someone hitting a tree every now and then. Frank K also asked if this was a good season. Bill said the City of Ashland gave a glowing report of money coming in.

Frank said there seems to be a lot of snowmobilers in the Clam Lake area. Frank was wondering what can other communities do to draw snowmobilers to the area. Bill said not easy and things have been tried. Bill said he would like to have a trail head at St Peter's Dome.

Discussion on how to promote more snowmobiling in the area. What about loops? Bill explained there are loops of trail now. Frank suggested that the Tourism Committee should work with Bill on ways to get more snowmobilers to the area. Chris said we need to talk to the snowmobilers to see what they need, like to see or do.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C said ice fishing shacks left at the boat landings have been removed. Jim also reported that the county forest roads are being ripped up.

Jim says when he encounters snowmobilers, he asks them about the trail conditions and where they are from and gives the feedback to Bill.

Tourism - Frank K explained the Tourism Committee and their budget to new committee member Kathy Schutte. The Discover Wisconsin restaurant show will air June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Frank discussed the WCFA asking for money for filming of the county forests by Discover Wisconsin to highlight recreation activities. Frank said he discussed the request for money at the Tourism Committee meeting and they decided to use some of the roll-over money in their budget.

Frank Kempf made a motion to approve taking \$1,000 from the roll-over money of the Tourism budget to give to WCFA towards the Discover Wisconsin filming of the county forests, second by Gary Mertig. Roll call vote, all Committee

members said yes. Motion carried.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom reported that he has fulfilled the hours he committed to working on the county forest for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Tom has been redirected to other activities. So far, there isn't any fire season.

Forest Adm's report - Chris asked for approval to advertise timber sale bids. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Carl Kubley to approved advertising timber sales for bids. Motion carried.

Chris reported that the timber sale revenue is at \$476,000 as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Chris said the roads are drying up somewhat.

Chris said our DNR audit report from last August was good. The audit showed the county wasn't spending the Wildlife Management Fund as timely as they should. Chris explained to the Committee that he has some projects that will use up most of the accumulated money.

Chris said in two weeks our summer intern will be starting.

Chris said trucks have been tearing up the roads. He will be keeping an eye on the problem with the help of the Recreation Officer.

Chris said he wrote up twig harvesting conditions and gave to Winter Woods manager Ed S for his approval or comments. So far, Chris and Ed haven't got together to discussion the permit conditions.

Jim Tomczak called about road repairs that need to be done at Tomczak Park boat landing. Chris will have the county highway department do the repairs as soon as they can.

Chris said he will be on vacation the first week in June.

Carl K asked if the June meeting date could be changed as he has a Highway Dept meeting that is out of town. The Committee agreed to change the next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting to Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

Kathy S said a second phase of the mural painted in Marengo will be done and the Marengo Mural Park Committee will be asking for financial help. Frank K said she should have another person present the application and then abstain from voting. Frank told Kathy to submit the application now, then the Committee

can tell them that the project will be put on the list for the 2015 budget.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Frank Kempf. Roll call, all Committee members said yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Gary Mertig, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Submitted by

*Marion Pohl*