

MINUTES  
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee  
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office  
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514  
June 11, 2014

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

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

Others present: Co Board Chairperson-Pete Russo, ACSA-Bill Chandler, Ashland Chamber of Commerce-Mary McPhetridge, DNR Forestry-Heather Burklund, DNR Wildlife Biologist-Sam Jonas, Fish Biologist Tech-Jason Falsted, Co Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Co Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl and WCC-Bruce Prentice.

The minutes of the May 7, 2014 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

Kathy S presented a request for funding from the Marengo Mural Park Committee to do another mural. She handed out the information request. Frank K asked if the Committee was a non-profit organization and had they applied to be a not-for-profit organization. Kathy said they did not. Frank K explained that the Mural Park Committee should have a letter from a municipality like the Town of White River requesting the money for the project. Frank said the Mural Park Committee is just a committee. After more discussion, a motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Carl Kubley to table this request until the next meeting so Kathy S can get the proper organization to fill out grant application or apply for not-for-profit organization status. Motion carried.

The City of Mellen had sent a request for funding a project to upgrade and repair recreation facilities. Chris said the City of Mellen was notified that their application was incomplete and needed to add the missing information to their application. The Forestry Dept office did not hear back from the City of Mellen.

The Committee agreed to table the request until the next meeting so the City of

Mellen can get the completed application done with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

Bruce Prentice a Wisconsin Conservation Congress representative came to the meeting to report on the WCC's convention. Bruce handed out information regarding rule changes for hunting, questions from people statewide and broke down to counties and the voting results how they effect Ashland County. Also the mining issue was discussed at the convention. Frank K asked what the WCC was all about. Bruce gave Frank an informational sheet explaining the WCC. Bruce said more people came to the convention because of the deer herd situation and mining. Bruce submitted his expenses and another representative's expenses they incurred going to the convention. The Committee had approved to pay the travel expenses at a previous meeting.

Snowmobile business - Bill C reported that conditions are too wet to try to do any trail work now.

Bill received a letter from the Bad River Reservation tribe stating the tribal council would like to get a trail to the casino. The tribal council is looking into getting grants to pay for the trail and bridges. Bill asked if it is okay for him to go to the tribal council meeting about the trail. The Committee told Bill that it was okay for him to go.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim Clapero was unable to make the meeting. Chris gave Jim's report which is attached.

Tourism - Mary Mc came to the meeting to ask approval to spend some of the roll-over money in the Tourism budget for updating the Tourism website and for additional money for the mini JEM grant program. The total amount of money would be \$4,875.00. Mary said she would like to have the JEM grant money spent in the calendar by the participants, not hold onto the money over a year. Frank K told Mary that the Tourism Committee needs to come to the Forestry and Recreation Committee to ask to use the roll-over money from Tourism budget. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Kathy Schutte to approve giving the Tourism Committee \$4,875.00 from the roll-over money for updating the website and increasing the mini JEM grant fund. Motion carried.

Frank also told Mary that \$1,000.00 from the roll-over money was given to the Wisconsin County Forests Association towards the funding of the Discover

Wisconsin filming project of the county forests.

Fish Biologist's report - Jason Falstad took over for Lawrence Enslinger's position. Jason said his department is doing fish surveys on area lakes, stocking lakes now and will be stocking lakes in the Fall. Also they are posting boundary markers on State land. Gary M asked if Jason has a report on the lakes that froze out last winter. Gary said people would like to know what lakes have been affected. Jason said they have no method of reporting what lakes froze out.

Wildlife Biologist's report - A DNR LTE will be starting Monday. The LTE will be mowing the trails and wildlife openings on Ashland County. Sam said he applied for a bridge grant for a trail and will be getting \$2,200 after July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sam mentioned Ashland County will be bucks only this deer season.

Also Sam mentioned that a mining company wants to work with the Wildlife Dept to do surveys of wildlife on the proposed mining site.

A program called "Snap-Shot Wisconsin" is a program people can send their wildlife pictures to that they get from trail camera. The pictures will be available to view on the web.

Forester's report - Heather Burklund reported she has been working on Iron County. A new forester Matt will be working out of the Mellen DNR station. He will be working on private land in Ashland and Iron counties. Tom P is on vacation now.

Forest Adm's report - Chris reported that he and the Forestry staff opened the timber sale bids at 1:00PM, Tuesday, June 10, 2014. Chris said the bids were reviewed for correct requirements. Chris gave the Committee the bid result information. Northwest Hardwoods submitted two bids with company checks, not certified checks or money orders. Those two bids were rejected. Frank K asked how could this happen. Chris said our prospectus clearing states only certified checks or money orders are to be used. Chris said the Forester is responsible to get the right check. A motion by Gary Mertig, second by Kathy Schutte to approve and award timber sale contracts to the high bidder of each timber sale providing all requirements are met. Motion carried.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Gary Mertig, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried. Kathy S asked about the Northwest Regional

Planning Commission voucher. Chris explained NoRTAC is a committee of NWRPC to coordinate trails between counties to make a regional map. NWRPC asks for a fee every year from participating counties for expenses.

Frank K said he had an ATV trail map that showed a trail that did not go anywhere. A person would have to go way around to get to their destination. Chris explained that town roads may be opened to ATVs after the map was made. Chris said it is very hard to make an accurate map as the towns are opening and closing roads to ATVs. Frank said the county should hire a person to do the work of keeping the ATV trails coordinated. Frank would like to see this position added to the 2015 budget. Bill C said the snowmobile map has all the town roads that are open to ATVs on it and is a good map.

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

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

Submitted by

*Marion Pohl*