

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
August 6, 2014

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: ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, County Board Chairperson-Pete Russo, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz and Secretary-Marion Pohl.

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

Kathy S had a couple questions regarding what the minutes said about the mural park. Kathy stated the minutes should clarify that "Hank Martinson would sign a lease stating the Mural Park site is perpetual" so therefore the Committee could commit the money. Frank K said that once we get a signed contract from Hank Martinson, then the money can be given to the mural_project as the minutes stated "the committee would like to have the mural park at a permanent location before committing money..."

Kathy wanted clarification on a word. Should mural "park" or "part" be the correct word regarding the statement in the minutes "with donations collected so far, the mural part is paid for"? Marion explained that "part" is the correct word in the minutes, as the donations received so far would cover the painting of the murals. No amendments of the minutes were needed. Motion carried.

The City of Mellen has a project to repair and upgrade recreational facilities and is asking for financial assistance. Frank K said their request is in order. Pete R said he would like the Committee to give the City of Mellen \$4,000 towards the project. The money would come from the 2015 Recreation budget. After some discussion, a motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Kathy Schutte to give the City of Mellen \$4,000 from the 2015 Recreation budget towards their recreational facilities repair and upgrade project contingent upon that there is sufficient money in the 2015 budget. Motion carried.

Snowmobile business - Bill C said he attended a meeting with the Bad River

Tribe and the Ashland Chamber of Commerce regarding a snowmobile trail going through the Reservation to the Casino. Bill said the Bad River Tribe is working on getting bridge estimates and a grant writer working with State to get a project put together for funding.

Tourism - Frank K reported the Tourism Committee is promoting Ashland County in the Wausau area. The Mural Brick Road - Phase 2 received a \$19,000 grant. The 2015 Visitor's Guide is being worked on. The ads pay for the guide. A company called Slip Rock is upgrading the tourism website. Each community in Ashland County is eligible for a \$500 JEM grant for tourism promotion projects.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported that a DNR intern has been mowing wildlife openings in the county forest. Tom said he has been inspecting and cruising sales on the county forest. The DNR bulldozer has been used to repair trails in the county forest. Also Tom reported he has been working on county and private forests in Bayfield County as there are several vacancies in the DNR department there. Tom said he is assigned to the Deer Advisory Committee along with Mike Ham, Chris H, other DNR people and people from the public.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H discussed the roads in the Town of Gordon used by pulp trucks hauling wood off the county forest. Just recently a main road was closed to truck traffic. An alternate road is being used which increases the mileage. Chris explained we are using the Town of Gordon roads to access county timber sales and the Town of Gordon does not get any money from us to maintain the roads. Chris said he talked to Jeff Bierl about giving the Town of Gordon some financial help. Jeff said he thought it would be reasonable to pay the Town of Gordon like $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% of the timber sale revenue. Frank K asked how the payment would be determined. Chris said the payment would come out after the towns with county forest get their 10%. Frank thought this should go to the Finance Committee. After some discussion a motion was made by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte to support the concept of giving the Town of Gordon some payment towards the maintenance of their roads, and that Chris to work out the details and bring the proposal back to the Committee. Roll call vote, all Committee members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Chris revised the Recreation grant request form and gave the Committee a copy for them to review. Frank K suggested the time line be extended for 1½ years rather than completion done within the year of the grant. Or, Frank suggested the requirement be that the work be done in one year, and get an extension if

the project got delayed. The Committee thought the one year time line and ask for an extension would be best. Chris said he will make the changes and bring the grant request form back to the Committee at the September meeting for approval.

Chris discussed the 200 acres (Section 29 & 32, T43N-R1W) the Land Description Office offered us. The land is not within the county forest boundaries, but about 1 mile away. Chris gave the Committee information regarding the potential revenue the Town of Jacobs would receive from this 200 acres compared to the tax revenue or MFL revenue. Gary M said the Zoning Committee recommended that the land should be given to the county forest. Frank K does not want the 200 acres off the tax rolls. After some discussion, Jerry T felt the Committee should accept the Zoning Committee's recommendation. A motion was made by Gary Mertig, second by Carl Kubley to acquire the 200 acres to be added to the county forest. Yays - Gary Mertig, Carl Kubley, Jerry Teague. Nays - Frank Kempf, Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Chris reported that the timber sale revenue as of today is \$601,000. The markets need wood, and the loggers are busy.

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

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl