

MINUTES  
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee  
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office  
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514  
September 3, 2014

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

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

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

The minutes of the August 6, 2014 Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Snowmobile Trails business - Chris reported that Bill C told him the bridge is gone in Minersville due to the heavy rains in the area. Bill will be working on replacing this bridge before the snowmobile season starts.

Jerry T mentioned that a recent meeting with Mary McPhetridge (Ashland Chamber of Commerce) and the Bad River Tribe went really well concerning a snowmobile trail going through the Reservation to Ironwood, Michigan.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim Clapero reported he handed out warnings and tickets to ATV users, one ATV accident. Jim said he has been busy with other patrol duties this month.

Tourism - Frank K reported that the Mural Brick Road contest will be starting soon. Frank said approximately 3,500 mailings about the contest were sent out. A billboard was put up on I-35 west of Minneapolis about the murals. The snowmobile maps will be handed out at sport shows in several states. An Ashland/Bayfield County bicycle map is being worked on.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported he is working on a 156- acre timber sale in the Town of Morse and cruising timber sales that are finished. He looked

over the trail work that the DNR Tech did on the county forest.

Forest Adm's report - Chris discussed the use of Town of Gordon roads by the logging trucks coming from the county forest. Chris said he had talked to Jeff Bierl about giving the Town of Gordon money for road maintenance. Jeff suggested paying the Town of Gordon ½ of 1% of the net timber sale revenue and make this payment a line item in the Forestry Dept budget using an approximate number. Chris wrote up a resolution about the road maintenance payment to the Town of Gordon and reviewed the resolution with the Committee. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Kathy Schutte to approve the resolution and submit the resolution to the Finance Committee for approval and then go to the full county board for approval. Motion carried.

Chris said he revised the Recreation Grant language according to the Committee's recommendation from last month's meeting. Chris reviewed the grant form with the Committee. Frank K suggested the request form should have a line added for the tax ID number. Chris said he will add the tax ID number line on the form. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Gary Mertig to approve the Recreation Grant form that will have the tax ID number line added on it. Motion carried.

Chris mentioned that conditions in the woods are very wet due to the heavy rain falls.

Assistant Forest Adm Matt Schultz reported on the timber sales we have on the books. Matt reported the revenue generated by closed-out sales so far, the future revenue that will be generated, the percent of completion of sales, the minimum value and sold value. There are 29 sales of which 15 sales are active or have been worked on.

Other business - Frank K said the State is having a forum in Mellen September 12<sup>th</sup> for downtown/small town communities. Frank said if the turnout in Mellen is poor, the forum will go back to Wausau .

Frank also reported that the economy is turning around. Weathershield is taking out the door line in Park Falls and putting in a window line. This change will require 50 - 100 more workers.

At Flambeau Papers 1 boiler will be redone and a new boiler added that will

use wood gas.

Also Frank asked about the 200 acres the Forestry Dept received from Land Description Office through the Zoning Committee. Frank did some research and found some counties did hundred leases. Tom P said that is not done anymore. Tom said there could be leases coming due now, and they will not be renewed. Tom also stated that when property goes off the tax roll, the state increases its shared revenue to the towns.

Frank asked if the 200 acres needs county board approval to take over. Chris said no.

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

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Submitted by

*Marion Pohl*