

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
February 4, 2015

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

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

Others present: Ashland Co Board Chairperson-Pete Russo, Recreation Officer-Jim Clapero, ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, DNR Fish Biologist-Zach Lawson, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl and Glidden Fair Board President-Sue Motola.

The minutes of the January 7, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte, Motion carried.

Glidden Fair Board President Sue Motola came to the meeting to discuss a 2-year concession stand building project and asking for financial support. Sue showed the Committee a drawing of the building. Sue got a preliminary estimate of \$171,000.00. Sue said this estimate could be lower. She said there will be ads placed in the local paper asking for donations and is she going to the 4 towns asking for donations.

Jerry told Sue to come back to the March meeting as her request for financial assistance will be an agenda item. Frank told Sue to fill out the grant application form and bring it back to the March meeting.

Bill asked Jerry T if the snowmobile business could be moved to the bottom of the agenda. Jerry said yes it could.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C said this winter has been a busy snowmobile season. There have been no complaints on the trail conditions. Also there have not been any issues regarding the detour trail on Butternut

Lake. Jim says he has a part time assistant helping him.

Tourism report - Frank K said the new Ashland County Visitor's Guide is out and brought a box of them to the Forestry Dept office and handed them out to the Committee. Frank explained the advertising in the guide pays for the printing, although this year the Tourism Committee had to add \$700.00. There is some start-up money for next year's guide. Frank also commented that it is difficult to get ads from the southern part of Ashland County for the guide. Frank also reported that tourism ads for winter recreation are in several winter publications. The Travel Ashland County website is being updated.

DNR Fish Biologist's report - Zach Lawson is the new Fish Biologist for the area working out of Mercer. Zach said he learning about the area and will keep us informed about any changes in fish management. Zach did have a question about the Augustine Boat Landing if it was on private, state or county land. Chris said the boat landing is on state land. A private land owner does not have an easement with the state to cross the state land to get to the private land. Chris said the county has maintained the landing. The private parcel is for sale and there is an interested buyer.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported he is working on a timber sale on the Lefeber Rd. Also Tom is cruising timber.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H reported the tax issue on the McCarty land that the Forestry Dept got for tax delinquent has been resolved. The back taxes of approximately \$2,700 will be paid from the non-lapsing timber sale revenue account. Then when a timber sale is conducted on the property, \$2,700 of the revenue generated on the sale will go back into the non-lapsing timber sale account.

Chris said there are 5 active timber sales. The revenue for January is \$125,000. The woods is wet and muddy.

Chris also reported that the Forestry Dept staff has assisted the Park Falls ambulance service with printing maps of the area for them as the service is temporarily servicing the Glidden area.

Snowmobile business - Bill C reported that the trails from Sanborn to Ashland,

and High Bridge to Ashland are closed due to a lack of enough snow. Otherwise, Bill said people have been happy with the trail conditions. Bill said he talked to one snowmobiler who is bringing back a group of 60 people.

Bill said the committee working with the Bad River Reservation to get the snowmobile trail to go to the casino is making progress. One area of concern is the curfew rule in the City of Ashland. The curfew rule would have to be removed when the trail goes to Odanah. The curfew rule was put in place many years ago when snowmobiles were loud. Snowmobiles are built quieter now. Bill suggested that a sunset clause be put in place for one year to see if removing the curfew rule works. Only 2 cities out of 72 counties have a curfew rule. Bill said the Tribe as a whole want the trail to come to the casino.

Bill said a landowner is upset about paying for a trail pass when he gives the county an easement to have a snowmobile trail go across his land. Bill said if snowmobilers or this landowner would join a club, they have membership with the AWSC and you get a trail pass. Also we could give the landowner a \$10.00 certificate to use to pay for the trail pass. This would be handled on a one to one basis. Bill told the landowner that we are working on a solution for him.

Frank suggested to have Chris and Bill write up a resolution to take funds from Recreation budget to pay for the trail passes, to word resolution as to possible incentives, and have the resolution on the March agenda.

Kathy stated that the Ashland County Fair will be August 20th - 23rd this year. Kathy said the Marengo Mural Park will be dedicated on May 23rd this year. The Marengo gas station owners gave the Marengo Mural Park a 20-year lease to be on their property.

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

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept Office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Jerry Teague. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Submitted by:

Marion Pohl