

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

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: Ashland Co Board Chairperson-Pete Russo, Recreation Officer-Jim Clapero, ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, DNR Wildlife Biologist-Sam Jonas, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Secretary-Marion Pohl, and Wisconsin Conservation Congress-Bruce Prentice.

The minutes of February 4, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried

Bruce Prentice, Chairperson of the Ashland County Wisconsin Conservation Congress, came to the meeting to ask the Committee's support for its WCC delegates in motel/hotel and mileage expenses not to exceed \$500.00 when attending meetings and conventions out-of-town. Bruce handed out information on the upcoming Annual Spring Hearing on April 13, 2015 in Ashland, WI. The annual WCC convention is May 14-15, 2015 in Wausau, WI. Bruce went over some of proposed fish changes for area lakes. He also had information on proposed changes to some wildlife programs. A motion was made by Kathy Schutte, second by Gary Mertig to approve giving the WCC delegates "not to exceed" \$500.00 towards their expenses when going to meetings and conventions. Motion carried.

Glidden Fair Board President Sue Motola was not present, and Jerry T had her request tabled to the April meeting.

Snowmobile business - Bill C reported the trails are in excellent condition considering there is not very much snow. However, Bill said in another week,

the trails will not be usable due to the warm days melting the snow.

Chris discussed the trail pass a landowner wanted for letting the snowmobile trail cross his land. Chris said a policy, not a resolution would be the right format to use laying out the rules of getting a trail pass. Chris wrote up a draft policy that the Committee read over. After reading over the policy, a motion was made by Gary Mertig, second by Frank Kempf to approve the "Snowmobile Trail/Landowner Trail Pass Policy". Motion carried.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C reported that there was one serious snowmobile accident. The person's helmet mask fogged up and he couldn't see where he was going and ended up hitting trees.

Jim said he has heard positive remarks regarding the trail conditions and the trails are well marked.

Jim said he has given out tickets and warnings and maps. He also gave one snowmobiler a coupon for a free Dairy Queen ice cream cone he observed obeying the rules. Jim said the snowmobiler told him that he did not want to get a fine because he knows people getting fines for not obeying the snowmobile regulations. Jim says that active law enforcement is helping people to be more aware of obeying the laws.

Jim said there have been trespass complaints from landowners north and south of Butternut. Jim said he personally contacted the landowners north of Butternut telling them he and other enforcement officers are trying to stop the trespassing. Jim said he is getting signs made for the trails that warn people that this trail is being watched. Jim said the landowners felt better after Jim talked to them and they would let the trail go through.

The trail south of Butternut had to be detoured onto Butternut Lake. Some snowmobilers are taking a shortcut through the farm fields instead of taking the detour. A person who rents the farm fields is upset. Jim said he talked to the land owner and the landowner agreed to work with Bill to look for a better trail location.

Jim also talked to the renter and let them know that the problem is being worked on.

Wildlife Biologist's report - Sam J handed out information on deer management changes for the 2015 deer season.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported he has been working in Bayfield County on private land and working on state land in Iron County. In Ashland County he had done some cruising.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H reported that logging is slowing down due to the mudding conditions in the woods. The timber sale revenue at the end of February is \$248,000. Chris said he is hopeful for a good bid opening in a couple months and good summer logging.

Chris said the County Forest Administrator Salary Grant may be cut from the State budget. Chris said this grant pays half of his salary. Chris said he will keep current on this and he will write a resolution up stating Ashland County wants the grant to stay in the budget.

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, April 15, 2015, 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept Office, Butternut, WI. The meeting is scheduled 2 weeks later as Kathy Schutte and Frank Kempf will be out-of-town on the normal first Wednesday meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Marion Pohl