

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry & Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
June 3, 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: ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Tech-Andy Oberta, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl, Ashland Area Tourism-Mary McPhetridge, Town of Jacobs Supervisor-Dennis Walczyk, Chequamegon Public School Foundation members-David Schmidt, Mike Mader and Ken Dischler.

The minutes of the May 6, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Kathy S reported that the Marengo Park Mural dedication was really nice and showed the Committee the program she had printed.

Dave Schmidt, President of the Chequamegon Public Schools Foundation came to the meeting to ask for \$1,000 towards building handicap accessible restrooms at the Park Falls Sports Complex. Right now there is just a portable privy. Dave gave the Committee members a packet of information on the restrooms, the cost and donations received so far. The project will cost \$58,000. Dave said they received close to \$20,000 now, and will be able to start the project. They would like to have the facility finished in the Fall. Three area plumbers are donating their time, the City of Park Falls will be doing the water and sewer. They are hoping some materials and other labor will be donated also. Dave explained he was asking the Ashland County Forestry & Recreation Committee because students from Ashland County are students of the Chequamegon School District and participate in sports.

The sports complex is in use continually throughout the summer also. With an upgraded facility, more sporting events could be planned to take place. After some discussion, a motion was made by Gary Mertig, second by Carl Kubley to

give the Chequamegon Public School Foundation \$1,000 towards the new restroom facility at the sports complex. Roll call vote, all Committee members voted yes. Motion carried.

Snowmobile trail business - Bill C had nothing to report.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C was off today and Jim had told Chris that he has been busy with ATVs. Frank K said he received a call from the chairman of the Town of Jacobs about a route problem crossing the bridge in Glidden. Frank said the Chippewa River bridge on main street in Glidden is part of county highway N. Technically ATVs are not allowed on county highways. But ATVs have to cross the bridge to get to the designated route a half a block away. Frank said he did not know if the person stopped by a county deputy got a ticket or not. Chris said the Town of Jacobs should call Emmer Shields about crossing the bridge in Glidden. Gary M said the Town of Agenda is considering opening their town roads for ATVs. Frank K thought the county should do the work if no club is organized. Chris told the Committee that an organized ATV club has to do the work and bring their proposed trail system to Emmer S for his input. Bill said that if an ATV club is formed and approved by the state, then there would be grant money available for trail development and maintenance. Mary Mc suggest that Bill, Jim and herself get together to figure out an ATV route. The committee thought that would be a good start. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Gary Mertig that the Forestry and Recreation Committee authorize Mary Mc, Bill C and Jim C to work on an ATV route. Motion carried.

Tourism report - Mary Mc had two requests for the Committee to consider. 1) Request to allow Madeline Island to receive the \$1,000 from 2014 from the mini JEM grant fund. Madeline Island did not use their mini JEM grant in 2014 because their chamber of commerce's staff was going through personnel changes.

Frank K said he hoped this would not set a precedent to allow a chamber to use grant money from previous years.

A motion was made by Kathy Schutte, second by Gary Mertig to approve Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce to use the 2014 mini JEM grant money in 2015. Roll call vote, all Committee members voted yes. Motion carried.

2) Request to increase the mini JEM grant fund to \$5,000 from \$2,500 taking the money from the rollover account. Mary would like each community to

have \$1,000 rather than \$500. A motion by Gary Mertig, second by Kathy Schutte to approve increasing the mini JEM grant fund to \$5,000 for 2015. Roll call vote, all Committee members voted yes. Motion carried.

Kathy asked Mary about the “ten best cities in Wisconsin” voted on. Mary said Ashland made the list and it was because of the murals and home town friendliness.

Frank K wants to know about the non-lapsing Improvement and Development account, what money is in there from previous years left over. Chris said he will get facts together and have a report next month. This will be an agenda item.

DNR Liaison report - Tom P is on vacation. DNR Tech Andy Oberto came to the meeting for Tom. Andy reported the fire season is over, and now more work can be done on county forest.

Chris reported that he met with the Town of Jacobs and Frank K about the maintenance of the town roads in the county forest. Chris said the Town of Jacobs will come up with a plan and the Forestry Dept will come with a plan and put the plans together to get things started.

Frank K said he knows truckers from Iron County travel the town roads in Jacobs and would like to open a conversation with Iron County to see if they would help out with gravel. Frank said he will be discussing this with Jeff B.

Matt S gave his state of the timber sales report. The report showed all the timber sales if they are being worked on, what percent of the cutting has been done, the approximate amount of revenue that will be generated or expected to be generated.

Frank K discussed the closing of the federal campgrounds in the area. Stock Farm Bridge campground in the town of Chippewa has been closed. Frank talked to the Chairman of Chippewa to see if the town would manage the campground. Frank suggested that the town of Chippewa talk to the Federal Government about taking care of the campground. Frank K said he would like to take money from the Recreation fund to pay Chippewa for the maintenance expense of the campground. Gary M called Tammy Baldwin and she put Gary in contact with a Federal person who oversees the campgrounds. Gary said that person would be interested in a partnership with the towns that have

campgrounds. All the towns that have campgrounds should be contacted to see if they would help with the campground maintenance. Frank K suggested to have this as agenda item. The federal person who oversees the campgrounds said nothing can be done this year as the budget is set. But planning can be done now for next year.

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, July1, 2015, 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept Office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl