

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry & Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
October 7, 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, County Board Chair-Pete Russo, Recreation Officer-Jim Clapero, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, DNR Forestry-Heather Berklund, DNR Wildlife Biologist-Sam Jonas, DNR Fish Biologist-Zach Lawson, Forest Administrator-Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Administrator-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl, West Fork Waterway Association members- Rob Slotten, Ruth Miller, Roger Anderson and Mike Collins.

The minutes of the September 2, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried.

Members of the West Fork Waterway Association from Clam Lake came to the meeting to discuss a canoe landing project to be put on county-owned land in Clam Lake. (Part of NE¼NE¼ for HWY Vol 208 Pg 315, Sec 31, T43N-R4W 4A, Town of Gordon). Roger A. gave the Committee information and maps of the proposed area. Chris explained that the Association had contacted him about this proposed canoe landing and he told the Association to come to a meeting and present their project. Chris said he wants the Committee's approval to get the project started. Chris further explained that there are grants for the canoe landing. Jerry T. asked if Chris could take care of this and Chris said he would. Chris will talk to Emmer Shields also about getting the project started. Kathy S. asked if this will cost the County anything. Chris said he did not know, but most grants are 50/50. Carl Kubley made a motion to approve going forth with this project, second by Kathy Schutte. Roll call vote - all Committee members voted yes. Motion carried.

Snowmobile trail business - Bill C. said there wasn't anything going on now. Bill said everyone is waiting for funds for the Bad River trail project so it can be started.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C. reported he has increased his patrol in the county forest because of the increased fall activities in the forest. Also Jim said he is patrolling the Ashland area more to keep ATVers in check.

Jim also reported that cameras were installed on the Erickson property where the gate was smashed down. A new gate was installed, and there has been no activity around the area.

Bill said there is a meeting October 30th about the trail pass system. Bill will get the info and bring to the Committee meeting. Jerry T. suggested that the trail pass info be an agenda item.

Tourism report - Frank K. said the Tourism/Ashland Chamber of Commerce is busy with Fall events.

Fish Biologist's report - Zach Lawson reported that walleye stocking was done in various lakes in the area. Fish survey work was done in numerous lakes in the area and the survey revealed a good hatch of perch, walleye and northern pike.

Wildlife Biologist's report - Sam Jonas handed out information on the deer seasons. Sam said because a hunter can register deer on-line, the DNR is not getting aging samples. The DNR will go to the butcher shops and get the aging samples. Also there may be a drop off site to collect the heads for aging samples for people who do their own butchering. The DNR may give \$2.00/head or a pair of leather gloves.

Sam said he would like to map out the moose sightings in Ashland County. Kathy S. said Jack's Store in Marengo may be interested in collecting deer heads. Kathy says she likes registering on-line. Matt S. suggested that the confirmation numbering system be changed. The number is too long and is hard to write on the tag. Sam said that will be looked at.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P. reported that he is working with Matt and Jerome on timber sales. Tom also said Fall fire season is here with the dried grass and leaves and little rain. Tom and Chris have a partnership meeting to go over the 2016 work plan.

Forest Administrator's report - Chris H. reported that the land he told the Committee about in closed session has been sold.

There are quite a few out-of-state bird hunters around the area.

Chris said our Fall timber sale bid opening will be December 1st. He said he wants to advertise the timber sales earlier as loggers are asking about new sales coming out. The timber sale revenue as of September 30th is \$615,086.84.

Frank K. asked what impact the Forest Service's Good Neighbor Authority will have on the county. Chris said probably at some point in time we will see the effect of the Forest Service having more timber sales to offer.

Frank K. said at a Finance Committee meeting the subject of charging a fee for launching boats from the county boat landings was discussed. Frank was wondering if collecting the fees would be an added responsibility for the Recreation Officer. Jim said he could collect the fees, but would like to see an annual pass be offered to purchase. Jim also suggested putting up security cameras. Frank said boat launch fees will be discussed again at some point in time.

The vouchers were signed and approved with a motion by Gary Mertig, second by Kathy Schutte. Roll call vote - all Committee members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Submitted by - Marion Pohl