

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept. Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
February 10, 2016

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

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

Others present: County Board Chair-Pete Russo, ACSA-Bill Chandler, Recreation Officer-Jim Clapero, Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce-Mary McPhetridge, Forest Adm.-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm.-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl, Glidden Community Fair - Sue Motola and Butternut Historical Society-Kelly Meredith.

The minutes of the January 6, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Sue Motola, President of the Glidden Community Fair came to the meeting to request funding for a new roof for the concession and beer stand building. She said the new roof will be metal. The total cost of the project is \$10,394. The Fair Association is contributing \$4,394 and she will be asking the 4 towns for \$500 each (\$2,000). Sue is requesting \$4,000 from the Committee. After some discussion, a motion was made by Carl Kubley, second by Frank Kempf to give \$4,000 to Glidden Community Fair towards the new roof project. Motion carried. One no vote-Kathy Schutte. Kathy explained she was not against the project, but felt the amount to approve should be \$3,000 because there will not be very much money in the budget for other organizations who may want money.

Kelly Meredith of the Butternut Area Historical Society came to the meeting to request funding for her traveling mural. She explained this mural will portray 20 living people that represent a solid cross section of Butternut.

She said the traveling mural could easily be dismantled and displayed as a show in a large museum or art center. The total cost of the mural is \$6,630. Kelly is seeking a grant of \$3,000 from the Chequamegon Bay Area Arts Council. Kelly requesting \$1,680.00 from the County. Frank K. explained that the County's Recreation Grants are for bricks and mortar, recreational trails, parks and recreational facilities. Frank said Kelly's mural project does not fit that criterion. Also this is more of a promotional piece. Frank told Kelly to ask the Butternut Area Business Association as she may be able to get money through the mini-JEM program. Frank also said the murals that were funded from the Recreation Grant program were

part of a park such as the Butternut Park by the Village Hall. Kelly said she understood, and she will go to BABA for the mini-JEM. Kathy S. commented that Kelly does amazing work, she's the best.

Snowmobile trail business - Bill C. reported that the trails are in good shape. Members of the AWSC rode the trails and gave the trails the highest rating. Bill said he is still working on trail re-locations. Bill said there are more people snowmobiling this year. And because of more people, more trail maps will have to be printed. Bill said the Ashland Chamber of Commerce distributes many maps too. Bill said everything is going good. Jerry T. asked about the new trail going to the casino. Bill said everything is on hold and doesn't know why. Bill said he will try to get a meeting with Tribe to find out what is going on.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C. reported that all the snowmobilers he has talked to say the trails are great. Jim said there were a few snowmobile accidents, nothing serious. Jim said there were spotty complaints of ATVs and snowmobiles, no major issues. Kathy S. says she lives near the snowmobile trail, and she has no complaints. The snowmobilers stay on the trails.

Tourism - Frank K. discussed the mini-JEM grant the Tourism Committee has in their budget that each of the chambers of commerce can use towards the promotion of their area or events. The Tourism Committee voted to re-distribute the County JEM grant match budget line item of \$1,500 and the \$400 Misc. line item to be added to the mini JEM grant line item of \$2,500 for a total of \$4,400 in the 2016 budget.

The County JEM grant match line item was no longer necessary, and the Misc. line item is not needed either. This change in the Tourism budget should be on the next Forestry & Recreation Committee meeting agenda. A motion was made by Frank Kempf, second by Kathy Schutte to have the Tourism Budget changes on the March meeting agenda. Motion carried.

Mary McPhetridge should the Committee the new county visitor's guide. She said a couple pictures of dogs in the brochures are very popular with people.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P. reported that the Park Falls DNR personnel help Jerome mark a big timber sale. Tom said he is cruising the county forest looking for timber to set up for sales.

Forest Adm.'s report - Chris H. asked for the Committee's approval to get truck quotes as he wants to replace the 2011 F250 Ford truck. A motion was made by Kathy Schutte, second by Frank Kempf to approve Chris Hoffman to secure truck quotes. Motion carried.

Chris said there are many timber sale contracts being worked on now. The timber sale revenue is \$152,630. Chris also commented the June timber sale bid opening should be good.

Frank K. asked if Verso's bankruptcy will have any impact on the county. Chris did not think so because Verso will get help. Also Frank asked about the Forest Service planning to increase their sale output. Chris said Forest Service timber sales will have some negative effect over the long term for the county.

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

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at 9:00 AM, Forestry Dept. Office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Submitted by - *Marion Pohl*