

MINUTES

Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee

Ashland County Forestry Department Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514

March 2, 2016

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

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

Others present: County Board Chair, Pete Russo; DNR Liaison, Tom Piikkila; Recreation Officer, Jim Clapero; Forest Administrator, Chris Hoffman; Assist. Forest Administrator, Matt Schultz; Forester, Jerome Wotachek and Secretary, Marion Pohl.

The minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

Snowmobile Trail Business - Chris said Bill C. was not present as he is sick. Bill told Chris to tell the Committee that Thursday will be the last time the groomer will be out, as the weekend temperatures are going to be warm, and the trails will be deteriorating fast.

Recreation Officer's Report - Jim C. reported that there is a lot of snowmobile activity around the area. There are nine fatalities in the state.

Tourism - Frank K. reported that the Forest Service person who was taking charge of the campgrounds, has transferred to another area and that is why Frank did not hear from the Forest Service. Frank said he contacted Experience Works program and got information about the program and how it would operate maintaining the Forest Service campgrounds. Frank shared the information with the Glidden and Hayward Forest Service District. Frank said he is still working on an agreement and an employee in the Glidden District will be working with us to get the campgrounds open and maintained.

Frank reported from the last meeting that the Tourism Committee would like to combine 2 line items - the County Jem Grant of \$1,500 and the Miscellaneous - \$400 with the mini JEM Grant line item of \$2,500 for a total of \$4,400 in the 2016 budget. Frank Kempf made a motion to approve this change in the 2016 Tourism budget, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried.

DNR Liaison's Report - Tom P. reported he is busy with timber sale administration and timber cruising.

Forest Administrator's Report - Chris said the road bans will be going on Monday. Chris also said loggers are very busy on the county forest. Timber sale revenue is at \$286,797.

Frank K. asked about the proposed changes in the Managed Forest Law. Tom P. said he was not sure what was approved yet. Jerry T. asked Tom to keep the Committee informed when he gets any information.

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

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Forestry Department Office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Gary Mertig, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl