

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
September 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Mertig at 8:00 A.M.

Members present: Gary Mertig, Kathy Schutte, Pat Daoust, Marty Vitek and Carl Kubley.

Others present: County Board Chairperson, Pete Russo; ACSA, Bill Chandler; DNR Liaison, Tom Piikkila; Forest Administrator, Chris Hoffman; Assistant Forest Administrator, Matt Schultz; Forester, Jerome Wotachek; Secretary, Marion Pohl.

The minutes of the August 4, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, seconded by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Snowmobile/ATV Trail Business - Bill C. said he is working on getting some trails open for the season by clearing trees, fixing washouts, etc. Some trails will not be open at all. The National Guard will be resetting Billy Creek bridge. Other bridges will be replaced or repaired.

Chris said he and Bill had a kick-off meeting with FEMA to get the projects going and explanation of the reimbursement process. FEMA pays 75% of the cost. The State has their 12.5% set aside and the County will have to spend money also for the other 12.5%.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P. reported that Wildlife Biologist Sam Jonas is not working in Mercer anymore. The Wildlife Biologist position will be filled in the near future. Tom reported that he is working on a 59-acre timber sale which he said he is almost done with. Then Tom said he has 75-acre sale in Morse to work on. The rainfall is about 13 inches above normal in Mellen.

Forest Administrator's report - Chris H. said there is not much going on in the woods; it's too wet.

Chris reported that Athens Building Supply was the low bidder for our office addition project. They hope to start September 12th. The Forestry and Recreation Committee meetings will have to be held at the Butternut Village Hall during the construction time.

A question was asked about Don Achterberg access. Chris said he has heard nothing from him. Gary M. said that we will not talk to Mr. Achterberg unless he rescinds the letter from his attorney.

In other business, Kathy S. showed everyone the horseshoe trophies made of wood that will be given out at the horseshoe tournament at the Ashland County Fair.

Pat D. said he was contacted by Jim Tomczak about people power-loading their boats at the Tomczak Park Boat Landing. By power-loading, the dock is losing support from the dirt being washed out. Pat said he will go look at the dock.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Kathy Schutte, seconded by Pete Russo. Motion carried.

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Thursday, October 6, 2016, **9:00 A.M.**, Forestry Dept Office, Butternut, Wisconsin.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, seconded by Pete Russo. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 A.M.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl