

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry & Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
March 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Mertig at 9:00 AM.

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

Others present: ACSA-Bill Chandler, County Board Chair-Pete Russo, DNR Forester-Sara Stack, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek and Secretary-Marion Pohl.

Bill C had a correction to the minutes of February's meeting. He said trail #13 had been closed due to a landowner issue not a lack of snow. The landowner issue was resolved and the trail opened. A motion was made by Pat Daoust, second by Kathy Schutte to approve the February 7, 2018 minutes with the correction. Motion carried.

Snowmobile/ATV business - Bill C reported that snowmobile traffic is heavy. Pat D said a person had called him about the trail on Mineral Lake road being plowed down to the dirt. The town was asked not plow down to the ground, but still happened again. The Forest Service will try to get a new trail established off the road.

Kathy thanked Bill for coming to the Town of Marengo meeting when she asked him to come. Pat D said he heard the trails were very good.

DNR Forester report - Sara S reported she has been out doing post timber sale recon work. Next Sara said she will be out marking when the conditions are good.

Kathy S asked about her pine trees, when should they be harvested. Sara explained the DNR is limited to help her. Chris suggested to contact a forest consultant.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H had a resolution to amend the 20-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The amendment was to remove the High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) designations from the 20-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Chris explained that the HCVF's that have been identified on the county forest do not meet the definitions as presented. The Ashland County Forestry Department wants to be in compliance with the audit requirements and therefore that is why Chris wants this change. A motion was made by Pat Daoust, second by Marty Vitek to approve the resolution and to present the resolution to the full county board at their next meeting. Motion carried.

Chris said the timber sale revenue is at \$202,100.00. Chris said logging activity is going strong. The roads will be posted very soon.

Chris informed the Committee of Marion's announcement of retiring effective April 20, 2018. Chris also explained that Bill C plans to retire in 2 years. Chris proposed that Marion's position and Bill's trail supervisor position could be combined to make a full time position to Jeff B.

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

A discussion was held about when the next committee meeting should be. Gary M said he probably will be back to work at the Forest Service then, but could miss the meeting so that there is no change in the meeting date. The time of the meeting is changed to 8:00 AM. **The next Forestry & Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 8:00 AM.**

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Pat Daoust, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 AM.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl