

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
May 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pete Russo at 8:00 AM.

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

Others present: ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Sara Stack, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist adm- Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Tom Ernst. Visitors - (2) Bay City Cultural Center members

Pete R. Asked for nominations for chairperson. Martin V. Nominated Kathy Schutte, and Carl K. Nominated Gary Mertig. Pete R. Asked for any other nominations three times. Motion to close nomination by Pat Daoust second by Martin Vitek. Closed vote, Gary Mertig three (3) votes, Kathy Schutte two (2) votes. Gary Mertig-chairperson. Motion carried

Gary Mertig asked for nominations for vice-chairperson. Martin V made a motion to nominate Kathy Schutte. Gary M asked for other nominations three times. A Motion by Pat Daoust to cast an unanimous vote for Kathy Schutte for Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried

The minutes of the April 4, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion by Carl Kubley, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Snowmobile/ATV Trail Business - ATV group is working to open piece of Co. Rd F to connect trails, they have to work with highway department. Also, working with townships to repair road on Ashland/Iron county line. Gary M also reported seeing ATV activity on Co. Rd F in the past week.

Recreation Officer's report - No report

DNR Fish - The biologist was receiving many phone calls on ice conditions and how bad the fish kill was going to be. Zach reported that there was low dissolved oxygen in the lakes but due to last summer being cooler and higher precipitation there was less organic matter to break down in the water. They are suspecting fish kills in gates lake and little clam lake. Fish surveys will start May 3 in the clam lake area.

DNR Wildlife- Jenna was in Iron co. deer yards inspecting for winter kill, found two dead to malnourishment and one due to depredation. CDAC voted for no harvest of antlerless deer except for junior hunters, DNR was not happy with decision and would like 400 quota for private land in ashland county. There will not be any bear bait test done with tetracycline due to new rules and regulations from USDA, will conduct hair surveys with hair snares. Grouse and woodcock surveys are starting. Trapping of sharp-tailed grouse from Minnesota and moving them to northern Wisconsin, making home range in ashland county airport. Hired LTE for work on invasive species.

DNR Forester- Sara stated that snow is down in the woods and that they are able to start marking again. There will be no more EAB trapping, the movement of the insect now will only be track by forestry in their own counties. Gary M stated that forest service campgrounds will open May 25.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H asked the Committee to approve advertising timber sales for bids. A motion was made by Pat Daoust second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried

Chris also stated that due to break-up and poor woods conditions that there was no logging activity.

No truck quotes also.

Chris received an e-mail from the executive committee to discuss with the forestry committee about reducing the amount of meetings being held. Talks of holding a meeting every other month or only for important items that have to be taken care of. Kathy S is not in favor of the meeting change, believes that people and businesses won't get paid. Chris has a list of five (5) meetings that must be held every year for committee approval.

Chris asked the Committee to approve hiring a cleaning service to clean the office as the office space has doubled in size. Chris put out an ad and received two bids. Susan Schemberger Cleaning was awarded the job. Motion was made by Pat Daoust second by Martin Vitek. Motion carried

Chris received 1 project for the Recreation Grant Fund. Chris and staff went over each project and Chris gave the Committee a summary of the project, the money requested and what the potential grant amount will be.

1. The project is for Bay City Cultural Center, for doing a roof repair. The request needs more data, two members of the committee were at the meeting and are getting the information that is needed. This is a good project and can be approved when the new information is forwarded to Chris. Motion was made by Martin Vitek and second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried

Vouchers- Motion was made by Pat Daoust, second by Kathy Schutte

Kathy Schutte asked Pete R to put meeting reduction on county board agenda.

The next meeting will be Wednesday June 6, 2017, at 8:00 AM, 304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Pat Daoust second by Martin Vitek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourn at 8:40 AM

Submitted by
Tom Ernst