

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
December 5, 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: DNR Sara Stack, Bill Chandler, DNR Trevor, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Admin. Matt Schultz, Forester Jerome Wotachek
Secretary-Tom Ernst

The minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion by Marty Vitek, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried

Snowmobile/ATV Business – Bill C- Bill said there is a trail closure in Marengo north but will be re-routed into trail 9 going into Ashland. There are new easements ready for the trail that runs down Zillinger and Bush Roads, the trails should be ready today. There are washouts on vista road and mineral lake road that need work. If weather cooperates the trails will be ready to go by season opening.

Recreation Officer's report – Jim was checking to see if there were any snowmobile trail issues. Jim is working on the trail south of Butternut to make sure proper signage is out to keep riders on the trail. Jim asked if he could get four more signs to use on the northern part of the county. Gary M. asked how they would be paid for, Chris H. said they the money can come out of the stumpage money. A motion by Kathy Schutte second by Pat Daoust. Motion Carried.

DNR Fisheries Report- No Report

DNR Wildlife Report- No Report

DNR Forester's report – Sara introduced Trevor, who is the new wildland fire official in Mellen, he will also be assisting with forestry work in the Ashland County Forest. Sara stated that there is some work being done in the forest but is slow. The new forestry schedule is out so they will be looking at that to determine what work has to be done.

Forest Adm's report – The timber sale bids were open on Tuesday with 4 out of 5 selling, Chris H stated that there was a new bidder this opening and that they bought two sales. Chris is seeking approval on bids. Motion by Pat Daoust second by Marty Vitek. Motion Carried. Also the approval of the annual work plan. Motion by Kathy Schutte second by Carl Kubley. Motion Carried. Chris also needed the approval of snowmobile trail maintenance resolution. Motion by Pat Daoust second by Marty Vitek. Motion Carried Timber sale stumpage is increasing and will be close to the annual amount for the year. There is some activity in the forest, there are two sales being worked on currently and hoping to have another going by the end of December.

Any other Business- Kathy Schutte asked Gary Mertig if Morgan Falls is open, she stated that she seen it was open on Facebook and wanted to confirm it. Gary stated that he could not confirm it, he believes that work is still being conducted.

Approval and sign expense manifest- motion by Pat Daoust, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 9:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Pat Daoust, second by Marty Vitek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 AM.

Submitted by
Tom Ernst

