

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
December 7, 2016

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

Members present: Gary Mertig, Kathy Schutte, Pat Daoust, Marty Vitek and Carl Kubley. Kathy will be leaving at 9:08 AM.

Others present: ACSA-Bill Chandler, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, DNR Team Leader-Eric Serrine, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion pohl.

The minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Pat Daoust, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Snowmobile/ATV Trail Business - Bill said we need cold weather before snow so the ground freezes for good trail base. The detour is complete and signed by "Old Baldy". One bridge has not been put in yet because conditions are too wet. Bill said if the weather cooperates, the trails can be open December 15th. The second phase of the Bad River trail has started. Bill commented that the Bad River Council declined to be on the snowmobile map.

Chris asked for the Committee's approval of the Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Grant resolution for the 2017-2018 season. A motion was made by Kathy Schutte, second by Pat Daoust to approve the resolution and to present the resolution to the full county board at their next meeting. Motion carried.

Recreation Officer's report - Chris said Jim C worked on the county forest during the deer season. Also a GLFWIC officer may help out on Jim's vacation days.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P reported that the Wildlife Biologist's position has been filled. That person will be in Mercer.

Tom said there was a small grass fire (½ acre) in November. November was a dry month. Also Tom said he did sale administrative work and did some timber cruising.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H reported that he and the Forestry staff opened the timber sale bids on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Chris said there were only 3 bidders, but there was a bid for each sale. Chris said the markets are soft and wet conditions in the woods are reasons for less interest in the timber sales and lower bid prices. Chris gave the Committee a copy of the bid results. All bids were checked for accuracy and requirements met. Chris asked the Committee to approve and award a timber sale contract to the high bidder of each sale. A motion was made by Pat Daoust, second by Marty Vitek to approve and award a timber sale contract to the high bidder of each sale. Motion carried.

The timber sale revenue is at approximately \$728,000. The budgeted amount is \$750,000.

Chris commented that interior work of the building addition will start in a few days.

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

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 8:00 AM**, Forestry Dept Office, 304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Pat Daoust, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl

