

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
September 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Mertig at 8:00 AM.

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

Others present: Pete Russo, Recreation Officer-Jim Clapero, DNR Team Leader-Eric Serrine, DNR Sara Stack, DNR Jenna Kosnicki, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Assist Forest Adm-Matt Schultz, Forester Jerome Wotachek Secretary-Tom Ernst

The minutes of the June 6, 2017 meeting were approved with a motion by Marty Vitek, second by Pat Daoust. Motion carried

Guest- Town of Gordon never showed up to discuss Clam lake dam and to ask for additional funding. Dorothy Tank stated that the county already owns a dam, the Hudson Bay dam that the county forest could help take care of.

Snowmobile/ATV Business – Not Present

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C stated there haven't been any accidents lately. There is a lot of ATV activity around mainly in the northern half of the county. Jim had four citations and five warnings.

DNR Fisheries Report- They have been conducting electro-shocking surveys in the Clam lake area of lakes. They have also been working on fish stocking of game fish and musky fingerlings in area lakes around the clam lake area also.

DNR Wildlife Report- Jenna stated that there will be four locations that deer heads can be dropped off for CWD testing in Northern WI. Jenna has been busy with the ruffed grouse in testing to see if West Nile virus is having harsh effects on their population. She stated Wisconsin and Michigan have teamed up to conduct testing on 400 birds this fall, requesting that hunters help if willing too. They are collecting blood and heart samples from the birds to test for pathogens. Jenna said that West Nile virus is more of a stressor on the birds and not a killer of them. What could be causing more damage to the population of the birds is heavy rain

falls, washing out nest in low laying areas and not having enough snow cover in the winter. Over the next 3 years Wisconsin will be sending 100 ruffed grouse to Missouri to help rebuild their population.

DNR Forester's report – Sara stated that it is very slow in the woods, they have been making timber and conducting pre and post-sale recon.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H said the woods are wet and not much going on. The markets are bad right now and not much wood moving. Chris stated that deer and bear seasons are starting soon and that the activity in the forest will start to pick up. There are some ATV trail talks going on pertaining to Co. HWY F that might come up in the future. Chris also stated that due to the federal forest cutting more timber, this could be the cause of the bad markets and flooded timber.

Any other Business- Kathy Schutte request that Town of Gordon be put on next meeting's agenda to discuss the Clam Lake Dam. Pat Dauost made a motion to **not** increase payment to Town of Gordon for clam lake dam. Roll call vote (3 yes) (2 no). Pat D stated that the county doesn't have the money to give right now, and also said the all department are asked to cut as much as possible due to the short fall in funds.

Pat D. also asked about charging for boat lading use at 2nd landing and Anglers All boat landing. Also fire wood permits. Pat D. asked for a list of fees that the forestry department charges for.

Pete Russo Stated that there could have been more revenue bought in if a 20 acre parcel of land had been purchased in the previous year.

Kathy Schutte said it is supposed to be a cold winter.

There were talks of reducing cost at 2nd landing, talk to rod and gun club if they would be willing to take over the dumpster cost and lawn care.

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

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 8:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Carl Kubley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Submitted by
Tom Ernst

