

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department
304 West Michigan Street, Butternut, WI 54514
March 6, 2024

Members Present: Marty Vitek, Louis Carl, John Weiner, Gary Mertig

Others present: Forest Administrator Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Administrator Tom Ernst, Forestry Office Manager Shana Curry, John Westphal, Ron Sztynodor, Jenna Milanowski, Jim Miesenhiemer, Rich Reukema, Rec officer Bruce Joanis

Present on zoom: Kathy Schutte, Mary McPhetridge

Kathy Schutte called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and took roll call.

Motion by Gary M. to approve the March 6, 2024 agenda. 2nd by Marty V. Motion Carried.

Chamber of Commerce - Mary states that she just got back from Canada. They did a trade show with Minocqua. They have promotions going on. They are switching everything up for the fishing season. They will be part of the Northwest Wisconsin Tourism group that will be hosting the governor's fishing opener in May. The visitor guide and activity guide is out. They reprinted the snowmobile map.

No public comment.

Motion by John W. to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes. 2nd by Louis C. Motion carried.

No fishery report.

Jenna Milanowski gave the wildlife report. She states that it has been a good winter for deer. It has been difficult for wildlife tracking, but they were able to complete surveys. Otter surveys were completed. Carnivore track survey's also known as wolf survey's have been completed. This was the most thorough job that has been done. Very few deer were migrating up to the deer yards due to the weather. Also, she found new areas that deer were hanging out. They are spread out more this year. CDAX has been schedule for Ashland County on April 24 at 6:00 pm.

No forestry report.

Ron Sztynodor gave the snowmobile report. The administrative board for the snowmobile alliance were all in attendance today. They are meeting with Chris after the meeting to discuss issues with bridges. The bridges all need to be inspected so the when they go to the DNR for money for repairs. They have been fixing more equipment.

Bruce Joanis gave the rec officer report. He states that the only real action was with the first snowfall and there were a few people doing things that they shouldn't be. A few people caught ice fishing without a license. UTV traffic isn't as high as he thought it would be. A couple of UTV's went thru the ice by second landing. They were able to get out.

Chris gave the administrators report. He asked for the committee to approve the timber sale bids for this Spring. Motion by Gary M. to approve the bids. 2nd by Kathy S. Motion carried.

Chris added that it has been pretty quiet due to the roads that were posted in January. They have been getting a lot of lines run and timber marked to be ahead for this summer.

No other business.

Expense vouchers were looked at and signed by the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Butternut Village Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Louis C. 2nd by John W. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Submitted by Shana Curry
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Office Manager