

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department
304 West Michigan Street, Butternut, WI 54514
May 3, 2023

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

Others present: Forest Administrator Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Administrator Tom Ernst, Forester Sawyer Peterson, Forestry Office Manager Shana Curry, Ron Sztynodor, Avery Jehnke, Ronald Jones, Nancy Sztynodor, Jeff Ehrhardt, David Schutte, David Kaseno, Joyce Kaseno, Dan Grady, Dick Pufall, Mark & Rita Bockman

Kathy Schutte called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. and took roll call.

Motion by Louis C. to approve the May 3, 2023 agenda. 2nd by Marty V. Motion Carried.

Chamber of Commerce - Mary is out of town so she sent an email with her update.

The ITBEC group (Northwest Wisconsin Tourism)

The Ashland Chamber pays the \$3,000.00 dues and represents Ashland County.

The group is made up of 12 Northwest Wisconsin counties that promote tourism in NW Wisconsin. We took over the management and coordination of the annual Governor's Fishing Opener last year, and we held it in Shell Lake. This year Price County is hosting and it will be in Phillips. There is a VIP dinner Friday night with the Governor, Department of Tourism, Department of Natural Resources, Legislators, and media and I'll be the emcee for this event and then we will host a family fishing day on Saturday celebrating the longstanding opening fishing day tradition with all sorts of Kids activities and education.

The Mural Brick Road booklet is at the printers as we speak. That is the Mural brochure that has pictures and maps of all the murals in Ashland County from LaPointe to Butternut. I'll bring it to the next meeting.

There are Public Radio messages playing in the Green Bay, Sister Bay areas starting next week celebrating waterfalls and waterways including Copper Falls and Morgan Falls in the south and the grandiose Lake in the North of Ashland County.

We are gearing up for a busy spring summer but still continue to have ice on the bay.

Ron Jones made a presentation about the Lake Galilee Boat Landing during public comments. He told the history of how the beginning started with his Father, Wes Jones. People from the community came and a American Flag that flew over the Wisconsin State capital was presented to Ron and Sharon Jones from the Governor, Tony Evers for their years of hard work to keep the Lake Galilee Boat Landing open for public use.

Motion to approve the March 1, 2023 minutes by John W. 2nd by Louis C. Motion carried.

No Fishery report.

No Wildlife report.

Avery Jehnke states that the weather has been difficult, but the timber sales are being set up. Spring fire season is here. They did a maple syrup demo at Copper Falls a few weeks ago.

Ron Sztynodor gave the snowmobile/ATV report. They had elections at the last meeting. They got 2 new members. Checked out a new building in Mellen for purchase. They are having issues getting tracks for the tuckers. They are doing repairs now on equipment.

No Recreation Officer report.

Chris gave the administrators report. The first item was the recreation grant. Three applications were received. They were from the Bay City Cultural Center, Butternut Area Park Association, and the Village of Butternut. Information was provided to the members. Members agreed to split the funds equally among the three applications. Motion by Kathy S. 2nd by Marty V. Motion carried.

The second item was the Butternut Fair Ad. Motion by Louis C. 2nd by John W. Motion carried.

The third item was getting approval to rebid on buying a new truck. We solicited bids, but never heard anything back. Looking to expand into bigger cities.

The fourth item was to discuss the dumpster at second landing. There has been issues with people dumping their garbage in the dumpster without proper consent. Should we keep it or get rid of it?

The fifth item was the timber sale bids moved to July. Motion by Marty V. 2nd by Louis C. Motion carried.

In other business, there is a forest purchase in the works.

Expense vouchers were looked at and signed by the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 9 a.m. at the Butternut Village Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Gary M. 2nd by John W. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Submitted by Shana Curry
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Office Manager