

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department
304 West Michigan Street, Butternut, WI 54514
July 5, 2023

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

Others present: Forest Administrator Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Administrator Tom Ernst, Forestry Office Manager Shana Curry, Avery Jehnke, Ryan Peaslee, Jenna Malinowski

Present on zoom: Gary Mertig, Dan Grady, Ron Szyndor

Kathy Schutte called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. and took roll call.

Motion by Louis C. to approve the July 5, 2023 agenda. 2nd by Marty V. Motion Carried.

Chamber of Commerce - No report.

Motion to amend minutes by adding the paragraph about Ron Jones' presentation about the Lake Galilee Boat Landing and approve the May 3, 2023 minutes by Louis C. 2nd by Marty V. Motion carried.

No Fishery report.

Jenna Malinowski gave the wildlife report. The wildlife tech got a new job and they are looking to hire in the spring of next year. Issues that she is having this year is that she has to look into contracting work. She does Ashland County every 4 years and it was finished last year. Funding was through turkey stamps and other sources besides the Robertson funding. This year she was only allotted the funding and that money cannot be spent on the county forest. They are still concerned about the fisher population. They are seeing less and less so the tag allotment went down by 50. They are seeing more bobcats so they increased the quota by 50. Otter trapping is staying the same. Beaver prices are starting to go up so they might be seeing more beaver trappers. They are discussing extending the beaver season due to nuisance beavers.

Avery Jehnke states that they have been treating the garlic mustard. They have been doing recon updates that include going into the woods looking for new woods to cut. The end of the fiscal year has ended and they have hit the target for county hours. Fire season has slowly come to an end. Ashland County did not have much for fire this year.

Ryan Peaslee added a few things to the forestry report. He stated that they had another failed recruitment at the Mellen Ranger position. No reinforcements yet.

No snowmobile/ATV report

No Recreation Officer report.

Chris gave the administrators report. The first item was the approval of timber sales. Out of the 6 or 7 sales, we sold 3. The ones that went with no bid will be sent out again this fall. Kathy made a motion to accept the bids. 2nd by John W. Motion carried. The second item was the truck bid. We didn't get any bids so we will try again next year. The third item was the Glidden fair ad. Marty made a motion. 2nd by John W. Motion carried.

In other business, purchase of land is complete. The carbon credit inventory is complete as well.

Expense vouchers were looked at and signed by the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 9 a.m. at the Butternut Village Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Marty V. 2nd by John W. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Submitted by Shana Curry
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Office Manager