

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am, on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. Those present were: Merlin Fredrickson, John Chrest, Norman Stoker, Karen Thayer, Jerrold Schmidt, Jim Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer.

Chairman Merlin Fredrickson called the regular meeting to order at 8:30am

Motion made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, all members voted in favor.

Motion made by Karen Thayer, seconded by John Chrest to approve the bills as presented for payment. All members voted in favor.

Parks & Trails Report:

A proposal to introduce a group tier to the current reservation system was presented. This tier would allow for parties that book a minimum of 5 sites for a minimum of 7 consecutive days to have priority to book those sites every year. This would not include any holiday weekends and full payment would be due at point of reservation. Reservations would be handled in house and a designated group contact would receive information on when their reservation information would need to be sent into the office. A motion was made by John Chrest to go forward with the group tier; parties that previously met the group camping requirements would be contacted for the 2016 camping season. This information will be placed on the website and on Facebook. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

Jon informed the Committee that current issue do exist with a small number of long term campers not paying for their sites on time. A motion was made by John Chrest to send 2 notices in regards to payment. If payment has not been received by the due date parties would lose their site. All money that was paid would be returned to the camper, minus a \$100.00 handling fee. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jon updated that Committee on current project taking place within the Parks. He has been working on the 2016 budget. Painting and repair projects are being done. Staff continues to work on ATV surveys as well as the ATV Club and staff at the Oasis gas station. Jon will be meeting with hoteliers on August 19 to train them on how to distribute the surveys in hopes of reaching the goal of 400 complete surveys.

Jon received a \$200,000 grant as part of the Recreational Trails Act that is part of the State stewardship program. This grant will go towards the box tube that will go under Hwy 54 eliminating that at-grade ORV crossing on Hwy 54. Total grants received for this project now total \$734,073.00. Jon requested permission to go forward with hiring SEH to complete engineering work. A motion was made by John Chrest to hire SEH to estimate total cost for the project and then look into additional funding sources that will be needed. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

The 10 year old water conditioning unit at West Arbutus recently failed and needs to be replaced. Halvorson Plumbing submitted a quote for \$2,195.00 to replace the system. Parks staff could potentially replace the conditioner to save money. A motion was made by Norman Stoker to have the Park staff attempt to replace the conditioner; total cost to replace should not exceed \$2,195.00. The motion was seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

Forestry Report:

DNR recently proposed a County Forest time standards grant. The County would receive money in replace of services previously granted by the DNR in terms of timber sale set-up, recon work etc. The County would still have a DNR Liaison in place. Based upon DNR calculations total payment to the County would be \$13,420.00. This money could be used to hire an LTE to do the timber sale set up work, recon and other duties. A motion was made by John Chrest to purse the Forest Time Standards Grant when more information and implementations exist. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all voted in favor.

Motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85 (e) to negotiate the purchase of public properties and Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel regarding likely litigation was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor by roll call.

Motion to contract for additional spraying of 27 acres using timber stand improvement account, DNR grant money and nickel and acre account was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Motion to go back into open session was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor by roll call.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40am was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

Next regular meeting date: September 8, 2015 at 10:00am

These minutes will be approved at the September meeting