

**FORESTRY AND PARKS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 14, 2014**

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am, on Tuesday, January 14, 2014. Those present were: Bill Cornell, Norm Stoker, Charles Jensen, Karen Thayer, Jim Zahasky, Jon Schweitzer and Ashley Stetzer.

Bill Cornell called the regular meeting to order at 8:30am

Motion made by Norm Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, all members voted in favor.

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

**Parks & Trails Report:**

Jon gave a monthly update on what is going on in the Parks Department. Staff is currently in the process of cutting firewood; about 50 cords need to be cut for this camping season.

The Parks Department is currently developing a Memorial Policy to unify any and all requests that come forth to honor family and friends in our parks system and County Forest. Jon presented the Committee with a policy that he is working on that would allow families to purchase a bench for around \$500.00. The Department would create a map that would outline areas that the benches could be placed. The County would place the benches as part of the application fee. The policy would be in effect for a term of 15 years and at that time could be renewed by the family members. If the memorial is not renewed at the time it would be the discretion of the Parks Department to remove the bench if the condition warranted removal. A final plan and application form will be presented at the February meeting.

Jon presented to the Committee the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant and outlined what projects the County would be working on if the grant was awarded. The grant is through the state and would cover up to \$20,000 with a required 25% match by the County which would be covered by labor and equipment costs incurred by the County while working on the project. Focus of the grant money would be to potentially eradicate a small area of Eurasian Water Milfoil near the boat launch and to attempt control of Giant Reed Grass (phragmites) near the tailings basin. Both of these are considered invasive species and could potentially cause harm to native plant communities. Motion to apply for an early detection and response grant for aquatic invasive species made by Charles Jensen, seconded by Norm Stoker, all members voted in favor.

The County Conservation Grant is a grant that the County applies for on an annual basis. The grant is based on the number of acres enrolled in the County Forest and requires a 50/50 match. Monies for the grant would be \$2,664.00, and the match would be covered by the State using Turkey Federation dollars. Focus of the grant would be on forest opening improvements to enhance habitat for the possible reintroduction of elk. Motion to apply for the grant was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norm Stoker. All members voted in favor.

**Forestry Report:**

196,000 trees need to be planted this spring and Jim asked the permission of the Committee to go ahead with soliciting tree planting bids. Motion to advertise made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Charles Jensen, all members voted in favor.

Jim presented the Committee with a driveway permit on behalf of Mark Olson in the City Point Township. The road is already a maintained county forest road, and the permit will cross 2.5 acres of county land bringing the permit total to \$1,250.00. Motion made by Karen Thayer to approve the permit, seconded by Charles Jensen, all members voted in favor.

The committee discussed the Van Ert Electric encroachment issue. Van Ert Electric would like to purchase 1.52 acres to resolve the issue. Motion was made by Charles Jensen to table the issue until the February meeting, seconded by Norm Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Motion to adjourn made by Charles Jensen seconded by Norm Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45am

Next regular meeting date: February 11, 2014

These minutes will be approved at the February meeting