

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Those present were: Karen Thayer, John Chrest, Jerrold Schmidt, Thomas Clark, Jim Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer.

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:30am

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

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

Jon presented the Parks report. He informed the committee that repairs have been made to the accessible fishing pier at Wazee Lake. Parks staff have also finished the construction of the updated County Forest sign on Hwy 54. Boat docks have been installed at East and West Arbutus and preparation for the summer season continues. In regards to trails all 2017-2018 grants have been submitted. A ribbon cutting for the new box culvert will be Friday, May 5 at 10:00am. The trail opener has been moved up to Friday, May 12.

Dan Smrekar, Chairman for the Town of Millston, was present at the meeting to discuss his concerns regarding sand trucks and the County trail system. Currently Meteor Timber plans to run approximately 576 sand trucks daily along County Hwy O. Smrekar feels that a route using a town road would be a more safe option. A motion was made by John Chrest to instruct Jon to draft a letter to Hwy Commissioner Randy Anderson regarding safety issues and the volume of trail riders in the Town and Millston. The motion was seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor.

Black River State Forest Superintendent Peter Baken was present at the meeting to review the grooming agreement with Jackson County. After discussing revisions a motion was made by John Chrest to send the agreement to Corporation Counsel. The motion was seconded by Jerrold Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

Justin Goldstein representing the ARMY National Guard, Black River Transportation Unit requested the vehicle admission fees and shelter fee be waived for their Unit family day. A motion to approve the special events permit and wave all fees as made by Jerrold Schmidt, seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor.

Jeremy Breheim presented the seasonal pay resolution. The incentive would be a \$1.00 bonus for all qualifying shifts to be paid out in a lump sum at the end of the summer. A motion to approve and sign the resolution was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark. All members voted in favor.

Keith Cormican made a request to use his rescue boat, which is equipped with a gas motor, on Wazee Lake for training purposes. A motion to table the discussion was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor. Jon Schweitzer will prepare a letter outlining guidelines for when the boat can be used and for what reasons and bring to the May meeting for review.

Sue Sampson created a 3 panel mural to be displayed on the side the Forestry & Parks main office. The cost of the mural from start to finish is \$3,000. A motion was made by Jerrold Schmidt to advance the mural project and have Sue Sampson create a sketch and approve spending the \$3,000. The motion was seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

A motion was made by John Chrest to approve advertising the spring 2017 timber sales. The motion was seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor.

Several timber sales will expire in 2017. The sales have not been finished due to poor conditions and bad winters. A motion to grant free extensions to all sales expiring in 2017 that need frozen conditions to be harvested was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark. All members voted in favor.

Jim reviewed the 2017 town road grant applications with the Committee. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve the application requests as ranked by the Forestry staff up to \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Thomas Clark. All members voted in favor.

Jim requested that a letter of support be sent to the Rocky Mountain Elk Found in regards to the purchase of property along Morrison Creek. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will purchase the property and at a later time the County will purchase the property from RMEF. A motion to approve sending the letter was made by Thomas Clark, second by Jerrold Schmidt. All members voted in favor.

A motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat 19.85(e) to negotiate the purchase of public properties was made by John Chrest, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt. All members agreed by a rollcall vote

A motion to go into open session was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark, all members agreed by rollcall.

A motion was made in open session to approve the second counter offer by Jerrold Schmidt, seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

Next regular meeting date: May 9, 2017

These minutes will be approved at the May Meeting