

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 9:00am on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Those present were: Karen Thayer, Ed Chamberlain, Tom Clark, Jerold Schmidt, Norman Stoker, James Zahasky, Jon Schweitzer

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:00am

A motion was made by Ed Chamberlain seconded by Norman Stoker to approve the March minutes, all members voted in favor.

Motion made by Norman Stoker seconded by Ed Chamberlain to approve the bills as presented for payment. All members voted in favor.

Zach Clausing from the WI-DNR were present and gave updates.

Jon presented the parks report. Jackson Electric will be installing 3 electric car chargers at Wazee Lake beach, East Arbutus and West Arbutus. The cost of the electric chargers will be 100% covered by Jackson Electric. Firewood processing has been complete for the upcoming season and seasonal hiring is in progress. Upgrading West Arbutus electrical to 50-amp service is in progress and Jeremy is working with contractors to complete up to 10 sites by the start of camping. With the electrical upgrade an additional \$200.00 will be charged for those sites that are updated to 50 amps. An additional fee of \$50.00 a month will be put in place for any long-term camper who uses an external refrigerator or freezer unit outside their camping unit.

Trails are set to open on May 15 for the summer season and Jon has submitted the 2021/2022 trail grants.

A request has been made to install a scuba buoyancy course at Wazee lake. The course would be all underwater. A motion to approve the buoyancy course was made by Jerrold Schmidt, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Jon presented a map requesting the hunting boundaries at Wazee Lake be extended to include parts of the park where a trail exists. A motion to approve the updated boundaries was made by Ed Chamberlain, seconded by Tom Clark. The motion was approved by Karen Thayer, Ed Chamberlain, Tom Clark and Norman Stoker. The motion was opposed by Jerrold Schmidt.

Jim met with the Forestry staff and they ranked the Town Road Grant applications based on what they determined to be the highest need. A motion was made by Ed Chamberlain to approve the top three requests from Bear Bluff, Knapp and Alma Township respectively. The motion was seconded by Tom Clark, all members voted in favor.

A motion to approve the spring 2021 timber sale bid packet and advertise for the May 5 bid opening was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Ed Chamberlain, all members voted in favor.

Jim drafted a letter to Tom Plumb in regards to the land transaction in progress with Black River Forever. A motion was made by Karen Thayer to approve sending the letter to Mr. Plumb, the motion was seconded by Tom Clark, all members voted in favor.

Jim discussed with the Committee the forest carbon credit market. Some counties have hired a consultant to determine how much the landscape has for carbon credits. Jim's was presenting to the committee on an informational basis at this time. A motion was made by Jerrold Schmidt to pursue more information about this, the motion was seconded by Ed Chamberlain. 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 Norman Stoker, seconded by Tom Clark, all members voted in favor via roll call.

A motion was made in closed session to continue negotiations for the purchase of the cranberry marsh by Jerrold Schmidt. The motion was seconded by Ed Chamberlain, all members voted in favor.

A motion to adjourn in closed session was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Tom Clark, all members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

Next regular meeting date: May 11, 2021

These minutes will be approved at the May Meeting