

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 9:00am on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Those present were: Karen Thayer, Ed Chamberlain, Tom Clark, Jerrold Schmidt, Norman Stoker, James Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer,

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Karen Thayer

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

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

Zach Clausing and Scott Roepke were present from the WI-DNR. Jackson County participated in the SFI, FSC audit on Thursday, August 6. The auditors had no findings.

Jon presented the Parks and Trails report. Revenue continues to climb for many budget lines. Currently a plan is being developed for fall staffing, predicting the parks will continue to see more patrons. There was an elevated ecoli test at Wazee beach, the beach was closed for 4 days but has since opened with an advisory. Brockway and Millston Townships both recently opened their township roads to ORV traffic.

With the direction of the United States Sports Alliance a disabled hunt is being planned at Wazee park. The hunt would begin the second Monday in October and running for 7 days. A motion to approve the disabled Veterans hunt was made by Ed Chamberlain, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

Creating a new policy for seasonal campers was discussed. Currently campers are required to stay for a minimum of 60 days and can pick their dates. The new policy would implement a set rate based on sites and run from May 15 to September 15. After discussion a motion was made by Ed Chamberlain, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt to go forward with the May 15 to September 15 date range. The rate for a lakeside electric site would be \$2,500.00, an electric site off the lake would be \$2,200.00. All members voted in favor.

Two quotes were received for a land clearing project to create a wildlife opening. After discussion a motion to approve Matt Casper as the low bidder to complete the clearing for \$18,500 was made by Jerrold Schmidt, the motion was seconded by Thomas Clark. Karen Thayer, Jerrold Schmidt and Thomas Clark voted in favor of the motion. Ed Chamberlain and Norman Stoker voted in opposition; motion carried. Monies for this project are coming from the state elk program.

A resolution addressing the implications of the VERSO mill closing in Wisconsin Rapids was presented to the committee. A motion to approve and sign the resolution was made by Thomas Clark, seconded by Ed Chamberlain, all members voted in favor.

A Forestry and Parks employee has a set of anchor chains they would like to trade for an old army surplus trailer to the department. Currently the trailer is not in use. A motion to approve the trade with the employee was made by Ed Chamberlain, seconded by Tom Clark, all members voted in favor.

A lease agreement with James Bible of Bible Cranberry marsh to allow for nectar and pollination on 10-15 acres of county land was discussed. The property is located next the cranberry marsh and will use bumble bees. There would be no charge for the agreement and would need to be re-evaluated if the property was ever sold. A motion to approve the lease agreement was made by Ed Chamberlain, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

James Bible would also like to purchase 35 acres of adjoining county land to his property. The County would need to pay for an appraisal in accordance with the 15-year plan this would be a 3:1 land trade. A motion to approve getting an appraisal for the property was made by Thomas Clark, 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 Ed Chamberlain. All members voted in favor via roll call.

A motion to adjourn at 10:45am was made by Thomas Clark, seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Next regular meeting date: September 8, 2020

These minutes will be approved at the September Meeting