

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Those present were: Norman Stoker, 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 Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with one correction on the forestry report from December. A motion regarding timber sales was seconded by Jerrold Schmidt and not Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

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

Parks & Trails Report:

Jon updated the Committee that Parks staff is working on updating the County Forest sign located on Hwy 54. He is also going to meet with Clark and Eau Claire Counties to talk about a possible fee increase in 2018.

Attorney Garrett Nix spoke with the Attorney for Arcelor Mittal regarding the gravel release at Wazee Lake. The Attorney informed Garrett Nix that she is working on this and should have word back in a weeks' time.

A motion was made by John Chrest to waive the entrance fee to Wazee Lake for the Jackson in Action Snowshoe event on Saturday, January 14. The motion was seconded by Jerrold Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

Rehab work continues on Oak Ridge, Brockway Road and White creek. Jon is working with the Chamber of Commerce to complete an updated ATV map showing the new trails. Grooming on the trails continues as needed.

Jon would like to purchase tracks for the 2013 Kubota 1100 currently used by the Parks. The machine is currently too heavy to use during the winter months and with help of the Aquatic Invasive Species grant 80% of the cost would be funded. The remaining balance would be paid for by items recently sold on County auction. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve the purchase of the tracks for \$4,991.00 from Portland Implement. The grant will cover 80% of the cost while the remaining 20% will be with the funds made on the auction. The motion was seconded by Jerrold Schmidt all members voted in favor.

Forestry Report:

Jim passed out a current list of timber sale contracts and highlighted those that had winter sales that will be expiring spring of 2017.

Jason Wood was present at the meeting to discuss a possible timber sale at Lake Wazee County Park. The sale will consist of only cutting jack pine. The decision was made for the Committee to look at the sale in the spring and then make a decision on cutting due to the fact that it is located in the park.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35am

Next regular meeting date: February 14, 2017

These minutes will be approved at the February Meeting