

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am, on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Those present were: John Chrest, Norm Stoker, Merlin Fredrickson, Karen Thayer, Jim Zahasky, Jon Schweitzer and Ashley Stetzer.

Chairman Merlin Fredrickson called the regular meeting to order at 8:30am

Motion made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, 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.

Forestry Report:

Jim presented the Committee with two chip seal bids that were submitted for repairs to the main office parking lot. A bid from Fahrner out of Eau Claire, WI was \$13,600.00. The bid submitted by Scott Construction out of Lake Delton was \$10,873.00. A motion was made by John Chrest to award the low bid to Scott Construction, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

A request for a concrete slab to be installed behind the shop at the main office was sent out for bids. One bid was received by Holcomb Concrete for \$2,850.00. A motion to approve without the Styrofoam underlay for an extra \$850.00 due to sandy soil was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer. All members voted in favor.

Jim discussed with the Committee road reconstruction that needed to be done on a County Forest Road located by Castle Mound Rd. and Brockway Rd. Two different logging jobs were being done using the county forest road in conditions that were very wet and Jim felt that excessive damage was done to the roads during this process. Jim closed the road on June 27th for repairs and it was re-opened on July 7. Permission to split the cost of breaker rock that was hauled by the County between the two Loggers' was discussed. Jim would also like to hire a road grader and charge 1.5 miles to the first logger and 3.5 miles to the second logger for this to be done. A motion was made by Karen Thayer to charge the Logger's with the road damage; the motion was seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor.

A conflict with the August 12 meeting was discussed. The decision was made to change the meeting to Monday, August 11, 2014 at 8:30am.

Jim now holds the title of Vice President on the County Forest Association. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve Jim as the Vice President and allow him to attend all the meetings associated with it. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

Parks & Trails Report:

Jon informed the Committee that the Parks are still dealing with lack of seasonal staff and that continues to take a toll on the Department. Mowing operations have taken up a lot of time in the parks due to all the rain. Jon received a letter from the Department of Corrections in regards the impending changes to the crew staff offered by the boot camp. The decision has been made to make the Challenge Academy into a minimum security prison and only offer 1 crew. This will have a large impact on the Parks and the day to day operations. Jon put together a packet outlining all the work that they do and will send that off the Legislature for their consideration.

The trails remain open even after the large amounts of rain that we have received. The intern, Don Houser, has started working on the ATV master plan and is putting together a survey to hand out to gain information about local trail use.

A Special Events Application was submitted by Dive Unlimited International to host an event at Wazee Lake on August 22. This is the 10th year the event will be in Jackson County. A motion to approve the event was made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jon asked the Committee, in regards to Special Events Applications, if every permit would need oversight approval. A motion was made by John Chrest that any event that does not require an insurance policy such as a wedding or family reunion does not need Committee approval. If the event requires liability insurance then Committee approval would be needed. If the application came in after a meeting date then it would only require approval by the Chair or Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

A motion to send Jon Schweitzer to the SNO/ORV Council meeting in Wausau on August 18 and 19 was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer. All members voted in favor. Jon will be presenting several grants at these meetings and requested permission to attend.

A voucher for final payments to the Snowmobile clubs was presented to the Committee. Jon informed the Committee that clubs receive grant dollars in the form of advance payments as start up at the beginning of their season. At the end of the season Clubs then submit claims that are audited by this office for final payment. Clubs are paid \$250.00 a mile for the trails that they are responsible for grooming and maintaining. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve paying out the \$250.00 a mile, the motion was seconded by Karen Thayer. All members voted in favor. The entire State did go into supplemental payments due to the large snow volume and extra grooming time. Those payments will be received at a later date by the State.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 am was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm

Next regular meeting date: August 11, 2014 ****THIS IS A DATE CHANGE****

These minutes will be approved at the August meeting