

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am, on Tuesday May 12, 2015. Those present were: Merlin Fredrickson, John Chrest, Norman Stoker, Karen Thayer, Jerrold Schmidt, Jim Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer.

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

Motion made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest approve the minutes from the previous meeting, all members voted in favor.

Motion made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt to approve the bills as presented for payment. All members voted in favor.

Forestry Report:

17 timber sales were advertised and sold totaling \$787,860.80, creating a record bid opening. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve the sold sales to the highest bidder. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

4 of the 5 moss bids were sold totaling \$17,900.00. A motion was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer to approve the sales to the highest bidder. All members voted in favor.

A 63 acre site was discussed to promote oak growth. Spraying would be done to all maple, birch, cherry, buckthorn, hazel and white pine 4 inches and smaller. Jackson County will provide chemical and hire out spraying application. A motion was made by Karen Thayer to approve the eradication and go for bids, to be done by the hour. The motion also included allowing the Department to advertise and approve without Committee approval. The motion was seconded by John Chrest. John Chrest, Norman Stoker, Merlin Fredrickson, and Karen Thayer voted in favor of the motion. Jerrold Schmidt voted in opposition to the motion.

The 2014 Forestry Annual Report was presented. A motion to approve the report and send to County Board was made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor by roll-call.

Motion to go into open session made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Jim presented to the Committee the merit pay raises based on employees evaluations. A motion to approve the merit pay as well as bonuses and additional days off was made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Parks & Trails Report:

Jon presented to the Committee the monthly report. The sign at Wazee Lake is in the final phases of construction and will be up by Memorial Day weekend. 400 tons of millings have been spread at the entrance of Lambert Park for road improvements. Jon received a \$100,000 grant to control invasive species at Wazee Lake. There was also a successful prescribed burn done at Wazee Lake County Park.

Jon applied for a \$360,000 grant to complete the underpass project on Hwy 54. Trails are going to re-open again on Friday, May 15. Grading of the trails has started. Work is being done in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson County ATV Club to work on completing an ATV economic impact study between May 15 and October 15 on the Jackson County ORV system.

A LTE trails position was recently approved by the County Board. This position will be 2-3 days per week and will primarily be grading and signing the ORV trails. This position is covered by grant monies and has no direct net cost to the County. A motion to hire was made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker to go forward with hiring. All members voted in favor

Marineland Dive Shop in Black River Falls will be holding a treasure hunt event at Wazee Lake and asked for a donation for the event. Motion to approve a weekend camping and diving package was made by John Chrest, seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

Jon presented to the Committee the 2015 Parks and Trails Annual Report. Motion to approve the Parks Annual Report was made by John Chrest, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt, all members voted in favor. The report will be given at the May 18, 2015 County Board Meeting.

Request to go out for aerial spraying bids at Wazee Lake was discussed. The spraying would be done as part of the grant to control invasive phragmites. Motion to approve the request for aerial spraying bids was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35pm was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35pm

Next regular meeting date: June 9, 2015

These minutes will be approved at the June meeting