

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 9:00am on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the Jackson County Forestry & Parks office. Those in attendance were: Ed Chamberlain, Jerrold Schmidt, Thomas Clark, Dale Hoff, John Higgins, James Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Forestry & Parks Administrator James Zahasky

A motion was made by John Higgins to nominate Ed Chamberlain as the Forestry & Parks Committee Chairman. The motion was seconded by Jerry Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

A motion was made by John Higgins to nominate Tom Clark as Vice-Chairman of the Forestry & Parks Committee. The motion was seconded by Jerry Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

A motion was made by Ed Chamberlain to approve the minutes from the April meeting, with one correction to paragraph 10 regarding Jim Zahasky's extended vacation request. A motion to approve the correction and the April Minutes was seconded by John Higgins, all members voted in favor.

A motion to approve the bills for payment was made by Jerry Schmidt, seconded by Tom Clark. All members voted in favor.

Amanda Gunn, Black River Area Chamber Director, was present at the meeting and gave an update. The Karner Blue Butterfly Festival has been replaced by A Black River Falls Heritage Festival. There will also be a welcome ATV event.

Jon gave the Parks and Trails report. The parks are up and running for the season and Seasonal staff has been hired. The concession building will be open for Memorial weekend, potentially even earlier if good weather permits. The annual ATV club clean-up was done the weekend of May 7 and trails will open on Friday, May 13.

Derek Kunder, owner of the Bunkhouse, was present to discuss his \$1,500.00 lease payment. Derek is requesting the lease be eliminated due to the fact that most roads are now open for ATV traffic allowing access to more businesses. Derek has also paid this lease for 10 years and continues to maintain the trail. Jon stated he could explore the idea of adding this to the existing trail mileage, in turn receiving ATV grant money and then graveling the trail. After discussion a motion was made by John Higgins to table the discussion allowing Jon to explore this option and coming back to discuss at the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Dale Hoff, all members voted in favor.

The Forestry department had a timber sale bid opening on May 4. All 15 sales sold totaling \$988,763.05. A motion to approve and award all sales was made by John Higgins, seconded by Tom Clark. All members voted in favor.

Forester Dave Spaude was present at the meeting and gave a presentation about Carbon Credits. A motion was made by John Higgins to hire a project developer to conduct a feasibility study to explore what Jackson County would have for carbon credits. The motion was seconded by Tom Clark, all members voted in favor.

The Wisconsin County Forest Associations summer tour will be in Rusk County on June 23, 24 this year. Committee members are invited to attend.

A motion to adjourn at 11:00am was made by Tom Clark, seconded by John Higgins. All members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am

Next regular meeting date: June 14, 2022

These minutes will be approved at the June Meeting