

**Forestry Affairs**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**May 29, 2009**

**Present:** Bernadine Joselyn, Tom Saxhaug, Mike Polzin, Jim Marshall, Rick Utech, Rick Horton, Paul Peterson, Steve Arbour

**Advisory Members Present:** Dale Sutherland, Tracy Beck, Catherine McLynn, Art Norton, Greg Morris, Greg VanOrsow

**Chamber staff:** Renee Thompson, Bud Stone

Steve Arbour called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the April 24, 2009 meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rick Utech made a motion to approve the April 24, 2009 meeting minutes. Jim Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

Senator Saxhaug informed the committee that \$36 million will be appropriated to the Upper Mississippi Forest Conservation Easement by December 31, 2010.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR THE CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST**

Greg Morris reported that they still do not know what projects will receive stimulus money. However, they do know they will receive \$110,000 to hire five "fuels firefighters" through the tribe.

Greg also reported that the Regional Forester will be here next week to tour the Chippewa National Forest. This will be the first time the Regional Forester has visited the Chippewa National Forest.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**THIS WEEK IN FORESTRY**

The following committee members volunteered to write the forestry articles for "This Week In Forestry":

**August:** Tom Saxhaug – Legislative Forestry update.

**September:** Rick Utech/Katie Fernholtz.

**October:** Joe Alexander – Chippewa projects.

**November:** Art Norton – "Forests in the Future"

**December:** ICC student – "Boots in the Woods"

Mike Polzin suggested a good possible topic for a future article could be “Cap and Trade for the Future”.

**ACTION:** Kerry will contact those assigned to write articles with article details.

### **INTERMEDIATE HARVEST TEAM – SENATOR TOM SAXHAUG**

Senator Saxhaug gave an update on the VF/VC Intermediate Harvest Action team that has recently merged with the School Trust Funds Lands Team.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **MEMBER UPDATES**

Steve Arbour thanked Tracy Beck for his years on the committee and wished him well in his new position.

Mike Polzin informed the committee that MN Power is at an idle due to taconite mine shutdowns.

Jim Marshall thanked everyone who helped get the Upper Mississippi Forest Conservation Easement funded.

Rick Utech discussed continuing to work with brokers regarding selling the Ainsworth property. The asking price has been lowered.

Greg Morris discussed the timber sales on the Chippewa National Forest. The Chip has planted a few hundred acres of white pine and they are working on ways to protect pine stands from deer.

Senator Saxhaug reported that the Forestry Bill ended up in the Game and Fish Bill and that the DNR is looking at two pilot programs. One would allow the DNR to cut more timber and the second would allow the State of Minnesota to lease land.

Bud Stone gave an update from the Timber Business Advisory Board meeting he attended. Some of the discussion consisted of switching the winter harvest sales to March, geographically organizing timber sales, bio-mass definition, whole tree appraising to make stumpage prices affordable, logging infrastructure for future loggers.

Bernadine Joselyn discussed bio-mass.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 26, 2009 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant & Finance Coordinator.