

Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
September 25, 2009

Present: Craig Engwall, Mike Polzin, Kim Hanson, Paul Peterson, Bernadine Joselyn

Advisory Members Present: Art Norton, Mike Martin, Rob Harper, Catherine McLynn

Guest: Mark Jacobs

Chamber staff: Renee Thompson, Bud Stone

Steve Arbour called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August 28, 2009 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Craig Engwall made a motion to approve the August 28, 2009 meeting minutes. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

INTERMEDIATE HARVEST PRESENTATION – MARK JACOBS

Mark Jacobs presented a powerpoint presentation to the committee outlining Intermediate Harvesting is good for Forest Health.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

70-MILE TRAIL

Mark Jacobs reported that the first loop of the 70-mile, which is about 17 miles, is done.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NORTH FOUR COMMENTS

Bud read the letter regarding the North Four comments that he submitted the MN DNR.

Steve Arbour gave input to the letter before it was sent.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UPDATES

Rob discussed the staffing changes that will be taking place in the Chippewa in the next couple of months. One of them is that Greg Morris will be hired permanently at the Blackduck district in December.

Rob explained that the employment vacancies they have open are causing a problem getting the 5.5 million dollars in stimulus-funded projects completed.

Rob also spoke about the Cabin user fees act, an EA on noninvasive species and their target harvest being at 100% if they can sell the last “no bid”. They will be able to do 10-15% more output next year if they are given the same budget as this year. Lastly, Rob spoke about the 320 million dollar Clean Water Act article in the Bemidji Pioneer Press. Minnesota was one of the eleven states included in the act.

Catherine McLynn informed the committee that one of the County’s foresters resigned.

Mike Polzin spoke about bio-fuels. His discussion included a program call Biomass Corp Assistance Program (BCAP). Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, biobased products or biofuels. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

It is a 36-month program for providers and a 24-month program for suppliers.

Steve Arbour informed the committee that he is stepping down as chair effective immediately. Steve then thanked the committee for their support and involvement.

Craig discussed the Forest Capital Partners Easement.

Paul Peterson discussed the DNR making plans to prevent forest fires due to the dry year.

Kim reported that the MN Deer Hunters Association had a good banquet. Kim also talked about their efforts to track moose sightings and their working on getting High School and ICC students out on their land.

Bud asked Kim Hanson to check with Mark Johnson regarding Mark writing the December “This week in Forestry” article.

Bernadine spoke about a UPM Best Practice Land Tour and the final closing of the UPM easement in July 2010.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 30, 2009 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Meeting adjourned.

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