

Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
October 30, 2009

Present: Lori Dowling, Mike Polzin, Jim Marshall, Terry Weber, Jim Rupert

Advisory Members Present: Art Norton, Joe Alexander, Catherine McLynn

Guest: Paula Frings, Cleveland Management and Consulting Group

Chamber staff: Renee Thompson, Bud Stone

Bud Stone called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the September 25, 2009 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Polzin made a motion to approve the September 25, 2009 meeting minutes. Jim Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FEAP – PAULA FRINGS

Paula Frings gave the committee an overview of the Forestry Education Awareness Program (FEAP).

The FEAP program was started in 2005. FEAP is a network of Partners promoting comprehensive forestry education and awareness for all users and all uses. The Itasca County Board of Commissioners funds FEAP.

Paula gave an update of the forestry education progress in the schools.

Paula then reviewed the marketing campaign she has been working on and asked the committee for feedback.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

THIS WEEK IN FORESTRY

Bud asked for volunteer authors to write "This Week in Forestry" articles for 2010.

Lori Dowling volunteered to write an article for January 2010. Her topic will be 2C.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

2010 GOALS, MISSION, CHAIR

The committee reviewed the 2009 Goals and Mission Statement.

After making some adjustments to the Goals for 2010, Jim Marshall made a motion to approve the 2010 goals. Terry Weber seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: Renee will update the goals for 2010 and email them to the committee for final review.

MEMBER UPDATES

Joe discussed management projects they have been working on, the visit from the regional leadership team, their next year's budget and goal of 70,000 CCF and that extra projects are being considered due to leftover stimulus money.

Joe also mentioned that the Enbridge pipeline project is being litigated.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Art spoke about the Forest Legacy working on a 90,000-acre project and the criteria building for deciding what parcels are highest priority on the list by the Forests For the Future team.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Lori spoke about the 2C training that will be taking place on November 4, 2009 and that landowners in Itasca County will be receiving postcards inviting them to participate in the 2C program.

The Blandin Foundation is paying for the training and mailing of the post cards.

Lori informed the committee that the County will be hiring 2 foresters and a recreation coordinator.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Mike informed the committee that the B-Cap program has started to materialize and that he will be attending a meeting next week. Mike is hoping to get some good information at that meeting.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Catherine explained to the committee that the 4000-acre land sale to ESSAR still should be completed by the end of the year. The County is retaining the mineral rights to the stockpiles that are on that land and that they filled an open forester position internally.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Jim informed the committee that the State had an annual audit that constrained funding was a big topic at a recent managers meeting and they are looking at additional scenarios regarding timber management.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2009 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Meeting adjourned.

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