

Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
November 20, 2009

Present: Tom Saxhaug, Jim Marshall, Paul Peterson, Terry Weber, Julie Miedtke

Advisory Members Present: Art Norton

Guest: Tim O'Hara

Chamber staff: Renee Thompson, Bud Stone

Terry Weber called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the October 30, 2009 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Marshall made a motion to approve the October 30, 2009 meeting minutes. Paul Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MN FOREST INDUSTRIES – TIM O'HARA

Tim O'Hara updated the committee regarding the Boy River II appeal. Tim also discussed biomass and the North Four.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UPDATES

Paul informed the committee that the DNR is still unable to hire replacements for those who retired or resigned due to a hiring moratorium.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Jim reported that UPM/Blandin is gearing up for the winter season, which could be challenging due to the predicted warm winter.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Julie discussed the Minnesota Woman's Woodland Network. Julie also informed the committee that the postcards were mailed to landowners in Itasca County who own more than 20 acres. The postcards inform landowners about the tax programs available to them to reduce their property taxes, improve forest health, provide habitat for wildlife and protect water quality. To participate, landowners need to develop a Woodland Stewardship Management Plan. The landowner is responsible for the cost of the plan.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Senator Saxhaug discussed school trust lands.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Meeting adjourned.

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