

**Forestry Affairs**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**December 18, 2009**

**Present:** Terry Weber, Kim Hanson, Paul Peterson, Frank Allen, Jim Marshall, Steve Arbour

**Advisory Members Present:** Art Norton, Greg VanOrsow, Joe Alexander

**Guest:** Wayne Brandt

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

Terry Weber called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the November 20, 2009 meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Paul Peterson made a motion to approve the November 20, 2009 meeting minutes. Jim Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**THIS WEEK IN FORESTRY AUTHORS**

Renee informed the committee that authors are needed for the "This Week in Forestry" articles

Kim Hanson indicated that if the MN Deer Hunters received stimulus money; she would write an article regarding it. Jim Marshall volunteered to write the February article if Kim doesn't.

Terry said he would ask Diane if she would like to write an article regarding the Ainsworth site for the March newsletter. Terry volunteered to write the April article.

**ACTION:** The committee will discuss additional authors at the January meeting.

**MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES**

Wayne Brandt with the MN Forest Industries reviewed their 2010 Legislative Priorities, which include:

1. DNR – Reforestation funding for state forests;
2. Funding for state forest roads and bridges;
3. Funding for conservation easements.

Wayne also talked about many ongoing legislative issues.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**CONFERENCE CALL WITH BOB TOMLINSON**

Bob Tomlinson with the DNR phoned in to discuss the DNR Legislative Priorities.

Bob expressed that "everything is tentative" at this point.

The DNR legislative priorities include:

- State land reforestation
- Roads and bridges
- Forest stand improvements
- Minnesota Forests for the future
- Disease shade removal
- Native tree seedlings and grasses
- Forest Certification dual audit costs
- Monitoring of conservation easements and forest management

### **MEMBER UPDATES**

Joe informed the committee that their goal is to sell 70,000 cords again this year. They have funding for 53,000.

Joe also informed the committee that they are fully staffed again. Greg Morris is on at Blackduck.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Kim discussed a bio-mass bailer demonstration that will be held in late January or early February and that MDHA has applied for NRS funding.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Art informed the committee that they are still working on Forest Capital Projects and that the Nature Conservatory has a proposal for reforestation.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Paul suggested seeing if Mark Lindquist or Anna Dirkswager would present on the State's Bio-mass Strategies at the January or February meeting.

**ACTION:** Paul will check into Mark and Anna presenting at the January or February meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29, 2010 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Meeting adjourned.

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