

MINUTES

FORESTRY AFFAIRS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce December 29, 2006

Chamber Members Present: Kenn Fideldy, Rick Utech, Jim Marshall, Terry Vidal, Steve Arbour, Tom Saxhaug, Mary Ives

Advisory Members Present: Rick Horton, Art Norton, Paul Peterson, Lori Dowling, Catherine McLynn

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Steve Arbour called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the November 17, 2006 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Utech made a motion to approve the November 17, 2006 meeting minutes. Rick Horton seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

DNR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES CONFERENCE CALL

The committee participated in a conference call with Bob Tomlinson and Dave Epperly. Bob and Dave informed the committee of legislative priorities the Division of Forestry will be working on in 2007 legislative session.

The legislative priorities are:

1. Reauthorization of the Sustainable Resources Act- their goal is to have the sunset provision removed.
2. Consistency on balsam bough permits.
3. Minnesota Relief Association – broaden legislation as not to be just focused on energy, but to also include forest health.
4. Overlap on Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resource statues.
5. Firewood transportation – regulations to help prevent the spread of disease from other states.
6. Revolving Forest Resource account in Grand Rapids.
7. Proposed funding for the LCCMR.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

GOVERNOR TASK FORCE UPDATE

The committee reviewed the Governors Task force final report and discussed a few sections in detail.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

AINSWORTH UPDATE

Kent Jacobson was unable to attend today's meeting to give the committee an update on Ainsworth.

Steve Arbour informed the committee that Kent attended a recent Business Roundtable meeting and reported that Ainsworth started buying wood on December 12, 2006. The new rollers are on order and should be delivered to Ainsworth some time in May 2007.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

COUNTY FORESTER PROGRESS REPORT

Catherine McLynn reported that the County is in the process of reviewing the hiring of an entry-level forester in favor of an experienced forester.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 26, 2007 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Rick Utech made a motion to adjourn. Kenn Fidely seconded the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

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