

Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
February 26, 2010

Present: Terry Weber, Bob Johnson, Jeff Borling, Jim Marshall, Julie Miedtke

Advisory Members Present: Greg VanOrsow, Joe Alexander, Debbie Overton, Pete Makowski,

Guests: Dennis Egan, Mark Lindquist, Anna Dirkswager, Kent Jacobson

Chamber staff: Bud Stone

Terry Weber called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the January 29, 2010 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Borling made a motion to approve the January 29, 2010 meeting minutes. Jim Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MINNESOTA DNR BIO-MASS STRATEGY

Mark Lindquist and Anna Dirkswager gave a presentation on the MN DNR's Bio-mass Strategy and answered questions from the committee members. Comments from the committee on the strategy included paying attention to the retention of the logging infrastructure, managing state forests for sustainable health and maximum timber out-puts and putting marketable timber species up for sale.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MOON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The committee members reached consensus that comments from this committee on the Moon Resource Management Project should reflect the position of the Minnesota Forest Industries organization. Debbie Overton, USFS, gave the committee an up-date on the project.

ACTION: Bud will e-mail comments to the USFS regarding this project by Monday, March 1, 2010.

MFRC GUIDELINES - MFRP MEETING UP-DATE

Discussion was held regarding comments on the MFRC Guidelines especially around riparian areas. Those monitoring certified forests have a tendency to regard these guidelines as rules rather than the guidelines they were intended to be. Much concern over this practice has been brought forth by the owners of these certified forestlands.

ACTION: None recommended at this point. Discussion will continue.

MEMBER UP-DATES

Bud gave an up-date on the progress being made to repeal the definitions in what is referred to as the "3/8ths of one percent constitutional amendment" for lands, water and the arts. A bill has been drafted in the Senate and hopefully it will be presented soon along with a companion bill from the House.

Julie up-dated the committee on the Bio-mass Baler Demonstration scheduled to take place on March 12 and 15, 2010 and on the Extension Office's Fire wise Program.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 26, 2010 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Terry Weber adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by: Bud Stone, President Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.