

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

Present: Mike Polzin, Kim Hanson, Mark Johnson

Advisory Members Present: Greg VanOrsow, Joe Alexander, Doug Tillma, Art Norton

Chamber staff: Bud Stone

Bud Stone called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the February 26, 2010 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the February 26, 2010 meeting minutes. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CONFERENCE CALL – DAVE ZUMETA

Dave Zumeta phoned in to talk about the Minnesota Forest Resource Council's funding

The MFRC has been handed a \$53,000 un-allotment by the Governor for 2010 and an additional \$20,000 for 2011.

The MFRC has been reducing staff as their budget as gone down. The DNR is absorbing some of the cost of the staff. They are looking for alternative means of funding. The Senate and Governor's proposal for funding for 2010 and 2011 are the same; whereas, the House proposal is \$30,000 less for 2010 and another \$57,000 in 2011.

Large reductions in the MFRC budget could eliminate field site level monitoring affecting certified lands.

Representative Solberg and Senator Bakk are on the conference committee.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

DOUG TILLMA – NORTH FOUR UPDATE

The North Four's new draft shows increased harvest volume, but still slightly lower than historical harvest volumes. More older growth timber is scheduled for harvest than in the first draft.

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

SLOHC BILL DEFINITIONS – MARK JOHNSON

Senator Saxhaug's bill passed through the Senate without amendments.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UP-DATES

Joe discussed their projects and harvest levels.

Greg spoke about their harvest trends and sales.

Art gave an update on conservation easements.

Mike discussed excess biomass due to the B-Cap program.

Kim spoke about the bio-baler demonstration.

Mark talked about the MN Deer Hunters Fork Horn Camp.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 30, 2010 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

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