

Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
April 30, 2010

Present: Terry Weber, Mike Polzin, Paul Peterson, Steve Arbour, Craig Engwall, Tom Saxhaug

Advisory Members Present: Catherine McLynn, Joe Alexander, Art Norton

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Terry Weber called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the March 26, 2010 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve made a motion to approve the March 26, 2010 meeting minutes. Paul Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

THIS WEEK IN FORESTRY AUTHORS

Terry asked the committee for some volunteers to write "This Week in Forestry" articles.

Catherine volunteered to write the June 2010 article.

Joe Alexander volunteered to write the July 2010 article.

Senator Saxhaug volunteered to have Mitch write a legislative overview for the August article.

Art Norton volunteered to write an article up the Upper Mississippi Conservation Easement for the September article.

Articles are due to Kerry at the Chamber by the 10th of the preceding month the article is for.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MINNESOTA DNR S.P.A.T

Bud discussed with committee an invitation from Dave Epperly and Laurie Martinson asking him if he would participate in the MN DNR Strategic Positioning Advisory Team. The team's purpose is to help frame the Division of Forestry's strategic planning efforts. Mark Johnson and Steve Betzler will also be participating.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

USFS AND TNC

Art Norton and Joe Alexander discussed the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

They provided the committee with a handout explaining the program, grant funding and eligible projects.

Letters of support for the National Forests of Minnesota proposal need to be sent to Kent Connaughton, Regional Forester by May 5, 2010.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UP-DATES

Art discussed the Forest Legacy Project working with Itasca County regarding 40-80 acre parcels.

Bud discussed a letter explaining the National America's Great Outdoors Initiative. President Obama is initiating the Program. Bud will be submitting a letter to President Obama to invite him and members of his team to come to Northern Minnesota.

Senator Saxhaug discussed attending a meeting with the DNR later today to look at School Trust Land exchanges with the USFS.

Craig informed the committee he was nominated to the Superior Advisory Committee.

Joe informed the committee they are staying on track and meeting their harvest objectives.

Mike informed the committee that the US Biomass Subsidy (BCAP) ends today and there is an Emerald Ash Borer Conference in Bemidji on May 25th and 26th.

Paul spoke about the ash trees concerns and the high fire danger. Paul provided the committee with a handout titled, "Minnesota's Forest Economy: Private Sector Jobs and State Revenue from Timber Harvest" for their review.

Terry informed the committee that the Forest History Center is moving along. They will have about 5000 school kids go through in May and will be open to the public in June. This year the Forest History Center will be open Tuesday – Saturday.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 28, 2010 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Submitted by: Renee Thompson, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.