

Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
May 28, 2010

Present: Tom Saxhaug, Kim Hanson, Leigh Johnson, Jim Rupert, Mark Johnson, Jim Marshall, Jeff Borling

Advisory Members Present: Catherine McLynn

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Bud Stone called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the April 30, 2010 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark made a motion to approve the April 30, 2010 meeting minutes. Jim Rupert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

SEEING THE FOREST AND THE TREES DVD

The committee watched a segment of the "Seeing the Forest and the Trees" DVD.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

LEGISLATIVE RECAP

Senator Saxhaug reviewed with the committee items from the 2010 Legislative Session that were relative to forestry.

Handouts of these items were provided to the committee.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UP-DATES

Mark talked about efforts to get the timber wolf off the endangered species list.

Jim Marshall informed the committee that the Upper Mississippi Conservation Easement is set to financially close the beginning of July. A celebration program is being planned for July 15, 2010.

Bud then asked to Jim to talk about the bio-fuels plant the UPM is considering building in Finland.

Jeff informed the committee that the pellet plant producer that is considering locating in the Eco Park is still in the negotiating process.

Catherine announced that the County's timbers sales were bid up some at the last auction and that Nick Rajala will be thinning the pine stands at Gunn Park. Catherine also announced that the County hired a new park technician named Scott Dowling.

Jim Rupert informed the committee that the Ash Symposium Conference was held this week. Jim also informed the committee that the DNR planted 2.2 million trees and harvested about 850,000 cords of wood statewide and that the BWCA land exchange proposal is in the internal review process. Lastly, Jim discussed the fact that a couple of weeks without rain would put us back in the fire season.

Catherine spoke about the Canisteo Pit project moving forward and the Itasca County construction bids that were awarded.

Bud asked the committee to review a document from Tim O'Hara regarding the Toohey project.

ACTION: Bud would like to submit comments for this project next week and asked the committee members to provide him with their input.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

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