

# MINUTES

## FORESTRY AFFAIRS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce June 29,2007

**Chamber Members Present:** Jim Marshall , Dale Sutherland, Mark Johnson, Rick Utech, Bernadine Joselyn, Rick Horton, Terry Vidal, Allison Ahcan, Paul Peterson, Julie Miedtke

**Advisory Members Present:** Catherine McLynn, Joe Alexander, Lori Dowling, Tracy Beck, Kevin Bruce

**Chamber staff:** Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Bud Stone called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the May 25, 2007 meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the May 25, 2007 meeting minutes. Rick Utech seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **VITAL FORESTS/VITAL COMMUNITIES – BERNADINE JOSELYN**

Bernadine gave an overview on VF/VC initiative involving privately owned forestland certification. Handouts accompanied Bernadine's presentation.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **MEMBER UPDATES**

Kevin Bruce and Joe Alexander gave an update on the NE Marcel Vegetation Management Project.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Jim Marshall gave an update on the Productivity Conference and tour.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Julie Miedtke informed the committee that she is continuing to work on Wildfire Protection Plans and identifying hazardous fuels areas.

**ACTION:** No action necessary.

Allison Ahcan informed the committee that she has moved back to Grand Rapids and is organizing "Goods From the Woods" this year.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Paul Peterson informed the committee that the DNR is continuing to hire foresters.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Terry Videl informed the committee that the Forest History Center is administering an antlerless bow hunt.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Rick Horton informed the committee on projects out for comment, that there is an intern working on the Hunter Walking Trails, that the Forest Service is looking at certification and that the state formed an internal audit team.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Catherine McLynn and Lori Dowling informed the committee that the County became a member of the Minnesota Forest Resource Partnership.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Mark Johnson informed the committee that the MN Deer Hunters Association is organizing a "Big Game" Conference August 15 – 17, 2007 at the Sawmill Inn and that they are hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "kids bow hunt" the second weekend in November. Mark also spoke about the various articles being published in "Minnesota Whitetails". Lastly, Mark informed the committee that this year's Governors Deer Hunt is being held in Hibbing, MN.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Bud informed the committee that Congressman Oberstar was able to help leverage 1.75 million from the Federal Government for Forest Legacy and 1 million for the City of Grand Rapids Wastewater treatment plant.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 27, 2007 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Rick Utech made a motion to adjourn. Rick Horton seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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