

**Forestry Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
September 28, 2007**

Present: Steve Arbour, Andy David, Pete Shinke, Melissa Roberts, Terry Weber, Paul Peterson, Dale Sutherland, Jim Marshall, Bernadine Joselyn

Advisory Members Present: Art Norton, Lori Dowling, Pete Makowski, Catherine McLynn, Tracy Beck, Rob Harper

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Steve Arbour called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August 31, 2007 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Terry Weber made a motion to approve the August 31, 2007 meeting minutes. Bernadine Joselyn seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UPDATES

Art Norton gave an update on the Minnesota Deer Hunters banquet which the Nature Conservancy donated a muzzleloader as a drawing prize. The winner of the muzzleloader was a 13 year old from Keewatin.

Art indicated that the Nature Conservancy will also be donating a prize to the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Paul Peterson reported that the DNR has hired 10 more foresters for a total of 70.

Terry Weber reported that the Logger Expo in Bemidji went well.

Melissa Roberts reported that Senator Coleman is still working on more federal funding.

Bernadine Joselyn gave an update on the biomass conference that took place on September 20 & 21, 2007. Lori Dowling reported that she attended the conference and found it very informative.

Jim Marshall gave a brief overview of the Productivity Conference and stated one goal for the conference is to ask people to step up to the plate to find and implement solutions to forest related issues.

Pete Schinke reported that Ainsworth went through their SFI audit and everything went well. The new equipment is at the plant, but not scheduled for installation yet.

Catherine McLynn reported that the County hired two new foresters and that they are moving forward with ecological classifications.

Tracy Beck informed the committee that he is back in Blackduck.

Rob Harper reported that sales are up 34% compared to 2006.

Andy David reported that the University continues to be interested in alternative energy.

Bud Stone informed the committee that on October 1, 2007, Mark Holsten, will be presenting at the Chamber luncheon. Bud then gave an update regarding his visit to Washington D.C. While in D. C., Bud meet with U.S. Senator Coleman, U.S. Congressman Oberstar and U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Because of a scheduling conflict, he was unable to meet with Gail Kimball; but, was able to ask Congressman Oberstar to encourage her to participate in the "Seeing the Forest and the Trees" project.

ACTION: Bud will contact Mike Johnson inviting him or Barb McDonald to the next meeting to discuss the Forestry Program.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Depot Commons meeting room.

Jim Marshall made a motion to adjourn. Tracy Beck seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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