

**Forestry Affairs**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**September 9, 2011**  
**Norway Beach – Cass Lake, MN**

**Committee Members Present:** Jim Marshall, Larry Sommer, Craig Engwall, Jeff Borling, Tom Saxhaug, Steve Arbour, Joe Broking, Lori Dowling

**Advisory Members Present:** Jason Kuiken, Art Norton, Craig Schmid, Carolyn McElfatrick, Catherine McLynn, Darla Lenz, Greg VanOrsow

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

**Guests:** Bob Tomlinson, Andrew Arends and Members of the Bemidji Forestry Affairs Council

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order and those present were asked to introduce themselves.

After introductions, the Sherman Anti-Trust Statement was read by the Bemidji Forestry Affairs Council.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jim asked the Grand Rapids members if anyone had any corrections to the July 29, 2011 meeting minutes.

Hearing no corrections to the meeting minutes, Jim approved the July 29, 2011 meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**DNR 100 YEAR & RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY & GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 50 YEAR CELEBRATION**

Craig Schmid gave an update on the celebration of the DNR 100 year anniversary and Ruffed Grouse 50 year anniversary. Craig also informed the group that they will also be celebrating the Golden Anniversary State Forest's 50 year anniversary.

The celebration is being held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Forest History Center. Invitations to the event have been mailed out.

Since accommodations are limited, confirming your attendance is requested.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**DNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY FUNDING – BOB TOMLINSON & ANDREW ARENDS**

Andrew distributed a 2011 Legislative Summary. Tom and Andrew then gave the group an overview of the handout and on the DNR's budget.

Currently, the DNR is down 75 field positions due to attrition and retirement. They plan on hiring 5 new employees in the next couple months.

Bob explained that there will most likely be lots of emphasis on a bonding bill during the 2012 legislative session.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS – JASON KUIKEN**

Jason provided the group with a handout explaining stewardship contracts and then gave some history on stewardship contracts as well as some basic contracting concepts.

Stewardship contracting started in 2003 and helps achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs, including contributing to the sustainability of rural communities by keeping money local and providing employment. They combine restoration activities on National Forest System lands into contracts or agreement packages. The Forest Service staff may use stewardship contracting as a tool to achieve restoration objectives identified through forest planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. An example would be keeping boat landings and campground facilities in usable condition.

Stewardship contracts work in this way. The purchaser bids on what they think the value of a project is and if awarded, the purchaser gets the project completed in exchange for timber.

More information on stewardship contracting can be found at:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/index.shtml>

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **MEMBER UP-DATES**

Commissioner McLynn reported that the FSC auditors will be in Itasca County next week and that the County Board met regarding timber sale money. They will be making decisions on whom to allocate the timber funds to in the near future.

Lori reported that the Becker timber sale is completed.

Larry informed the group that the Forest History Center is working on preservation maintenance and that they received designation as a tree farm.

Senator Saxhaug spoke about the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Jason reported that things are going well on the Chip.

Bud reported that he met with legislators regarding creating jobs. Bud spoke with them about funding for forestry as an investment and working on permitting for the mines.

Craig Engwall reported on working with land commissioners on expediting land exchanges.

Craig Schmid spoke about the 37,000 acres of blow down timber around the St. Croix. They are planning on completing the clean up by the end of the year.

Art reported that the Forest Capital Partners are hoping to close on 2 more projects by the year end.

Darla reported that the districts 2012 budget starts on October 1<sup>st</sup>. They were asked to plan on a reduced budget.

Dave spoke about field days at the Forest History Center on May 18 & 19, 2012. If you would like more information about field days, you can contact Dave at: [droerick@gmail.com](mailto:droerick@gmail.com).

Jeff thanked everyone for attending the meeting today and then gave an update on economic projects in the area.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **COMMON GOALS BETWEEN GRAND RAPIDS & BEMIDJI FOREST COUNCILS**

Jim and Brian took turns reading their committee goals respectively. The group commented on the goals and offered suggestions for future goals.

A couple of suggestions were to incorporate forestry courses into the school curriculum and to participate in legislative day at the Capitol with the Bemidji Forestry Council.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Depot Commons meeting room.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant & Finance Coordinator