

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND FOREST**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 5:00 p.m.  
Agriculture & Resource Center (front meeting room)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick LaVelle, Paul Lokken, Tami Schraufnagel and Bruce Willett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Will Fantle

OTHERS PRESENT: Jed Kaurich, Augusta DNR Fire Warden, and Brooke Ludwig, WDNR Forester

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Torud

---

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:02 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Confirmation notice was confirmed.
2. Approval of minutes from January 10, 2012 meeting – Motion by Bruce to approve the minutes as distributed; motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Input - None
4. Correspondence – Mike distributed a report on Sand Mining in Wisconsin from the DNR. Additional copies may be downloaded if needed.
5. Staff and committee reports – Mike told the committee that the Powder Keg Snowshoe and Snow Bike race will be held this Saturday, January 28 at Lowes Creek Park. He also informed the committee that the Free Ski Day at Tower Ridge will be January 29. Ski lessons will be 1:30-3:30 and not 6-7:30 p.m. as previously advertised. The camping reservation system is making slow progress but is not up and running as of today. Tami told the committee that the Land Conservation Division is working on a trout stream improvement project on Otter Creek and Lowes Creek. Paul inquired about upcoming Hunter Safety class.
6. Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens – Jed Kaurich, Forester-Ranger from the Augusta Ranger Station presented the list of emergency warden that he would like the committee to approve. He explained that the appointment will only be until June 30, 2012. After that date there will only be three locations where a fire permit can be picked up in person in Eau Claire County: Seymour Town Hall, Woodland Store, and Cooperative Store in Fairchild. Permits will be available online or by phone also. Motion by Paul to approve the list of Emergency Fire Wardens; motion carried 4-0.
7. 2011 Fire Season Report – Jed Kaurich gave a review of the 2011 State and Eau Claire County Fire Season. As in the past, debris burning continues to be the number one cause for wildfire in the county and the state.
8. Coon Fork Lake Campground Policy Review

- A. Minimum day reservation policy from 2 to 3 days – Mike explained that staff feel more comfortable changing the two day to three day minimum time period for making a camping reservation. This will mean that a reservation must be made by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday evening for a Friday arrival. Motion by Bruce to change the minimum time period from two days to three days; motion carried 4-0.
  - B. Ranger Residency requirements – Mike informed the committee that many area counties have stopped requiring park management staff to live in their campgrounds. Captain Bresina of the Eau Claire County Sheriff Department told Mike that they are not able to provide any additional assistance if our ranger is not living in the campground. Mike is concerned that our reputation at Coon Fork is based on customer service and supervision of campers. The consensus of the committee was to not make any changes to our current policy but allow the director to be as flexible as possible.
  - C. Barrier-free campsite policy change – Mike suggested that we keep our current policy regarding barrier-free sites but start selling them when our electric sites are all sold rather than waiting until ALL of the sites are sold. This item is to be brought back to the February 14 meeting for discussion/approval.
  - D. Creation of Coon Fork campground host policy – Mike pointed out the pros and cons for a campground host program. The committee felt that while the host program works well at Harstad Park campground we do not wish to proceed with a host program at Coon Fork Lake Park campground at this time.
9. Utilization of Highway Department engineers for Lake Altoona boat landing renovation – Pat told the committee the Mr. McCarty is going to schedule a meeting on this issue. This item will be discussed at the February 14 meeting.
10. Committee education – Deferred to the February 14 meeting.
11. Future and pending items – No action taken.

Motion by Tami to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Torud  
Committee Clerk

MT: rb