

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Minutes
July 11, 2009

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am

Committee members present: Jerry Grossman, Dan Crandall, John MacFarland, James MacMeekin, Dewayne Evans and Keith Hopper.

Timber prices with New Page were approved at the April 2009 board meeting but the contract with New Page is up for renewal. Our normal contract with them is for three years. With the current economic environment both parties feel it is best to enter into a one year contract. Motion made by Dan Crandall to renew said contract. Seconded by James MacMeekin all in favor motion passed.

Grossman Forestry contract is up for renewal. This is a one year, contract with all terms and conditions the same as last year. Dan Crandall made a motion to renew said contract seconded by James MacMeekin. All in favor motion passed.

Aspen cutting: We are in a catch up plan with the Aspen and are working within the guidelines of our Aspen cutting policy. 400 Acres plus or minus per year over the next eight years should get us back to a level of maintenance. We still have to monitor the rest of our forest for any other threats and react accordingly.

Red Oak and White Pine: Kevin Swanson with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources heads up a program of planting Red Oak and White Pine for property owners. Our club has tried this before and had minimal success, as these new plantings are very susceptible to over deer browsing.

Oak Plantings: Dan Crandall agreed to continue the Oak, planting program of moving Oak from one location to another in hopes of adding new locations of mast crop. Dan is continuing to monitor the success of this program as he has heard from some that the transplanted Oak will do well for the first three to five years and than die. We will continue to be updated on how this program is progressing. He will pick a date in October and will be looking for volunteers to lend a hand. Mountain Ash and Hawthorn was planted on the club in the past and has done very well. The Hawthorn is a favorite tree for grouse. I will get prices to see if practical, to add any more of these to our forest inventory.

English Oak: Our biologist recommended we try English Oak, as you will get fruit within the first 10 years. Jerry didn't think it would do well on the main body of our club, do to the poor soils but thought they might work well at the farm. I will check on prices and bring back to committee at a future meeting.

Harvest update: Our goal is to generate quality habitat. The 2009 target is to harvest 417 acres of Aspen. Our contract deals with volume in tons more than acres harvested. Currently we have two sales being harvested.

Establish a 25 year, plan: Jerry indicated he has put this practice in place with other sites he manages but because, the forest is ever changing many of these plans were implemented and within the first year had to be scraped. Committee felt this was cost prohibitive and not to pursue at this time.

Carbon Credits: Delta institute is our broker for our Carbon Credits. Currently we have just over 66,000 tons available for sale. At this time the market is very soft with a price of .65 cents per ton. There is some hope that prices may move back up into the 1.00 to 1.50 range per ton, but nothing is guaranteed. We sell our Carbon Credits as an offset to others that pollute the atmosphere. With many of the polluting facilities like, Ford and Dow cutting back on production they are sending less emissions into the atmosphere resulting in less demand for an offset. Jerry indicated the best way to increase the amount of Carbon Credits is to continue to manage our forest resource.

New Business: Tree plantings staying one row back on both sides of our trails. Jetty will work on making sure on the Jack pine plantings that issue is dealt with. Some of the trees that are currently growing on the edge of our trails were from natural forest progression not from anything that had been planted. An idea he shared was to spray some of these edges with round up to open the trails for better visibility and accessibility.

Quality Game Management Unit: As soon as the grounds dry up a crew from New Page will be sent to clean up the QGMU. Target was to get started by July 4, 2009. With all the rain we have received that date has been moved back a couple of weeks.

Dan Crandall made a motion to adjourn seconded by DeWayne Evans all in favor motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 10:05.