

Birchwood Bobcat ATV Meeting Minutes
Bluegill Bar Reception Room
Wednesday, April 11, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

President Steve Lobitz called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. There were 32 members and guests present. The Agenda, Minutes, Financial Reports and By-laws were distributed.

Introduction of guests: Mark Heil and Mike Peterson representing the Washburn County Forestry Department and Don Mrotek, Trail Coordinator for the Sawyer County Alliance.

Review of the Agenda: There were no additions or corrections.

Minutes of the October 5, 2011 Meeting - Motion: Bob Ellerbruch/Roger Beffa to accept as printed. Motion carried.

Financial Reports for the Period 10/04/11 - 4/10/12. The reports were reviewed.

^ The following account balances were reported:

1. Regular savings	\$ 4,500.62
2. Raffle savings	2,939.05
3. Checking	<u>4,698.27</u>

Total \$ 12,137.27

^ 2000 Ford F450 Dump Truck Note:

1. Net Pay Off	\$ 8,913.16
2. Payment Due 08/01/2012	4,000.00

Motion: Gary Koel/Roger Beffa to accept the reports as printed. Motion carried.

Old Business

Insurance Issues:

- ^ Personal Liability - It was the consensus that follow up is needed on this matter. It is the Club's responsibility to provide this coverage for volunteer trail workers in Washburn County. Don Mrotek suggested that Mike Outcalt, the Sawyer County Alliance Treasurer, be contacted to determine coverage available for volunteers working on Sawyer County trails.
- ^ The Club has insurance on the Ford F450 dump truck and on the posi-trac. The premium is paid to August 2012. Obtaining insurance through the Alliance for this equipment will be addressed prior to the next premium due date.
- ^ Comparison quotes have not been addressed.

New Business

Plans for Trail Work in Washburn County:

- ^ Mark Heil addressed the group stating he has been in charge of the trails program since 6/20/11. His interest is in improving communication with the Club, getting a basic understanding of how the Club is functioning, how the Club plans to move forward, and getting to know the leadership of the volunteer workforce.
- ^ **Rehab Contracts:** At this time there are two active grants for the trail system, both of which are planned to be administered by the Forestry Department. They are the Polywog segment and the Ole Lake segment. Work has not been started on these projects. There are no rehab projects planned for the trails maintained by the Birchwood club.
- ^ **Trail Maintenance** - Reimbursement for trail maintenance is \$450/mile for this fiscal year.

Forester Mike Peterson has scheduled a meeting for May 2nd to get together with clubs to discuss funding for the next fiscal year which begins on 7/1/12. This meeting will also address each club's utilization of maintenance funding available for the current fiscal year which ends 6/30/12. The club will receive notice of this meeting. At this time unaudited numbers for the Birchwood club are as follows:

Claimed	▲ Snowmobile: 7,000	Available	\$12,200
Claimed	▲ Summer ATV 6,200	Available	\$11,250
Claimed	▲ Winter ATV 0	Available	2,250

- ▲ The trails are in need of general maintenance to include brushing, signage, repair of washouts, grading, removal of down trees, etc. This work needs immediate attention.
- ▲ The bridge constructed by the club on the Spider Loop does not comply with DNR standards and needs immediate attention. There can be no more than 6 inch gaps between the side rails. Tim Lee volunteered to install additional boards on Saturday, April 14th.
- ▲ An inspection of the Birchwood club trail system was scheduled for Saturday, April 28th. The trail captain and club volunteers will ride the trails with the County Trail Coordinator to get a better understanding of requirements and the work that needs to get done very soon. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the shelter off Berry Road which is on Trail 25.
- ▲ Club responsibility for the segment from Harmon Lake Road to County B will be addressed at the 5/2/12 meeting.
- ▲ Beaver Brook segment - snowmobiles will be routed off of town roads from the Wild Rivers Trail. This work will be completed this year.
- ▲ Club members informed the Trail Coordinator and Forester that the club does not have the equipment to rehab trails; the County needs to perform or arrange for this work. Club members are willing and able to maintain the trails for which the club is assigned responsibility.
- ▲ Washburn County trails are closed at this time. The County website is the best resource to get up-to-date trail reports. This information can be copied to our club web site.

Members extended appreciation to Mark Heil and Mike Peterson for attending the meeting and providing information.

Sawyer County Trails

Don Mrtotek, Trail Coordinator for the Sawyer County Alliance, addressed the group providing the following information:

- ▲ Signage - markers need to get off from trees and on to posts. Don brought 100 orange trail blazers for club use with him tonight. Members informed Don that the club needs 100 to 200 metal posts to complete this work. Don will follow up on this.
- ▲ Don will work out billing to Washburn County with Mike Peterson for trail maintenance supplies purchased by the Alliance and used on Washburn County trails.
- ▲ It is very important to have trail numbers on trail markers, especially where trails intersect.
- ▲ The Alliance is encouraging the installation of kiosks at major trail intersections to post maps and business signs.
- ▲ Business signs:
 - must be informational, such as mileage to business and what's available - food,

gas, beverages, etc.

- need to meet DNR sign requirements
- businesses provide signs, club members install them
- Bob Ellerbruch reported he is working on this project with local businesses
- ⤴ Work plans - Plans are due now. The club needs to provide Don with our short and long range goals. This should include what needs to be done (brushing, blading, signing, etc) as well as a "wish list" which might include installation of privies, pavilions, picnic areas, etc.
- ⤴ County Forester Greg Peterson has agreed to get something done with the water hole at the intersection of the Tuscobia Trail and Trail 31S. He is checking on water permits.
- ⤴ 31S culverts - rock fjords will be installed this summer.
- ⤴ Trail opening - discussion was held with regard to coordinating opening dates with adjacent counties to promote tourism and business. The consensus was that there are a number of factors contributing to the current complicated system.
- ⤴ Trails in the Seeley Hills area are open. Sawyer County trails in the Birchwood area could be open. Trail Captain Mike Robotka will contact landowners to advise them of the new opening date and keep Don informed. Don will follow-up with Greg Peterson with regard to the installation of a gate on Trail 31S.
- ⤴ A "Trail Closed" sign will be posted on Trail 3 at the entrance to Washburn County.
- ⤴ The question was raised about a dirt drag. Don reported there is one currently located at Winter.
- ⤴ The bridge on the Tuscobia will be finished on 4/15/12.
- ⤴ Side stickers and rear license plates will be required on all ATV's and UTV's effective 7/1/12. Plates must be obtained and registration numbers affixed on the plate by owners.

Appreciation was extended to Don for his attendance and for providing information.

Loch Lomond Petition

Gladys Roux presented information with regard to ATV travel within the development. The development is located in the Town of Cedar Lake, Barron County. She explained that a petition has been circulated, which has received substantial support, to allow residents to travel from their home to the trail system. A group of interested people will present this information to the Town Board at their annual meeting on April 14, 2012. Gladys encouraged interested club members to attend the meeting.

Donation to the Bobcat Sledders

Motion: Dave Drew/Lee Ellerbruch to donate \$500 to the Birchwood Bobcat Sledders Snowmobile Club for the use of their meeting and shop facilities. Motion carried.

Fund Raising

Discussion was held with regard to proceeding with the annual raffle, including challenges in selling all of the 200 tickets and the need for volunteers to coordinate this effort.

- ⤴ Cindy Lobitz volunteered to apply for the raffle license and assist with coordination.
- ⤴ Lee Ellerbruch volunteered to coordinate printing of posters and tickets, distributing tickets and monitoring sales and collection of money, sold and unsold tickets, etc.
- ⤴ Sale of tickets will begin as soon as possible.
- ⤴ There will be no early bird drawing.
- ⤴ The drawing will be held at the club meeting on September 12, 2012.
- ⤴ Involvement of all members in this project is needed in order for it to be successful.

Landowners' Appreciation Dinner will be held in October.

Public Relations

- ⤴ **Web Site** - Nicci Minnick reported that we have not signed a contract with CCS for a maintenance package for this year. Discussion was held about maintenance cost, updating, etc. Liz Drew has web site experience and volunteered to follow up with Wendy at CCS to get more information.

Membership

- ⤴ Dues are due now. Memberships run from 4/1/12 through 3/31/13. Everyone was encouraged to keep their memberships current.

Review of the bylaws

The bylaws were written in 2000 and are in need of review/revision. Gary Koel, Roger Beffa, Lee Ellerbruch, and LaVonne Thompson volunteered to work on this project and to present the results of their work at the May club meeting.

Sawyer County Alliance Update

- ⤴ Steve Lobitz reported that our club is scheduled to host the monthly Alliance meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. Planning for this event will be taken up at our May meeting.

Election of Officers, Board of Directors, and Alliance Delegates

Officers:

- ⤴ President Steve Lobitz opened nominations for President. **Motion: Gary Koel/Lee Ellerbruch to retain Steve Lobitz as President and to close nominations. A unanimous vote of acclimation retains Steve Lobitz as President.**
- ⤴ President Steve Lobitz opened nominations for Vice-President. **Motion: Gary Koel/Dave Drew to retain Tim Lee as Vice President and to close nominations. A unanimous vote of acclimation retains Tim Lee as Vice-President.**
- ⤴ President Steve Lobitz opened nominations for Secretary. **Motion: Judy Martiny/Dave Drew to retain LaVonne Thompson as Secretary and to close nominations. A unanimous vote of acclimation retains LaVonne Thompson as Secretary.**
- ⤴ President Steve Lobitz opened nominations for Treasurer. **Motion: Liz Drew/Judy Martiny to nominate Gladys Roux for Treasurer and to close nominations. A unanimous vote of acclimation elects Gladys Roux for Treasurer.**

Appreciation was extended to Nicci Minnick for her many years of dedicated service as the club treasurer.

Board of Directors

- ⤴ Kendall Johnson and Warren Martiny resigned from the Board.
- ⤴ Board members who agreed to continue to serve are: Gary Koel, Steve Bethke, Lee Ellerbruch and Roger Beffa.
- ⤴ Harry Deutsch and Rick Oswald volunteered to serve on the Board.

Delegates and Alternate to the Sawyer County Alliance

- ⤴ Dick Engness needs to be replaced.
- ⤴ Delegates who agreed to continue to serve are: Dave Drew, Steve Lobitz, Tim Lee and Dick Olson.

- ✧ Jeff Johnston volunteered to serve as a delegate; Bonnie Swanson volunteered to serve as an alternate.

Trail Captain

Mike Robotka was recommended for Trail Captain and received unanimous approval from members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Adjournment

Motion: Jeff Johnston/Rick Oswald. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LaVonne Thompson, Secretary