

MINUTES – Executive Committee Meeting
7/18/2019 – 10:00AM – Lumberjack Office

Present: Bob Hermes, Wayne Plant, Claudia Baker, Yvonne Van Pembrook. Staff: Paul Mueller & Tracy Beckman

Call to Order at 10:10am

Motion by VanPembrook/Plant to approve the agenda with the addition of 'Audit Draft Review' & 'Project Fund Calculation Review'. Motion Carried.

FIA ITEMS

Employee Items – Tom D. has completed one year with Lumberjack and members received a copy of his review. Mueller's recommendation is for a step increase from GS-6 Step 1 to GS-7 Step 1. VanPembrook/Plant moved to approve the increase retro-active to his anniversary date of 5/30/19. Motion Carried.

Mueller stated Bayfield County plans to contract again next year for approximately 60 plots. He plans to leave the plot price the same even though we didn't make a profit. We would have, except we had two foresters instead of one doing the work to make sure it was done right the first time. In the future, we will only have the cost of one employee. VanPembrook/Plant moved to approve another year's contract with Bayfield County at the same price and the number of plots is at Mueller's discretion. Motion Carried.

FIA 5-year contract – The bid has still not been released so Mueller talked to the DNR yesterday and was told it should be out by the end of July. When the bid comes out, we will have a special Executive Committee Meeting to review/approve the bid.

Other FIA items included Iron Co Plots, one forest management plan contracted and one pending, both in Price County.

Curran Building Issues – Hermes explained the building issues this past winter/spring with the ice dams on the roof. It was decided to review the situation again next year before the lease is up in May.

Absorbing Other Counties – It was decided that if/when a county approaches us to become part of Lumberjack, there would be a 'buy-in' based on historical project fund balances, dues and other items. The State Association is fully supportive of RC&Ds absorbing counties and/or doing conservation work in non-RC&D counties.

Belle Plaine issue – The township was awarded a Lumberjack grant to buy a specific amount of well-water test kits. The response was greater than anticipated and they purchased double the amount of kits and asked for an increase in their grant amount to cover the extra cost. Beckman explained that project grant amounts are final, but they are encouraged to apply for another L.J. grant in the future. They have since submitted an invoice for the full amount and the grant is complete.

State Association Government Recommendations – Motion by VanPembrook/Plant to approve the draft (with edits to make all 'RC&D's consistent) guidelines of how to coordinate government relations activities at the State level. The committee decided to wait and see what other groundwater legislation is brought forth, rather than sending a letter in support of bills that have failed.

Audit Draft Review – The Committee questioned some of the line items, Beckman will contact Wipfli for answers.

Project Fund – Beckman explained with the posting of the adjusting journal entries from Wipfli, she was able to calculate the amount of funds (according to policy) available for 2020 Lumberjack Grants. VanPembrook/Baker moved to recommend that the Council approves the \$45,636.52 according to the policy calculation even though there is \$56,665 in excess funds also available. Motion Carried.

Review Council Meeting agenda – Members reviewed and adjusted the agenda. Motion by Baker/VanPembrook to recommend the full council make 'Lumberjack's Sustainable Forestry Awards' program a budget line item for \$500/year. Motion Carried.

Adjourn – Plant/Baker moved to adjourn at 12:01pm. Motion Carried.



Submitted 7/18/2019 by Yvonne Van Pembrook, Secretary