

**Birchwood Bobcat ATV Meeting Minutes**  
**Sportsman's Lodge Bar and Grill**  
**July 13, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.**

President Steve Lobitz called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. There were 16 members and one guest present.

**Motion:** Lee Ellerbruch/Roger Beffa, to accept the minutes of June 8, 2011 meeting as printed. The secretary reported that there are a number of persons on the mailing list whose memberships have lapsed. Renewal forms were sent to these households. Beginning this month, minutes will not be mailed to households whose memberships have lapsed. Note was made that memberships run from April 1 through March 31. Members were encouraged to provide e mail addresses to the secretary. It is more economical to e mail the minutes whenever possible. All concurred; motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the period 06/06/11 through 07/06/11 prepared by Nicci Minnick was reviewed.

- The following account balances were reported:

1. Regular savings	\$1,967.05
2. Raffle savings	7,769.12
3. Checking	<u>732.87</u>

Total \$10,469.04

- 2000 Ford F450 Dump Truck Note:

1. Net Pay Off	\$12,406.23
2. Payment Due 08/01/11	4,000.00

**Motion:** Lee Ellerbruch/Bob Ellerbruch, to accept the report as printed. All concurred; motion carried.

**Map Boxes**

Members responsible for boxes were encouraged to check the boxes periodically to ensure that maps are available and to collect money received for maps. Map money should be given to Nicci along with a note stating the place where the money was collected.

Nicci reported that a volunteer is needed to take care of the following boxes. Below is a list of the businesses and the volunteer:

Papa Pete's, Full Throttle, Bear Paw, Hauck's,	
Northwest Honda and Stodola's -	Seasonal Power Toys
Thomas Marine -	Nicci Minnick

**Membership**

Steve Lobitz reported that we have about 125 members.

**Raffle Tickets**

Steve Lobitz reported that 110 tickets have been sold; 90 tickets are still available. Early Bird drawing will be held after the meeting.

## **Birchwood Bluegill Festival (July 15 - 17)**

- **Kid's games at Doolittle Park on Saturday, 7/16**

Nicci Minnick, Lisa Lee and Judy Martiny volunteered to coordinate this project.

- **Parade on Sunday, 7/17**

Line-up near the Big Bluegill beginning at 11:45 a.m.; parade starts at 1:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to participate and to help parade coordinators with the line-up of entries. Craig Minnick suggested that the Club's dump truck be included in the parade line-up.

### **Signage for the Ford F450 Dump Truck**

Discussion was held with regard to the need for lettering on the truck. Nicci Minnick volunteered to get estimates for magnetic signs.

## **Trail Reports**

### **Sawyer County trail report:**

Don Mrotek, Sawyer County Alliance Trail Coordinator, provided the following information:

- The County Forester will be issuing bids this month for rehab work on the segment of Trail #31 from the junction of 3 and 31 to County Road F; bids will be opened at the August forestry department meeting.
- The County Forester recently inspected the segments of Trails 3 and 31, which were rehabbed with grant funds obtained through the Forestry Department last year. He reports washouts and corners needing blading and stressed that regular trail maintenance is the key to keeping trails in good condition. The Forester recommends blading at least three times a season - spring, mid-summer and fall. The State reimburses trail maintenance at the rate of \$450./mile. Club members agreed to set up a maintenance schedule, perform the maintenance, and submit the hours/equipment bill to the Alliance.
- Use of the Club's equipment (posi-trac and blade) is reimbursable at the State reimbursement rate to the Club through the Alliance.
- Persons maintaining Sawyer County trails are covered by Worker's Compensation through the Alliance. The Club should check with Washburn County to determine if this coverage is in force for trail workers in that jurisdiction. If not, the Club should look into obtaining coverage.
- The Alliance does not have a contract to maintain the Tuscobia Trail and cannot be reimbursed for work on it. Kathy Oginski, DNR Warden, should be contacted to report major damage. No work should be performed on the Tuscobia without prior contact to Kathy. Steve and Tim volunteered to serve as our local contacts to facilitate necessary work on the Tuscobia Trail.
- The six gates the Club requested for the rehabbed sections of Trails 31 and 27 are available. The intended use of the gates was to keep vehicle traffic off the trails. The Sawyer County Access Plan allows vehicle traffic on the trails; therefore, the gates are not needed. Don will advise the County Forester of this fact.
- Discussed coordinating trail opening and closing dates with adjacent counties.
- Steel sign posts were delivered this week to Hayward Power Sports. The Club can coordinate pick-up with Don.
- Safety issues concerning the large water hole as you exit the Tuscobia Trail to 31S were addressed. The question is who is responsible to take care of it. Don will take this matter up with the County Forester with the suggestion that he and Kathy Oginski work out some resolution to this long-standing problem.

In closing Don emphasized that the County Forester has asked that clubs plan for the future. Develop plans for brushing, blading, graveling, etc. July 1 begins the new fiscal year. There is money available to maintain the trails. The work needs to get done. Let Don know how he can help to move this forward

to ensure appropriate utilization of available funding.

Steve Bethke requested the Club's help to control dust on Scenic Road, particularly the 1/4 mile in front of his business. Following discussion of options, the Club agreed to post 15 mile/hour speed limit and "Slow - Dust Control" signs.

#### **Washburn County trail report:**

- Craig Minnick submitted his work hours to Steve Lobitz for the period July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011.
- Craig reported graveling and blading work will start Monday on the trail segment from Elbow Lake to Berry Road.
- Loggers are working in the area from Long Lake to Fire Lane. Work will begin on the north end of the trail.
- Note was made that there is a 2-year time frame to complete work authorized for reimbursement through grant funds.
- The issue of contracting rehab work and using the Club's equipment to maintain trails was discussed. Steve Lobitz suggested that rehab progress in Washburn County be monitored and the matter be taken up at the August meeting.
- Tim Lee volunteered to take over record keeping/billing responsibilities for Washburn County trail work. Thanks to Lee Minnick for his work in this area over the years.
- Steve Lobitz reminded volunteers to turn in their work/equipment hours monthly to Tim Lee.

#### **Club Meeting Day**

Requests have been received to hold our meetings on Thursday evenings so that members who are out of town earlier in the week have an opportunity to attend.

**Motion:** Dave Drew/Bob Lewis to hold Club meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. beginning with the August 2011 meeting. The question was raised with regard to the meeting day stated in the Club's by-laws; a change in day may require a by-law revision. All concurred; motion carried.

Lincolnwood, Big Sexy's and Chit Chat were suggested as meeting places. Steve Lobitz volunteered to arrange for meeting places for the remainder of the season.

**Reminder:** Sawyer County Alliance meeting hosted by the Club is at Paul's Pizza Den on Tuesday, July 19th - trail captains' meeting at 6:00 p.m.; regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Delegates were encouraged to attend all Alliance meetings.

Steve Bethke suggested that a checklist of volunteer opportunities be included on the membership form. This would be a way to encourage club involvement and to increase our volunteer base. The secretary will follow up on this suggestion.

**Next Meeting:** **Thursday, August 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chit Chat Bar, Grill and Resort located at 15578W Cty Rd F, Birchwood.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. for the Trail Improvement Early Bird Raffle Drawing. **Early Bird Winners: Fred Nichols - Burlington, WI, and Stan and Scott Lindow - Birchwood.**

Respectfully submitted by LaVonne Thompson, Secretary