

Wood County State Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

February 12, 2024 Minutes

Present: Dennis Polach, Curt Pluke, Mike Wipfli, Scott McAuley, Larry Isensee, Jim Winkler, Dawn Schmutzer, Zak Knab, Fritz Schubert

1. Call to order by Vice Chair Winkler at 5:30pm
2. Quorum declared
3. Curt made a motion to approve minutes from October 9, 2023. Scott second. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. No correspondence
5. No public comment
6. Sandhill- Meadow Valley- Wood County update
 - a. Did not get America the Beautiful grant.
 - b. FT wildlife tech has final candidate identified
 - c. Recruiting for two other positions
 - d. 1st impoundment tree removal project at standstill due to weather conditions
 - e. Stewart marsh dike repair slotted for August
 - f. North barrens prescribed burn this summer
 - g. Dike breach off Woodcock Factory; patch work was completed
 - h. 25 acres buckthorn treatment this year
 - i. Sandhill fence mowing completed and spraying the perimeter will be done in summer
 - j. Sandhill Fence inspection done and recertified for 10 years. Recertified Farm Raised Deer license renewed
 - k. Draw downs: 4th impoundment will be full drawdown; Stewart Marsh will be mid-pool for dike work over summer
 - l. Timber sales: 6 active/410 acres-halted due to conditions; 7 inside sales/416 acres
 - m. Research Projects: Ruffed Grouse trapping project, turkey project will GPS hens, deer collar/tag project was looking to reduce population by 50% and came close, looking to replace collars from harvested deer.
 - n. Deer hunts: 115 archery participants/9 harvested, Learn to Hunt 56 participants/21 harvested; gun hunt 224 participants/99 harvested
 - o. Helicopter survey of deer showed 151 observed deer (right on track).
7. 2024 Allotment Update - \$10,000 total: half to Stewart Marsh and half to 1st impoundment tree removal. Discussion around using allotment to pay for equipment/rentals. Future funding can be slotted for equipment rentals.
8. 2024 Terms Ending (Jim, Dawn, Nathan) Dawn and Jim will be staying on. Dawn did send Nathan mail to ask and have not heard yet.
9. Member Matters: Dawn bragged her daughter is graduating from UW-SP in May with a Natural Resources Education master and is being awarded the Outstanding Resource Management Student of the Year. Scott updated on WI Conservation Congress looking for resolutions for spring hearing (April 8).
10. Future Agenda Items: allotment for 2025 for equipment; verify 2024 allotment amounts & projects
11. Next meeting Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 5:30pm at Sandhill
12. Motion to adjourn by Curt, second by Scott, all ayes, motion passed. Adjourned at 6:22pm.