MEETING MINUTES CONSERVATION COMMITTEE September 2, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Gauthier @ 8:02 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Scott Grush, Dan Failla, Dan Gauthier,

Jim West, Greg Lewis, Bill Zimmerman, Brian Deutschel

Absent: Mike Jolly(excused) Bill Ruelle (excused)

The Minutes from August were reviewed and motion was made to accept By Greg and 2nd by Bill Z.

All approved. Motion carried.

Changes to the agenda were the additions of a GPS update by W. Romatz and the email communication from the ABC forester.

**Old Business**

GPS update: Wayne emphasized the need for a E-blast reminder to the membership regarding the dates for cutoff to receive blind tags. It was said to continue this info blast until October 15.

Camera survey: Megan provided a brief written update for the work completed and the work yet to do.

Tree plantings for 2018: Black Hills, Austrian, and Norway spruce will be purchased for the conifer planting project. A Saturday September 16 work bee is being planned.

Deer management plan: It was discussed the need for a plan, the planning is still getting off the ground. Brian made a motion to begin a Wildlife Management plan for LLWC with a focus on deer being first.

Jim W. 2nd, all approved. Motion carried.

Burning the preserve: Greg will organize a grid work for mowing. Dan F. spoke with Roger McNeill about the burning. It was mentioned the benefits are to reduce fuel loads, control invasive species, and improve habitat. More research to follow.

**Regular Item Reports:**

**Lakes/Dams/Fish**: Bill R. Bill Z. – There was a big die off of some 56 fish in the Trout Pond. Suspicions are the water is too hot that the pond aerator is moving too much water. Ian will discuss this with Cedar Brook trout farm.

**Budget**: Dan F., Brian –See New business.

**Fields:**  Greg, Bill R. – Winter wheat/rye mix is being planted. 7 acres of clover has been planted. Greg will work to get a spreadsheet for addition to the club website under Conservation.

**Timber**: Scott, Brian – The 2017-18 bid was approved by the Board. Bugg Forestry will harvest the timber at a cost of $100,700.00

**Turkey Feeders:** Dan G., Jim. –Jim provided a draft of the planned feeder he can modify. All approved his design, he will follow up with DNR CO for his approval.

**Future Planning**: Mike, Brian - Nothing new to report.

**To Do List**: Scott - Scott read the To Do list for September.

**Pheasant shoots:** Mike, Greg – Mike sent a email with requests to the Club for information. Greg read the tentative shoot dates.

**Surveys:** Dan G., Jim- Jim has the September deer surveys and has volunteers lined up to run it.

**Hunter’s Round Up**: Dan G, Bill R. – No new developments. Keep selling raffle tickets.

**Articles**: Scott, Brian, Jim – Jim has an idea for a safety article.

**Outside Resources**: Scott, Dan G., Mike, Bill – RGS will be in soon to do some trail daylighting. Huron Pines has sprayed the invasives.

**Forest health issues**: Mike, Scott, Brian – Terry marked a couple additional dead oak trees out by the first suspected oak wilt quarantine area (west side of property). We will all continue to observe.

**Blind Committee**: Dan G., Bill Z., Dan F. – A tree stand was found to be left after May 1 and tagged prior to August 5, 2017. The Blind Committee wished to forward this issue to the Board for enforcement.

**Trail Sports Committee**: Bill Z. says there si a plan to have Wolf Rd. open to snowmobiles. H Trail is closed for Labor Day.

**Open Forum**  No news.

**New Business**

**Budget 2018**: Brian presented the budget requests from Conservation. Group discussion followed each item. Jim made a motion to accept the budget as presented with amendments made today, Bill Z. 2nd. All approved, motion carried to send the budget requests to Finance Committee.

**2018-19 timber harvest proposal:** Scott will ask the Forester to amend the proposal to include the request about not disturbing established ground blinds and create a drumming log every 3 acres within the aspen harvest units.

**Bear lake Launch:** A discussion about widening the launch and moving the dock back over alongside the launch site. Finishing Lost lake first is priority and will give us a better understanding of what the true cost to tackle such a project in the future. Put on hold for now but under advisement.

**Hunter observation cards**: Scott will edit dates and Wayne has agreed to help update the map.

Sending to management for printing prior to the youth hunt.

**Communications**

Scott received the following email from the ABC Forester- Golden winged warbler habitat project forester:

*Hi Scott,*

*You most likely have already heard by now, but I wanted to personally let you know that I’ll be departing from ABC at the end of September.  My position has been posted and they are currently in the hiring process.  It’s been a pleasure to be able to assist you and tour the Lost Lake Woods Club.  In the 2 years I’ve spent in Michigan meeting with over 100 non-industrial landowners as well as spending time on industry, state, and national forests…Lost Lake Woods is the greatest “landscape level” example of high-quality wildlife management I’ve yet to see.  Keep up the amazing work you’re doing there!*

*My last trip to the northern lower will be next week.  I can make myself available on Tuesday, September 5th to flag some boundaries to some of your project areas if you’d like.  If you would prefer to have them flagged after hunting season, the new ABC forester will be able to assist you than.  John Paige of RGS was in Marquette for a couple days last week and mentioned you’ll be working with them this winter, which is awesome!  Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist you.  I know in the interim and through the remainder of the project, you’ll be in great hands with Kurt Dalman at NRCS in Tawas City.*

*Best,*

*Chad Carlin*

**Private Lands Forester**

**American Bird Conservancy**

**Front desk email**: Email from front desk staff regarding tree stand hung prior to August 5th. See Blind Committee report.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Brian moved and Dan F. 2nd.  Unanimous approval.  Meeting adjourned at 11:19a.m.

Submitted by Scott Grush, Secretary.