



North Country Career Center

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Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Program: Natural Resources

Date: April 5, 2023

Time: 1 PM

Location: Couture Sugarhouse

**Present: Jacques Couture (JC), Parker Castle (PC), Ian Irwin (II), Sam Nijensohn (SN),
Jared Nunery (JN), Allen Yale (AY), Colleen Goodridge (CG)**

Items discussed

- Welcome to our new member, Parker Castle and a prospective new member Ian Irwin + introductions
- CTSO: SN: FFA year in review: discussed in-class, NCCC structure, Lake Region student participation, officer rotations, and Nationals trip
- Timber Harvest Report: AY: discussed timber harvest details, timing, firewood, volumes BF, and later AY was recognized for donating the stumpage checks to the George Buzzell Scholarship Fund
- Sugaring Season Report (so far): JC: started Valentines day but then got cold again- discussed the variation based on temps and locations including from town to town (i.e. Jay vs Eden) as well as elevation differences even in the Couture sugarbush. JN added statewide observations including the termination of the season in southern parts of the state and the higher yields (average/ normal) on west facing slopes.
- Trip Reports (FFA National Convention, Ice Fish and Winter Camping, Sawmill tour, St John River, Timbersports, FFA State Convention Day 1 + 2 incl. GOL tech school) SN shared details r.e. FFA Nationals, PC covered Ice Fish/ Winter Camp + ST John, and CG described the sawmill visit and also stated the impact of the thank you letters
- IRCs & LEAP : II discussed GOL 1-4 and how well suited the Yale woodlot was for the training. SN and II described LEAP and discussed options for the 1st Aid/ Logger Safety

beyond the present option (perhaps SOLO Wilderness 1st Aid). PC brought up the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's fall training as perhaps a time/ place for the training

- Land Lab Projects (skidder bridges, deer exclusion harvest and "sap shack" tank shed): JN explained the deer exclusion harvest and SN shared r.e. the construction projects
- Outreach and marketing (sophomore tours in Nov, 8th grade last week + 2nd graders!)
- OCMPA: annual meeting: JC and JN both were present and explained the impact of this year's good turnout and presentation. SN expressed concern for future years as no "returning" sugarmakers with the 1 year program transition. JC pointed out that a program update sans sugaring would still be great and would be of value for the OCMPA crew
- Graduating seniors- next year's plans: SN shared plans incl forestry school @ Paul Smiths + VTC forestry
- Returning students- next year's schedules: SN
- 1 year program: review of new format: SN described the value of it and how it has gone well
- Equipment upgrade review (truck purchase postponed but g/n trailer purchased): SN
- Next year's student #'s and sending schools: SN expressed concern over first round application numbers (and only 1 from LR) and CG asked about other ways to market to LR students/ guidance. JN brought up woodlot work options by the school and in the area that could increase exposure.
- Other items: CG suggested the VFPA newsletter could benefit from a write up from the 2nd grade sugaring visit.

Adjourned 2:10 (and opened GB Scholarship meeting)

Respectfully submitted

SN