

# **DAIRYLAND OUTDOOR VETERANS RETREAT**

## **Meeting Minutes**

July 8th, 2025 6 pm

### **I. Call to order**

Chairman, Doug Willert called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

### **II. Roll call**

The following people were present: Rod Wilson, Jodi Schmidt, Don and LeeAnn McConkey, Steve and Diane Olson, Doug Willert, Brenda and Scott Larson, Heide and Jeff Johnson. **Approval of minutes from last meeting:** LeeAnn McConkey made a motion to accept the minutes, Diane Olson 2nd, no discussion, motion carried.

### **III. Chairman's Report:**

Doug Willert reported that he is working on a special project and needs all board members to track volunteer hours. Anything related to the retreat or Veterans Organizations.

Doug will be attending Fort McCoy on September 5th for a retirement workshop for Veterans. He will have a booth for outreach to give awareness to Veterans from other states to learn what we are all about. He also contacted Fort Ripley, however their event is only every other year and we missed it by a week.

### **IV. Treasurer Report:**

Don McConkey reported that we have a bank balance of as of 06/30/25 of \$143,626 with. Don gave copies to all board members of deposits, expenses and CD balance of over \$83,000.

Donnie also shared that he and Scott Larson have been working hard to add additional WIFI units so that the campers have better access. And 2 new cameras were installed.

Heide Johnson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Steve Olson 2nd the motion, no discussion, motion carried.

### **V. Secretary's Report:**

Jodi reported that the NAILBA grant was submitted and we should hear by October if approved. No thank you letters sent this past month.

### **VI. Unfinished Business-**

**a. Crowdfunding:** tabled for next meeting

**b. Iron River Cabins: A Glamping Opportunity:**

Heide presented information and photographs of primitive cabins available for purchase from her brother's restaurant in Iron River. These cabins vary in size from 14x12 to 16x14 and are priced at \$7,500, to be moved off-site. Heide is organizing a field trip to Iron River to inspect the cabins and determine if purchasing them for the retreat, with the intention of renting them out for "glamping," is a viable option.

**c. 23rd Veterans Recon Group information:** tabled

**d. Clean-up day:** August 3rd at 10 am

**e. Defibrillator:**

It was determined that we will purchase a defibrillator and mount it outside by the bathroom. Rod Wilson is checking on the possibility of donation from his source.

**f. Amish or Military construction group:**

Discussion surfaced around getting the building committee together to go over next steps. This gathering center project has been stalled and we need to figure out next steps. Heide and Rod shared that we do have some documents and plans that we should be working from and to include Dale Anderson in on next steps.

**Doug outlined his thoughts on the who- what- where and when:**

- **Review and assess** the current status of the project
- **Evaluate** the existing documents and plans to ensure it is what we are needing
- **Outline** a clear roadmap with next steps
- **Propose** actionable strategies to overcome any identified hurdles and secure necessary resources.
- **Establish** a timeline for the next phases of development

**g. Insurance policy reviewed:** nothing yet to report

**VII. Committee Reports:**

**A. Marketing/Public Relations and Website:**

Heide updated the donation letter. Everyone should have a copy, if not let her know and she will send it to you.

Heide is in the process of updating the board member phone list

Heide will check with Tyler about getting a volunteer opportunity request on our website.

EV stickers were ordered and received and Scott Larson put them out on outlet stations.

**B. Campspot:** Camp Spot numbers and treasurers report are agreeing. We had a busy 4th of July. Campspot reservations are up over 1900 from previous years. We do have a large Veterans group coming for their annual gathering

**C. Fundraising:**

1-Prime Dinner-Letters have been sent out and already have 10 early bird responses. Board members are getting some great donations for prizes.

2-Golden Ticket- Ticket purchases are moving slow and it was noted that some establishments are not keeping the tickets out for patrons to purchase the tickets are not visible.

**D. Building Maintenance:**

Jeff did have a discussion with Matt Holter regarding the construction barrels that sit in front of the dam. It was suggested that we move some of the boulders we have available to put there instead to make it look more presentable. Donnie will bring his skid steer on cleanup day to move the boulders. It is township property.

**E. Garden Report:** Gardens are looking really nice. A lot of weeding and fresh mulch has been added. The pergola will wait until next spring. however Diane presented a sketch of what she is looking for in regards to the arbor. She has contacted an outfit in Spooner and it was suggested that she also contact Jon Keller who also does welding art.

**F. Newsletter:** Nothing to report

**H. Camp Host**

Brenda and Scott are working on the playground area to insert timbers and new sand.

They are also working around the cabin Area- improvement to the ground, still need to order black dirt. They are looking at mulch to handle the water run off and also looking at installing pavers. All items are within budget.

They have been very busy inside as well organizing the closets.

**IX. New Business**

a. Jordan Buck Days: Sept 27th. Merle Meyer, Steve Olson and Doug Willert will be our representatives.

b. Date night at DOVR: tabled

## **IXI. Adjournment**

Jodi Schmidt made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LeeAnn MCconkey.  
Next meeting will be held on Tuesday August 12th at 6pm. Respectfully  
submitted by:

*Jodi Schmidt*

Jodi Schmidt, Secretary