

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2018

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Monday January 8, 2018.

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were:** Arian Knops, Pete Boss, Jerry Biller, Phil Schneider and Lyle Lieftring.

**Also present:** Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator, Ted East – Rusk County Human resource Director and Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester.

**Present from the Public:**

Bob Grunseth, George Sishman and Don Mansky.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Lieftring/Schneider to approve December 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**

Rusk Riders ATV Club has a recommendation/proposal for a new restroom facility be built by the Bruce Snowmobile Club warming shelter (Blue Goose). They would like the funding to be submitted to the ORV Council and would be willing to share the cost of instillation as well as future maintenance.

Bob Grunseth – talked about the ORV council meeting he attended.

**Perch Lake Campground Development:**

Paul informed the Committee that Olynick will gravel the Perch Lake Campground and Rusk County Highway will start the ATV Serely Camp Road gravel this week.

**Timber Sale Contracts, Closeouts and Renewals:**

Lionel Klein found more blowdown on Timber Sale Contract #2542. Paul is requesting a 1 year 0% extension on Contract #2469 due on April 30, 2018. The extension would extend the Contract to April 30, 2019.

Motion Boss/Lieftring to approve a 1 year extension on Contrat #2469 with 0% increase until April 2019. Motion carried.

**2017 Forestry Report:**

I. **This is to convey to you a report of the operations and accomplishments of the Rusk County Forestry Department for the calendar year of 2017.**

II. **Parks and Recreation**

1. Parks and boat landings were supervised and maintained by the Forestry Department staff.

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2. Aerators at Audie Lake and Lea Lake were maintained by the Forestry Department Staff.
3. Dams, at Murphy, Island, Bucks and Lea Lake were maintained by Forestry Department staff.
4. Josie Creek Shooting Range was maintained by Forestry Department staff.
5. Chippewa River Recreation area was maintained by Forestry Department staff. Demolition of an old house on the property, considered to be a hazard, was completed at a cost of \$11,975.00. Planning is underway for recreation facility development.

**6. CAMPGROUND REVENUE**

CAMPGROUND/PARK	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Non-Designated Camping Permits	\$ 668.93	\$ 670.11	\$ 546.21	\$ 870.00	\$ 723.00
Remote Sites	\$ 673.00	\$ 406.38	\$ 709.70	\$ 924.68	\$ 919.73
Audie Lake Campground	\$14,546.21	\$16,284.24	\$16,991.95	\$ 15,299.69	\$ 17,760.33
Josie Creek Park	\$15,704.31	\$15,880.73	\$15,123.60	\$ 16,522.25	\$ 16,175.47
Murphy Dam Campground	\$ 6,912.89	\$ 5,776.79	\$ 6,593.27	\$ 8,188.67	\$ 6,980.72
Perch Lake Campground	\$ 2,076.42	\$ 1,907.01	\$ 1,557.36	\$ 2,400.30	\$ 3,783.45
Murphy/Community Pavilion Rent	\$ 300.00	\$ 189.56	\$ 341.22	\$ 284.00	\$ 681.04
Dump Station	\$ 114.66	\$ 138.37	\$ 124.50	\$ 216.79	\$ 193.51
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$40,993.42</b>	<b>\$41,253.19</b>	<b>\$41,987.81</b>	<b>\$44,706.38</b>	<b>\$47,217.25</b>

**7. Non-Designated Camping Permits Issued: (Regular Camping Season and Gun-Deer Season)**

YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b># OF PERMITS ISSUED</b>	Regular 9 Deer Season 28	Regular 12 Deer Season 18	Regular 38 Deer Season 20	Regular 10 Deer Season 21

8. The cross-country trail system in the Blue Hills was again maintained by the Rusk County Trails Association, mowing was done by the Forestry Department.
9. State Funded Rusk County ATV/UTV Trails.  
\*24 miles in the Blue Hills were maintained by the Rusk Riders ATV Club and the Rusk County Forestry Department.

**2016-2017 Trail Maintenance Cost: \$16,836.99**  
Reimbursed by the State ATV Funds: \$16,836.99

- Approximately 5 Miles of State Funded ATV Trail Rehab was done on the Blue Hills Trail at a cost of \$ 48,579.00, this consisted of graveling portions of existing funded ATV Trail.
- Development of Serley Camp/Weirgor ATV Trail at cost of \$ 193,018.00; consisting of 1.8 mi. gravel surface application at east trail section. Construction of ATV bridge at Spring Creek and clearing/shaping 0.8 miles of trail at west section.
- Construction began at the Perch Lake Camp campground. The campground is being renovated for ATV use.

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10. State Funded Rusk County Snowmobile Trails.  
\*331.92 miles of Rusk County Snowmobile Trails were maintained by Rusk County Snowmobile Clubs in the **2016-2017** Season.

**THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:**

<u>SNOWMOBILE-CLUB NAME</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Maintenance Cost</u>
Bruce Trailblazers	99.7	\$ 11,065.00
Hawkins Sno-Hawks	55.0	\$ 7,923.15
Ladysmith Driftbusters	85.0	\$ 22,061.59
Sheldon Rough Riders	27.2	\$ 7,021.50
Weyerhaeuser	<u>66.5</u>	<u>\$ 17,005.75</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>333.4</b>	<b>\$ 65,076.99</b>
 County Liability Insurance		 \$ 375.57

**TOTAL PAYMENT FOR SNOWMOBILE 2016-2017 MAINTENANCE: \$65,452.56**

**III. Timber Sales**

1. 27 timber sales were established in 2017 consisting of the following:

FOREST TYPE	# OF SALES	BID VALUE	ACRES	M.B.F.	HDWD	ASPEN	RED Pine/Spruce	BASSWOOD	WHITE BIRCH
MARKED HDWD	17	\$ 843,425.00	1,758	2,161.0	11,486	175	0	1,425	0
ASPEN	7	\$ 227,500.00	415	31.0	2,139	6,460	100	75	200
Conifer Swamp	0	\$ 0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ash Swamp	1	\$ 5,000.00	13	0	200	0	0	0	0
Red Pine	1	\$ 20,500.00	60	0	0	50	550	0	0
SALVAGE	5	\$ 15,050.00	160	72.0	200	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$ 1,111,475.00</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>2,264.0</b>	<b>14,025</b>	<b>6,635</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>200</b>

**TOTAL = 28,260 Cords Established**

2. 29 timber sales were sold in 2017 consisting of the following:

FOREST TYPE	# OF SALES	BID VALUE	ACRE S	M.B.F.	HDWD	ASPEN	RED Pine/Spruce	BASSWOOD	WHITE BIRCH
MARKED HDWD	18	\$ 1,055,749.50	1,760	2,163.0	11,536	200	0	1,425	0
ASPEN	9	\$ 360,752.00	446	31.0	2,314	7,035	100	75	200
Conifer Swamp	1	\$ 12,687.50	91	0	0	0	1250	0	0
Ash Swamp	3	\$ 25,740.50	92	90.0	1550	0	120	0	0
Red Pine	1	\$ 34,205.00	60	0	0	50	550	0	0
SALVAGE	4	\$ 15,050.00	160	72.0	200	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$ 1,504,185.00</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>2,356.0</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>7,285</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>200</b>

**TOTAL = 26,615 Cords Sold**

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3. 23 Timber Sales Contracts were closed out in 2017 consisting of the following totals:

FOREST TYPE	# OF SALES	BID VALUE	ACRES	M.B.F.	HDWD	ASPEN	RED Pine/Spruce	BASSWOOD	WHITE BIRCH
MARKED HDWD	16	\$1,202,035.06	1,705	1,643.1	12,375	1,397	8	1,176	0
ASPEN	4	\$ 303,199.77	261	99.14	2,186	3,264	55	3	0
Red Pine	0	\$ 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALVAGE	4	\$ 146,190.58	618	547.57	2,065	2590	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>\$ 1,651,578.34</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>2,289.8</b>	<b>16,626</b>	<b>7,252</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>0</b>

TOTAL = 25,116 Cords Closed Out

4. Timber products reported cut on 51 sales were:

	2014	2015	2016	2017
MBF OF LOGS	1,048.06	1,264.18	2,011.71	2,446.24
CORDS OF MISC. HDWD PULP	15,367	13,767	15,808	18,732
CORDS OF ASPEN	5,719	6,085	11,586	6,834
CORDS OF WHITE BIRCH	0	63	76	0
CORDS OF BASSWOOD	1,294	1,291	1,038	1,676
CORDS OF RED PINE/Softwoods	382	649	1,413	74
<b>TOTAL CORDS</b>	<b>22,762</b>	<b>21,855</b>	<b>29,921</b>	<b>27,316</b>
NUMBER OF SALES	36	34	46	51

5. Timber products paid for

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Timber Products Paid for	\$ 1,046,469.89	\$ 1,193,085.44	\$ 1,787,202.08	\$ 1,756,589.33
Non Co. Forest Timber Sales Rev	\$ 14,504.28	00	0	\$ 208.95
Finance Charges for				\$ 637.05
Bonds Conf/Transferred for Stumpage	\$ 5,637.50	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 2,143.75	0.00
Bonds Conf. For Non-Performance	\$ 1,000.00	00	\$ 42,494.90	\$ 19,191.56
<b>GROSS STUMPAGE REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,066,611.67</b>	<b>\$ 1,206,585.44</b>	<b>\$ 1,831,840.73</b>	<b>\$ 1,776,626.89</b>
10% payment to Towns	-\$ 105,210.39	-\$ 120,658.59	-\$ 178,879.35	-\$ 175,659.03
20% payment to State	-\$ 44,382.81	-\$ 44,382.81	-\$ 44,382.81	-\$ 44,541.80
<b>TOTALS AFTER PAYMENT TO TOWNS/STATE</b>	<b>\$ 917,018.47</b>	<b>\$ 1,041,544.05</b>	<b>\$ 1,608,578.58</b>	<b>\$ 1,556,426.06</b>
1% Land Acquisition Account	-\$ 10,666.67	-\$ 12,066.00	-\$ 18,318.40	-\$ 17,766.00
Wood Permits Issued	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 965.28	\$ 550.00	\$ 590.00
Other County Forest Revenue	\$ 382.24	\$ 215.78	\$ 3,483.00	\$ 136.50
50% Admin Salary Grant	\$ 47,530.47	\$ 48,430.74	\$ 50,214.32	\$ 49,923.65
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 955,284.51</b>	<b>\$ 1,079,089.85</b>	<b>\$ 1,680,594.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,589,310.21</b>
<b>Total County Forest Expenses</b>	<b>-\$ 423,125.89</b>	<b>-\$ 437,956.50</b>	<b>-\$ 570,818.63</b>	<b>-\$ 473,367.00*</b>
<b>Levy Reduction (To General Fund)</b>	<b>\$ 532,158.62</b>	<b>\$ 630,089.33</b>	<b>\$ 1,109,775.67</b>	<b>\$ 1,115,943.21</b>

\*INDICATES 2017 YEAR EXPENSES ARE AN ESTIMATE

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	2014	2015	2016	2017
Timber Stumpage due Rusk County @ 12/31	\$ 12,139.13	\$ 15,305.85	\$ 75,202.14	\$ 57,266.93
Timber Sales cash bonds on hand @ 12/31	\$ 299,000.13	\$ 283,450.06	\$ 250,799.54	\$ 183,424.81
Performance Bonds @ 12/31				\$ 35,040.25
Irrevocable Letters of Credit on Hand at 12/31	\$ 635,565.83	\$ 825,214.30	\$ 919,014.98	\$ 1,001,846.92
Finance Charges for 2017	\$ 1,008.94	\$ 579.99	\$ 734.96	\$ 637.05
Land Acquisition Fund Bal 12/31	\$ 24,181.11	\$ 13,114.49	\$ 16,045.53	\$ 18,782.13
Est. Timber Value Under Cont @ 12/31	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ 3,200,000.00	\$3,300,000.00	\$ 3,100,000.00
Timber Value scaled by Co Forestry Staff	\$ 919,601.03	\$ 899,824.05	\$1,179,319.86	\$ 1,481,266.70
50¢/Acre Loan Acct Balance Balance as of 12/31	00	00	00	00

**2017 Annual Payments to Townships with County Forest Lands for 10% Severance on timber stumpage revenue.**

<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>TOWN ACREAGE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>2017 PAYMENT</u>
Atlanta	4,922.84	5.5112	\$ 9,680.92
Big Bend	1,320.00	1.4778	\$ 2,595.89
Cedar Rapids	9,998.65	11.1937	\$ 19,662.75
Dewey	240.00	0.2687	\$ 472.00
Hubbard	8,545.16	9.5665	\$ 16,804.42
Murry	18,885.86	21.1432	\$ 37,139.94
South Fork	6,795.73	7.6080	\$ 13,364.14
Strickland	3,859.23	4.3205	\$ 7,589.35
Thornapple	441.68	0.4945	\$ 868.63
True	669.14	0.7491	\$ 1,315.86
Wilkinson	17,611.53	19.7166	\$ 34,633.99
Wilson	16,033.75	17.9502	\$ 31,531.15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>89,323.57</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$ 175,659.03</b>

<b>Timber Sales Under Contract:</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>
- Marked Hardwood	61	6,209
- Aspen	19	1,001
- Pine/Spruce	2	54
- Swamp Hardwood	6	213
- Swamp Conifer	4	212
- Salvage Sales	4	925
	<u>72</u>	<u>8,614</u>

**IV. County Forest Land Acquisition**

- County Land Acquisition Account # 100-61-48306  
12-31-17 Account Balance \$ **18,782.13**

**V. County Forest Roads and Trails Gravel Crushing Account \$ 25,920.87**

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Motion by Schneider/Biller to forward the 2017 County Forest Report to County Board. Motion carried

**Forestry Department Staff:**

Interviews are tomorrow with 6 people interviewers for the Rusk County Administrator position.

**Closed Session – Announced by Chair:**

*Possible Land Acquisition – Purchase or Trade*

Chair announces closed session for negotiating sale of city/county owned property: Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1) (e).

Motion by Lieftring /Biller to enter into closed session. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Boss, Biller, Knops and Schneider. Motion carried.

Also Present: Derek Jochimsen

Entered into Closed Session at 8:40 a.m.

Motion by Lieftring/Biller at 9:08 a.m.to return to Open Session. Motion carried

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Biller/Lieftring to review and approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Lieftring/Boss to adjourn at 9:11 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be February 12, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.

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