

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### February 20, 2019

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday February 20, 2019.

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were:** Phil Schneider. Jerry Biller Lyle Lieftring, Allan Rathsack and Terry Dusell.

**Also present:** Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager and Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester.

**Present from the Public:**

Don Mansky, Fred Nash and Bob Grunseth.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Biller/Lieftring to approve January 16, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**

No public comments made.

**Parks Report:**

Mike, Parks Manager gave an update on Parks.

- Working on Permits – Little Soft Maple, Moose Ear and Wilson Meadow.
- Applying for 2019 Grant Applications.

**Timber Sale Report:**

Jeremy, Administrator gave an update on timber sales.

- Gave a report on active/completed timber sales in the County Forest.

**Administrators Report:**

Jeremy, Administrator gave an update in the Forestry Department.

- Forest Action Plan – state wide 10 year plan.
- Beaver Contract renewal for \$8,406.00.
- Forestry radios are installed.
- New Forestry truck has arrived.
- Spring timber sales will sent out in April instead of March.
- Emerald Ash Borer trapping will be conducted internally this summer. A dozen traps will be scattered throughout the county forest.
- Summer Tour in Jackson County June 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Jeremy and Phil attended the WCFA Board of Directors meeting last week.
  - 15 year plan template is being worked on.
  - 5 year strategic plan.
  - WCFA Director – Jane Severt is retiring.
  - Stewardship Funds will be going down.
  - Time study was shared (DNR assistance hours).
  - Talked about increasing the weight limit for log trucks.
- Jeremy read email comment on Perch Lake Campground.

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- Ice Age Trail correspondence.
- Snowmobile maintenance.
- Property line issue on 14 acres discrepancy, Jeremy will continue investigation along with Corporate Council.

**2019 Parks and Rec Resolutions:**

Discussion on approval on the following Resolutions:

- 2019 ATV Trail Maintenance and Development
- 2019 Recreational Boating Facilities Grants
- 2019 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance and Development
- 2019 County Conservation Maintenance and Development

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve the four 2019 Parks and Recreation Resolutions and forward on to the full County Board. Motion carried.

**Temporary Access Agreements**

Discussion on the following loggers requesting Temporary Access Agreements.

- Keith Swensen
- Steigerwaldt
- Justin Kreier

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve Keith Swensen, Steigerwaldt and Justin Kreier Temporary Access Agreements. Motion carried.

**Pittman-Robertson Grant Application:**

Rusk County is working with Josh Spiegel, DNR Wildlife Biologist to apply for the following grants:

- Lea Lake- alder shearing, trail mowing and seed
- Hervas Road Area – road work

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to approve the application/acceptance of the Pittman-Robertson Grant. Motion carried.

**Seasonal Intern:**

Jeremy informed the Committee he has posted for the summer intern positions. He has budgeted 2 Interns for 2019 summer. Applications are due March 15.

**Aerators:**

Lea Lake – Aerator was not put in this year. Discussion ensued. Rusk County was advised by DNR Fisheries Biologist continued aeration would have limited benefits to the lake. Costs in terms of money and labor are high to maintain.

Audie Lake – is still being aerated this year.

Discussion held on whether a county forestry department should be aerating lakes. Open to organizations or volunteers taking over the aerators. Jeremy and Mike will do more research and bring the information back next month.

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**Campground Reservation Software:**

Lisa from DMI Studio gave the Forestry office a tutorial of the campground reservation system.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve the cost proposal. Motion carried.

**Advertise for Recreational Bridges:**

Mike would like to advertise for Little Soft Maple bridge and Moose Ear bridge removal, building and installation of bridges.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to approve for advertisement of both bridges. Motion carried.

**Pavilion Construction:**

New custom log pavilions will be installed at Audie and Perch Lake. County Forest red pine will be provided for construction. Mike would like Lot 2 Lodge to build both pavilions because the county has a long standing working relationship that benefits the county due to the knowledge of the area being worked on, the equipment used, and the difficulty of appropriately designing specifications for custom log buildings built with county forest grown red pine.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve Lot 2 Lodge build both pavilions. Motion carried.

**Meadow Dam ATV Trail Phase I Construction:**

Mike would like to use negotiated proposal process to work with a contractor on initial trail layout. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to use Scott Gudis to shape Phase I of Meadow Dam ATV Trail. Motion carried.

**Ice Age Trail:**

Jeremy and Mike had a meeting with the Ice Age Trail personnel about their trail concerns. They would like to move the trail into more of the County Forest and get away from private land. Jeremy will schedule time on one of the upcoming forestry committee meetings for an IAT presentation.

**Out of County Travel:**

NoRTAC in Spooner on February 28<sup>th</sup> and WCFA in Marshfield on March 13-15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve out of county travel. Motion carried.

**Highway Gravel Purchase:**

Highway would like to sell piles of material at the Deer Lake Pit. They have 2487 tons of Primary Gravel @ \$1.44 per ton (\$3,581.28) and 1476 tons of 1 ¼ inch Base for \$2.33 per ton (\$3,439.08) for a total of \$7,020.36.

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to purchase the both stock piles of gravel for a total of \$7,020.36. Motion carried.

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**Snapshot Wisconsin Program Participation:**

Snapshot Wisconsin is a volunteer-based monitoring project utilizing a statewide network of trail cameras operated through the DNR. Jeremy would like approval for volunteer participation in the Snapshot WI Program in the Rusk County Forest.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve participation at no cost to the County. Motion carried.

**Review 2018 Forestry Budgets:**

Reviewed the Budget

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to review and approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Lieffring/Biller to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be March 20, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.