

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday April 17, 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, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator and Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester. Andy Albarado – Administrative Coordinator.

Present from the Public:

Bob Grunseth, George Sishman, Lionel Klein, Tim Vacho, Don Mansky, Ben Hanson

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Biller/Lieftring to approve March 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:

Public comment was given in regards to the Chippewa Property.

Closed Session:

Forestry Bond Revocations or Confiscations, 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/DuSell to enter into closed session. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Lieftring, Biller, DuSell, Rathsack and Schneider. Motion carried.

Also present: Derek Jochimsen – DNR Liaison Forester, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager.

Entered into Closed Session at 8:03 a.m.

Motion by a Lieftring/Rathsack at 8:31 a.m. to return to open session.

Timber Sale Extensions and Closeouts:

Lionel Klein-Contract #2469 – Lionel asked the Committee for a special 1 year extension with a 10% increase to finish Contract 2469. Discussion held.

Vacho Trucking-Contract #2481 – Tim would like the Committee to collect partial bond only based off of amount of sale cut. Discussion held.

Ben Hanson (Futurewood)-Contract #2478 – Futurewood is willing to forfeit bond as per contract language but would like to retain bidding privileges. Discussion held.

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Information provided to committee based off of contract language.

CONTRACT #	LOGGER	6 MONTH EXTENTION
2489	CFP Transit	4th Extension
*2496	Peter Kron	4th Extension
2497	S&S Forestry Plus	4th Extension
2507	Dvorak Lumber	3rd Extension
2514	Burmeister Logging	2nd Extension
2516	Ron Olynick	2nd Extension
2525	Kreier Forest Product	2nd Extension
2526	Kreier Forest Product	2nd Extension
2527	Kreier Forest Product	2nd Extension
2529	Allen Suzan	1st Extension
2530	Allen Suzan	1st Extension
2532	JW Logging	1st Extension
2535	Ron Olynick	1st Extension
2537	S&S Forestry Plus	1st Extension
2538	JW Logging	1st Extension
2540	Kendall Logging	1st Extension

OUT OF EXTENSIONS			Cut status
2478	Futurewood	collect bond	not started
2472	Park Falls Hardwoods	collect bond	not started
2481	Vacho Trucking	collect bond	partial
2469	Lionel Klein	collect bond	partial
*2496	Peter Kron	collect bond	partial

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to provide extensions and collect bonds as presented. Discussion held on bond collection. Rich Summerfield, Corporation Council for Rusk County, gave a legal opinion. Biller rescinded his motion.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve all 6th month extensions as presented and closeout and collect bonds on Contract #2478-Futurewood, #2472-Park Falls Hardwoods and #2496-Peter Kron with no penalties. Motion carried.

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to give Lionel Klein a special 1 year extension with a 10% increase on Contract #2469 until 4/30/20. Motion carried.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to collect partial bond (\$7,700) and closeout contract #2481-Vacho Trucking. Motion carried 4-1. Schneider voted against.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to bring contract #2496-Peter Kron back on the floor.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to collect partial bond (\$20,000) and closeout contract #2496-Peter Kron. Motion carried 4-1. Schneider voted against

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to approve the Spring Timber sales as presented. Motion carried.

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Parks Report:

Mike, Parks Manager gave an update on Parks.

- The old pavilion at Audie Lake Campground has been dismantled.
- Logs have been harvested from the County Forest for Audie Lake and Perch Lake pavilions.
- Electricity and plumbing still has to be hooked up at Perch Lake Campground which should only take 2 more days.
- Water at the parks will be turned on in a week or so.
- Recreational grants have been submitted for 2019.

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad, Assistant Administrator gave an update on timber sales.

- No logging in the County Forest due to spring breakup.
- Some wood is decked and will sit until road bans are off.

Administrators Report:

Jeremy, Administrator gave an update in the Forestry Department.

- Jeremy and Jerrad attended MSHA training last month in Phillips.
- NoRTAC strategic planning meeting has been postponed.
- The hiring process for the Executive Director position with the Wisconsin County Forest Association is moving along.
- A local consultant forester contacted Jeremy to possibly partner with a private timber sale to provide access to a land locked county forest piece. Jeremy is looking into it and will inform the Committee of his findings.
- Drone was taken out by Lea Lake to see the alder shearing that DNR wildlife has completed.
- Capital improvement planning – replacement schedule for 5 years.
- Governors fishing opener will be in Rusk County on May 4th, 2019. Josie Creek will be a gathering place for the event.

Resolutions:

Two resolutions were presented to the Committee:

- 15 year Plan Amendment
- Parks Forest Ordinance Amendment

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to pass both resolutions as presented and forward to the County Board.
Motion carried.

Mowing Plans and Possible Purchase:

Westlake has informed the Forestry Department that they will no longer be mowing at our parks. Jeremy would like approval to hire a 3rd intern and purchase 2 lawn mowers. Property Committee had approved contingent upon Forestry Committee's decision. Discussion held.

Motion to by Lieffring/Dusell to approve the 3rd Intern and purchase 2 mowers for the Forestry Department. Motion carried.

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Black Bear Research:

Jeremy read a letter from Josh Speigel, DNR Wildlife Biologist, on upcoming Black Bear genetic research. 10 sites on the County Forest will be utilized.

Motion by Dusell/Rathsack to approve up to 10 sites on the County Forest for the Black Bear genetic research project. Motion carried.

Review and Approve Bills:

No report was given.

Adjourn:

Motion by Rathsack/Biller to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be May 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.