

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2018

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Monday May 14, 2018.

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

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

**Present from the Public:**

Bob Grunseth, George Sishman, Daryl Kinnear, Lionel Klein, Jason Klein and Don Mansky.

**Election of Chair and Vice Chairman:**

Motion by Lieftring/Biller to nominated Phil Schneider for Chairman of the Forestry Committee. Nomination called 3 times. Motion by DuSell to close nomination and cast a unanimous vote for Schneider as Chair. Motion carried.

Motion by Rathsack/Biller to nominated Lieftring for Vice-Chairman of the Forestry Committee. Nomination called 3 times. Motion by Biller to close nomination and cast a unanimous vote for Lieftring as Vice-Chairman. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve April 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**

George Sishman spoke about Trail clean up and grading ATV Trails and washouts that need to be fixed.

**Meeting time Change:**

Jeremy explained the importance of moving the meeting time/date. Discussion held. No action was taken.

**Administrators Report:**

Jeremy informed the Committee of the late spring delayed for marking timber. The Department is also trying to get the parks open.

**15 Year Plan Orientation:**

Rusk County Forestry 15 year Comprehensive Land Use Plan binders were handed out to all Committee members. This plan is the guiding principles to run the Forestry Department. Discussion was held on Wisconsin County Forest Law and DNR involvement with Rusk County Forestry.

**WCFA Information:**

Handouts given to the Committee. The Committee was informed that Phil is one of fifteen on the WCFA Board of Directors.

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**Parks Update:**

Intern Position: The Forestry Department hired 2 Interns Jake Zimmer and Caiden Pierson which will start work on May 22, 2018.

Summer Campground Host: Jim Knoll is a host once again at Josie Creek Campground. There may be a need for a host at Audie/Perch Campground for next year.

Mike gave an update of the Parks/Snowmobile/ATV/Boat Landing/ new development and Grant application to the Committee.

**Trail and Park Development Fund 2018 Expenditures:**

Jeremy discussed the Trail and Park Development fund Expenditures for 2018.

Summer Intern - \$8,000.00

Disc Golf at Chippewa Property - \$5,000.00

Culverts - \$5,000.00

Boat Landing Gravel - \$2,500.00

Rifle Range - \$5,000.00

Park/Road Gravel - \$5,000.00

Motion by Lieftring/Biller to approve the Trail and Park Development Summary. Motion carried.

**Cost Proposals:**

Jeremy gave the Committee a list of Safety Equipment that is a priority in the Forestry Department. Safety cost would be around \$15,000 to \$20,000.00 which included radios for trucks, first aid kits, tow straps, jumper cables, and come along, chaps, helmets, hazardous material cabinet and fire extinguishers. The Committee commented on the importance to purchase the safety equipment immediately.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to talk to Finance/Ted to purchase all safety equipment this year (2018) except radios. Motion carried.

Trailer for Tractor, Parks/Forestry Technician, Campground reservation system, Snowmobile, 1 Ton Dump Truck, ATV, Track/Power steering UTV, Electric at Community Park Pavilion, Pavilion at Audie Park, Dozer and Oak Wilt Regeneration Equipment.

Discussed taking 1 ton Dump Truck and Dozer off and put ATV back on list and give Finance a reason for the need of the Cost proposals. Jeremy pulled off Oak Regeneration Equipment.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to take off 1 ton Dump Truck and Dozer and put on tracked Skid steer on 2019 Cost Proposal and forward to Rusk County Administrator/Finance. Motion carried.

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**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/Rathsack to enter into closed session. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Biller, Schneider, DuSell, Lieftring and Rathsack. Motion carried.

Also Present: Derek Jochimsen – Liaison Forester  
Entered into Closed Session at 9:22 a.m.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieftring at 9:52 a.m. to return to Open Session. Motion carried.

**Review 2018 Forestry Budgets:**

The Committee looked at Forestry Budget Review.

**Review and Approve Bills:**

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

Al Rathsack requested opening up Community Park to ATV and requested it be on the June Agenda. He is an advocate of the ATV's and discussed the Rusk County ATV trails opening up earlier.

Terry DuSell has no Agenda Items but stated he would be opposed to any future action that would negatively affect Agriculture.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Lieftring/Biller to adjourn at 9:59 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be June 11, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.

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

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