

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 5:00 P.M., Tuesday August 21, 2018.

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

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester and Tony Hauser – County Board Supervisor.

Present from the Public:
Bob Grunseth, George Sihsmann, Lionel Klein and Tubby (Harold) Flater.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Lieftring/Biller to approve July 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Public comment was given.

Temporary Access Permit:
Discussion on Temporary Access Permit N1/2NW Section 34 T36N R3W VanDoorn Logging.

Motion by Lieftring/Biller to approve Access Permit for VanDoorn Logging. Motion carried.

Parks update:

- Perch Lake Campground – well has been drilled. Ron Young is waiting to hear from the state to install the water, RV pads are enlarged and all sites are seeded.
- Josie Creek – 600 yard range shelter is complete, gravel was put in on some pads
- Chippewa property – a Disc Golf course is being worked on and will be open Labor Day weekend.

Timber Sale Update:
There are 5 active Timber Sales currently in the Rusk County Forest. Jeremy informed the committee of the new haul tickets and the marking paint that the department is currently using.

Forest Health Timber Sale Extensions:
Emerald Ash Borer is predicted to affect the Ash trees in Rusk County in the near future. Jeremy would like to get ahead of the disease and have the current loggers who have timber sales with ash to cut the Ash. All current contracts would get a 1 year 0% extension on current Timber Sales. These sales include: Lionel Klein - Contract #2456, Vacho Trucking - Contract #2481, Futurewood – Contract #2506, Kendall Logging – Contract #2518 and Allen Suzan – Contract #2530.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieftring to approve the 5 Timber Sale Contract extensions as listed for one year. Motion carried.

Sustainable Forestry Grant Application:
The Forestry Department would like to apply for a \$20,000.00 Sustainable Forestry Grant to purchase timber mats for Timber Sales. Discussion held on the use of the mats.

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Motion by DuSell/Biller to approve the application for the Sustainable Forestry Grant. Motion carried.

PACT Grant Application:

There is a new wildlife biologist in Rusk County – Josh Spiegel. He spent a lot of time with the Elk in his past job and would like to seed down and try to increase the Elk herd in Rusk County.

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to approve the PACT grant application. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel:

Next week Mike and Jeremy will be at the ORV Council meeting in Wausau. The month after Phil and Jerrad will be attending the WCFA fall meeting in Hayward. Any routine travel out of the county does not need approval.

Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve out of County travel. Motion carried.

Resolution 15 – Year Plan Update:

Handouts of the changes to the 15 year plan were given to all Committee members. Discussion on changes and updates on the 15 year plan.

Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve all the 15 year plan changes and updates. Motion carried.

Resolution Equipment Fund:

Tabled for discussion at a future Forestry meeting.

Chippewa County Response Letter:

Harold Flater – Back in 2012 the project to connect the ATV trail from Rusk County to Chippewa County. The letter was read from Chippewa County by the Committee. Mr. Flater would like the Chair, Phil Schneider to accompany him for a meeting with Mr. Dahlby the Chippewa County Forest Administrator.

Meeting Time:

Terry DuSell discussed a time change for upcoming Forestry meetings.

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to move the Forestry Committee meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in the law enforcement center. Motion carried.

Josie Creek Rifle Range Holiday:

Tabled for discussion at a future Forestry meeting.

Gravel Prices:

Al Rathsack requested information on gravel used for grant projects within the Forestry/Parks Department. Discussion held on future graveling cost and contracts.

Sheriff's Department Park Patrol Budget:

Biller requested information on the Parks Patrol Budget line. Discussion held.

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Review 2018 Forestry Budgets:

The Committee looked at Forestry Budget Review.

Review and Approve Bills:

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

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 19, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.