

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
AUGUST 21, 2019

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday August 21, 2019.

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

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

**Present from the Public:**  
Bob Grunseth, George Sihsmann and Don Mansky.

**Approval of Minutes:**  
Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve July 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**  
Public comment was received on County Forest gates and ATVs.

**Parks Report:**  
Mike reported the following:

- The Wilson Meadow Trail has been started.
- Community Park has electricity installed in pavilion.
- Josie Creek had electrical pedestals installed in the back sites and lights installed in the bathroom.
- Little Soft Maple Creek Bridge was installed by CWI.
- Moose Ear Creek Bridge will be installed in the next couple of weeks Eby Fabrication.
- Preparing for ORV and snowmobile funding meetings next week in Wausau. Discussed the projects.

**Timber Sale Report:**  
Jerrad reported the following:

- A report was given on the 5 timber sales currently active on the Rusk County Forest.

**Administrators Report:**  
Jeremy reported the following:

- Currently scarifying an oak shelterwood site. Will be established for the fall timber sale.
- Spoke about the Forest Metrix Pro (iPad) training last month and how it will be implemented.
- Forestry Interns – Jacob Zimmer, Caden Pearson and Dillion Hetzel are wrapping up the year and they are to be commended for their work this summer.
- The new online parks reservation system is nearing completion. Discussion on implementing the system.
- Jane Severt – Wisconsin County Forests Association Executive Director is retiring. There will be a retirement gathering on Thursday September 26, 2019 as part of our annual fall administrator's meeting.
- Discussion on the forest economics of Rusk County handout produced by the WI-DNR.

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- The Rusk County Dams will be transferred to the Land Conservation Dept to operate and maintain.
- Highway Dept's administration fee was discussed.

#### **Forest Health Update:**

**Wind Storm** – 65,000+ acres of forest land in northern Wisconsin is damaged from high winds. The Rusk County Forest did not receive any notable damage.

**EAB** – 11 traps have been installed and checked at the end of July, they have been rebaited and will be checked again. No EAB was identified at the first check.

**Oak Wilt** – the DNR had a flight on Monday with 63 points of interest and has more to look at.

**Ugly Nest Caterpillar Moth** – Messy Tent Caterpillar Moth is defoliating ash and oak along a stretch of Meadow Dam Road. DNR invasives and pest disease specialist assisted in identification.

#### **Rusk County Comprehensive Land Use Plan:**

Public Comment Process Approval – The Rusk County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2005-2020) expires at the end of 2020. This plan is the policy that governs the County Forest. Development of the next 15 year plan is beginning. Jeremy provided a draft process and table of contents.

August 2019

- Approve Schedule & Public Comment Period

September 2019

- Chapter 100 Background

October 2019

- Chapter 200 General Administration

November 2019

- Chapter 300 Description of Forest and Management Planning

December 2019

- Chapter 400 County Forest Ownership

January 2020

- Chapter 500 County Forest Administration

February 2020

- Chapter 600 Protection

March 2020

- Chapter 700 Roads and Access

April 2020

- Chapter 800 Integrated Resource Management

May 2020

- Chapter 900 Recreation

June 2020

- Chapter 1000 Appendix

July 2020

- Chapter 2000 Planning, Reports, Budget
- Chapter 3000 Integrated Resource Management Units
- Chapter 4000 Public Comment Process of 15 Year Plan/Future Amendment List
- Make Draft Plan Available for Public Review

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- Invite Written Comments and Advertise for August Public Listening Session(s)

August 2020

- Public Listening Session/Input

September 2020

- Review and Address Public Comments
- Forestry Committee Approval of Final Draft
- Send to DNR for 30 day review

October 2020

- Review and Address Comments.
- Potential Forestry Committee Approval (if changes)
- Rusk County Board Of Supervisors Approval

November 2020

- Send to DNR for Final Approval

December 2020

Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Schedule

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve the Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Public Input Schedule. Motion carried.

**Potato Lake Boat Landing:**

Potential Land Purchase – Big Bend Township contacted Mike about a proposal to purchase 0.1 acres next to the Potato Lake Boat Landing. Currently the boat landing is split in ownership between the county and private land. The private landowners would like to sell 0.1 acres to Rusk County for \$1.00 with the understanding that the dock and boat ramp would then be upgraded. Discussion held.

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to move forward with the purchase the acreage for \$1.00. Motion carried.

**Camping Registration Fee:**

Discussion held on the current \$10 camping registration fee.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to continue with the \$10.00 registration fee and no longer charge a separate credit card fee. Motion carried

**9:00 a.m. Gravel Bid Opening:**

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to close out the request for sealed gravel bids. Motion carried.

Olynick            \$2.17/ton – 7,500 tons 1 ¼ inch  
                      \$2.11/ton – 7,500 tons 2-4 inch  
                      \$2.17/ton – 30,000 tons ¾ inch  
TOTAL: \$97,200

Antzak            \$2.49/ton – 7,500 tons 1 ¼ inch  
                      \$2.44/ton – 7,500 tons 2-4 inch  
                      \$2.48/ton – 30,000 tons ¾ inch  
TOTAL: \$111,375

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Golat/Engel     \$2.10/ton – 7,500 tons 1 ¼ inch  
                      \$2.07/ton – 7,500 tons 2-4 inch  
                      \$2.48/ton – 30,000 tons ¾ inch  
TOTAL: \$105,675

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve Olynicks bid. Motion carried.

**Josie Creek Rifle Range Parking Lot Improvement:**

Paving: The Highway Dept provided a quote to pave the rifle range parking lot and entrance at Josie Creek Campground. There's currently money available in the budget to cover the cost.

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve using the Highway Dept to pave the Josie Creek Rifle Range Parking Lot and Entrance road as presented. Motion carried.

**2020 Budget Approval:**

Discussion on 2020 Budget.

**2020 Capital Improvement Plan Approval:**

Presented 2019 – 2024.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to approve the 2020 Forestry Dept budget and the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan for the Forestry Dept. Motion carried.

**2020 Cost Proposal:**

Compensation Adjustment - Jeremy would like to increase the PTO schedule in the Forestry office. Discussion held.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve increasing the PTO schedule within the Forestry Department and forward on to the Personnel Committee. Motion carried.

**Perch Lake Grand Opening/Future Meeting:**

September 18, 2019 the next Land and Forestry Committee meeting will be held up at the Perch Lake Campground Pavilion.

**Out of County Travel:**

Jeremy would like approval on the following out of county meetings:

August 22 - NorTAC meeting in Spooner

August 27, 28 – ORV and Snowmobile funding meetings in Wausau

September 26, 27 – Annual WCFA Fall Administrator's Meeting in Rhinelander.

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

**Budget Review:**

No comment

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**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Liefkring/DuSell to approve August AP reports. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Liefkring/DuSell to adjourn at 10:06 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 18, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Perch Lake Campground.