

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Monday September 11, 2017.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were: Arian Knops, Lyle Lieftring, Jerry Biller, Pete Boss and Phil Schneider.

Also present: Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator, Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester

Present from the Public:

Bob Grunseth, George Sishman. Daryl Kinnear, Monty Klund, Robert DeVoe, Lionel Klein, Jason Klein and Don Mansky.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lieftring/Biller to approve August 14, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:

Don Mansky – Asked about the bridge on Serley Camp Trail and signs that were shot up.

Monty Klund – Informed the Committee about the ORV Council meeting in Wausau.

Bob Grunseth – Spoke about promoting tourism.

George Sishman – Asked about high fines for the people that are damaging the County Forest.

Timber Sale Contracts, Closeouts and Renewals:

Oak Wilt Timber Sale – Contract 2541: Motion by Lieftring/Biller approve a direct Oak Wilt sale to Kreier Forest Product. Motion carried.

2017 Oak Wilt Timber:

Pockets of Oak Wilt are down and is ½ of what was in the past years. The biggest pocket of Oak Wilt is off of W and its 100 yards long by 40 yards wide and the back of gravel pit off of F. The method the Forestry Department has been using to kill the Oak Wilt, seems to work.

2017 Forest Certification Audit:

The 2017 Forest Certification Audit was attended by Forestry Staff, local DNR, state people and 2 Forestry Committee members. The Auditor was impressed with the purchase of the Thornapple river property and a clear cut Timber Sale that was in progress. BMP structures were pointed out and the Oak Wilt was viewed along with 2 other Timber Sales. There was a minor corrective action and a minor non-conformance for the SFI Certification Counties. Paul informed the Committee that the Audit went well.

ATV Trail Project:

1. The Serley Camp Bridge is being worked on by the Rusk County Highway Department.
2. Construction from DeJung to Betty Lake Road is finished and ready to gravel.

Mike Zimmer the Parks Manager would like the approval to bid out the gravel from DeJung to Betty Lake Road.

Motion by Biller/Lieftring to bid out gravel job on DeJung to Betty Lake Road. Crushing expenses were discussed. Motion carried.

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2018 Forestry Budgets:

2018 Budgets were reviewed. Pete spoke about leasing vehicles with Enterprise, sharing equipment between Highway, Forestry and Maintenance and how Timber sales are critical to the tax base.

The Forestry Committee recommends 2018 Budgets with Cost Proposal be forwarded to finance.

Fall Timber Sale Ad:

The estimated minimum bid for the 2017 Fall Timber Sale is \$550,450.00. Bid opening will be on October 9, 2017 at 9:00 in the LEC room.

Motion by Schneider/Biller to approve the advertise Fall Timber Sales and bid opening. Motion carried.

Motion by Lieffring/Biller to approve out of County Travel for WCFA Annual meeting in Weston Wisconsin. Motion carried.

Off Road Use Policy on County Forest Land:

The Forestry Committee and Paul went through the 5-11-17 Off Road Use Policy Draft and made changes. The changes are as follows:

- Page 31, 750 2.3 – Big Game Retrieval: remove 1) No firearms are in possession from Off Road Use Policy.
- Page 30, 750.1.4 – Undesignated Snowmobile Trails: include, permit snowmobiles on all other snow covered Forest Roads.
- Page 23, 720 2.3 – Closed Access (Recreational Exclusive): include, Ice Age Trail.

The Off Road Use Policy will be sent to all County Board members by Chairman Pete Boss.

Motion by Boss/Schneider to forward Off Road Use Policy on County Forest Land with changes to the County Board. Voting yes: Schneider, Boss and Knops. Voting No: Biller, Lieffring. Motion carried.

Budget Review:

Committee reviewed the budgets.

Review and Approve Bills:

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

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring/Biller to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be October 9, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.