

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday September 18, 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, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester and Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager.

Present from the Public:
Bob Grunseth, George and Elli Sihsmann, Steve Porn, Don Mansky, Jim Wappenschmidt.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve August 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Recently completed parks and recreation projects were complimented.

Parks Report:
Mike reported the following:

- Moose Ear Bridge is finished.
- The north end of Wilson Meadow Trail down to the creek is shaped. Culvert work by Gudis on other end of the trail is being worked on.
- Dairyland Power Co-op could potentially donate a bridge for use on a recreational trail.
- Gravel has been added to finish Perch Lake pavilion area and Ron Young Plumbing took care of a water leak at site 6.
- ORV and snowmobile council meetings (grant funding meetings) were 3 weeks ago and Rusk County was successful in receiving all grants applied for.
- Jeremy welcomed everyone to the renovated Perch Lake campground. Mike was commended for a very successful project.

Timber Sale Report:
Jerrad reported the following:

- Timber sales are being steadily cut. Revenues are good and crews are able to work even with all of the wet weather over the summer months.

Administrators Report:
Jeremy reported the following:

- Finished the scarification project on Town Line Road to regenerate Oak. Timber sale will be established for the fall sale. Discussion held.
- Oak Wilt flight was completed and 88 suspected oak wilt points were identified. After review, there are 10 potential oak wilt sites and samples were submitted to Madison for confirmation.
- Emerald Ash Borer traps will be picked up next week and checked for additional beetles.
- Next week the Forestry Department will meet with the DNR for the annual partnership meeting.
- Jeremy put a Wisconsin forest wind damage report in folder for Committee to read.

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- The base stumpage rates were set for 2020.
- The new Executive Director for the WCFA will start October 2, 2019. Jane Severt will retire.
- WCA will vote on Resolution #4 offer for consideration by Burnett County, titled request a change in the definition of a forester at the annual business meeting on September 22, 2019. WCFA Board of Directors does not support the resolution.
- Jeremy went to the personnel committee for a compensation adjustment related to PTO for the Forestry Department. They are now looking at PTO compensation adjustment changes for the county as a whole.
- Monday, October 14 the courthouse will be closed for employee training. This will occur at the Miner Theater.

Ski Trail Route Change:

- Changes to the west side ski trail route were presented. A request to use Excelsior County Forest Road during the winter ski season. Any timber projects will still take precedence over trail grooming. Proposal will operate similarly to the east side trail system which involves Johns Creek County Forest Rd.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve the change to the west side trail system and use Excelsior Road during winter ski season for a ski trail route. Motion carried.

Transfer Dams to Land Conservation Department:

The forestry department currently operates and maintains 8 dams. The responsibilities of these along with the dams budget and aeration systems (Lea and Audie) will be transferred to the Rusk County Land Conservation Department as of January 1, 2020. The Forestry Department will provide assistance during the transfer and will continue to provide vegetation management of the dams that lie within the county forest.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve transferring the operation and maintenance of the dams, dam budget and aeration system to Land Conservation. Motion carried.

2019-2020 Snowmobile Club Maintenance Agreement:

SNOWMOBILE FUNDS **GRANT # S-5369**
310.1 MILES @ \$300.00 PER MILE = \$93,030.00

CLUB NAME	MILES GROOMED	TOTAL FUNDING
BRUCE CLUB	91.8	\$ 27,540.00
HAWKINS	49.9	\$ 14,970.70
LADYSMITH	85.0	\$ 25,500.00
SHELDON	24.2	\$ 7,260.00
WEYERHAEUSER	59.2	\$ 17,760.00
TOTAL	310.1 MILES	\$93,030.00

Mileage has been adjusted due to the recent GPS data provided to the DNR.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve 2019-2020 Snowmobile Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried.

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Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

- Chapter 100 draft approval.
Discussion held. Chapter 200 draft was handed out for discussion and approval at next month's meeting.

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve chapter 100 draft as presented. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel:

Mike Zimmer and Jerrad Macholl are going to the Road and Stream Crossing Workshop at Mole Lake September 30 and October 1.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack approve the out of county travel. Motion carried.

Suspend Meeting for travel and reconvene at Rusk County Government Center Meeting Room:

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to suspend the Forestry meeting at 10:05 a.m. at Perch Lake campground and reconvene at the Rusk County Government Center at 11:00a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to reconvene meeting at 11:00am at the Rusk County Government Center. Motion carried.

Closed Session – Announced by Chair:

Timber Sale Contract Negotiation – Chair announces closed session for 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 Lieffring/Rathsack to enter into closed session at 11:01 a.m. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Lieffring, Biller, Rathsack, Dusell and Schneider. Motion carried.

Also Present: Derek Jochimsen – Liaison Forester, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator.

Open Session - Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack at 11:27 to go into open session.

Present – Lionel Klein and Jason Klein

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to close out contract #2456 and return performance bond and restrict Lionel Klein from bidding on new sales until both contracts #2469 and #2555 are completed and closed out. Lionel Klein described to the committee about his contracts, extensions, past practices and legal position. Discussion held.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to amend the current motion on the floor by removing contract #2555 language. Motion carried 4-1. Biller opposed.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to adopt motion as amended “to close out contract #2456 and return performance bond and restrict Lionel Klein from bidding on new sales until contract #2469 is completed and closed out”. Motion carried 4-1. Biller opposed.

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Closed Session – Announced by Chair:

Possible Land Acquisition – Chair announces closed session for 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).

Also Present: Derek Jochimsen – Liaison Forester, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator.
Manager

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to enter into closed session at 11:48 a.m. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Lieffring, Biller, Rathsack, Dusell and Schneider. Motion carried.

Open Session - Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to go into open session at 11:55a.m.

Budget Review:

Budget was reviewed.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve September AP reports. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Rusk County Government Center.