

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
JANUARY 15, 2020

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday, December 18, 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:**  
George Sishmann, Don Mansky, Eric Greiner and Tom Paulson.

**Approval of Minutes:**  
Motion by Lieftring/Rath sack to approve December 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**  
Excelsior and Johns Creek County Forest Road winter use discussion.

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

- Wilson Meadow ATV Trail graveling is completed except for approximately 750 yards which will be done in the summer. Some erosion control issues need to be addressed on the south end of the trail.
- Trinity Excavating did a great job completing the graveling in a timely manner.
- Anderson Bridges installed a 65' snowmobile bridge south of Hawkins on trail 25 across Main Creek.
- Audie Lake's new pavilion should be completed within a week.
- The aerator was installed this week in Audie Lake. Land Conservation now has the responsibility for operation and maintenance.
- Site plans are completed for the installation of both the Twin Creek Snowmobile Bridge and Wilson Meadow ATV Bridge.

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

- 2019 ended as a huge success especially considering the poor timber markets and record wet weather.
- 5 sales are currently active and a report was given for each.
- Spring Timber Bid - 6 sales are ready to go and 700 acres are ready to mark.
- DNR will have 4 sales to add to the sale in the spring.

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**Administrators Report:**

Jeremy reported the following:

- Began work on our partially grant funded elk timber sale.
- Dane began his appointment to the public land handbook committee.
- Strategic planning will start for the WCFA and NoRTac strategic planning will continue.
- New ATV 'cleanup' bill was introduced. The WCFA is keeping a close eye on potential changes.

**2019 Annual Report:**



## 2019 County Forest Report

**TO: THE HONORABLE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**I. This is to convey to you a report of the operations and accomplishments of the Rusk County Forestry Department for the calendar year of 2019.**

**II. Parks and Recreation**

1. Parks and boat landings were supervised and maintained by the Forestry Department staff.
2. Aerators at Audie Lake and Lea Lake were maintained by the Forestry Department Staff.
3. Dams at Murphy, Island, Bucks and Lea Lake were maintained by Forestry Department staff.
4. Josie Creek Shooting Range was maintained by Forestry Department staff.
5. Chippewa River Recreation area was maintained by Forestry Department staff.

**6. CAMPGROUND REVENUE**

<b>CAMPGROUND/PARK</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Non-Designated Camping Permits	\$ 546.21	\$ 870.00	\$ 723.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 855.00
Remote Sites	\$ 709.70	\$ 924.68	\$ 919.73	\$ 661.00	\$ 987.00
Audie Lake Campground	\$16,991.95	\$ 15,299.69	\$ 17,760.33	\$17,235.15	\$12,284.57
Josie Creek Park	\$15,123.60	\$ 16,522.25	\$ 16,175.47	\$14,683.69	\$12,986.00
Murphy Dam Campground	\$ 6,593.27	\$ 8,188.67	\$ 6,980.72	\$ 5,783.73	\$ 5,280.82
Perch Lake Campground	\$ 1,557.36	\$ 2,400.30	\$ 3,783.45	CLOSED	\$10,902.90
Murphy/Community Pavilion Rent	\$ 341.22	\$ 284.00	\$ 681.04	\$ 300.00	\$ 120.00
Dump Station	\$ 124.50	\$ 216.79	\$ 193.51	\$ 194.75	\$ 165.75
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$41,987.81</b>	<b>\$44,706.38</b>	<b>\$47,217.25</b>	<b>\$39,248.32</b>	<b>\$43,582.04</b>

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**7. Non-Designated Camping Permits Issued: (Regular Camping Season and Gun-Deer Season)**

YEAR	2016		2017		2018		2019	
<b># OF PERMITS ISSUED</b>	Regular	38	Regular	10	Regular	10	Regular	21
	Deer Season	20	Deer Season	21	Deer Season	20	Deer Season	25

8. The cross-country trail system in the Blue Hills was again maintained by the Rusk County Trails Association, mowing was done by the Forestry Department.

9. State Funded Rusk County ATV/UTV Trails.

\*26.6 miles in the Blue Hills were maintained by the Rusk Riders ATV Club and the Rusk County Forestry Department.

**2018-2019 Trail Maintenance Cost: \$18,510.00**

**Reimbursed by the State ATV Funds: \$18,510.00**

- Construction/renovation at the Perch Lake Camp campground is finished.
- Wilson Meadow ATV/UTV Trail construction has begun.
- The Pavilion at Audie Lake Campground is being re-built.

10. State Funded Rusk County Snowmobile Trails.

\*333.4 miles of Rusk County Snowmobile Trails were maintained by Rusk County Snowmobile Clubs in the **2018-2019** Season.

**THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:**

<u>SNOWMOBILE-CLUB NAME</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Maintenance</u>	<u>Supplemental</u>
Bruce Trailblazers	99.7	\$ 29,750.69	\$ 0.00
Hawkins Sno-Hawks	55.0	\$ 10,317.74	\$ 92.05
Ladysmith Driftbusters	85.0	\$ 25,500.00	\$ 9,791.31
Sheldon Rough Riders	27.2	\$ 8,160.00	\$ 3,838.34
Weyerhaeuser	66.5	\$ 19,950.00	\$ 9,957.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>333.4</b>	<b>\$100,020.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,679.55</b>

**TOTAL PAYMENT FOR SNOWMOBILE 2018-2019 MAINTENANCE: \$123,699.55**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Timber Products Paid for:	\$ 1,787,202.08	\$ 1,756,589.33	\$ 1,827,763.93	\$ 1,621,657.57
Non Co forest Timber Sales Rev:		\$ 208.95	\$ (39,295.22)	\$ -
Finance Charges		\$ 637.05	\$ (2,487.26)	\$ (1,334.56)
Bonds Conf./Transferred for Stumpage:	\$ 2,143.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,709.91)
Bonds Conf. for Non-Performance:	\$ 42,494.90	\$ 19,191.56	\$ 51,771.01	\$ 88,537.13
<b>GROSS STUMPAGE REVENUE TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 1,831,840.73</b>	<b>\$ 1,776,626.89</b>	<b>\$ 1,837,752.46</b>	<b>\$ 1,703,150.23</b>
10% payment to Towns:	\$ (178,879.35)	\$ (175,659.03)	\$ (172,607.57)	\$ (162,165.76)
20% payment to State:	\$ (44,383.81)	\$ (44,541.80)	\$ (44,541.79)	\$ (44,541.79)
<b>TOTAL AFTER PAYMENT TO TOWN/STATE:</b>	<b>\$ 1,608,577.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,556,426.06</b>	<b>\$ 1,620,603.10</b>	<b>\$ 1,496,442.68</b>
1% Land Acquisition Account:	\$ (18,318.40)	\$ (17,766.00)	\$ (17,660.04)	\$ (16,216.57)
Wood Permits Issued:	\$ 965.28	\$ 550.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 800.00
Other County Forest Revenue:	\$ 3,483.00	\$ 136.50	\$ 10,564.02	\$ 180.40
50% Ad,om Salary Grant"	\$ 50,214.32	\$ 49,923.65	\$ 47,920.37	\$ 47,393.50
<b>REVENUE TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 1,644,921.77</b>	<b>\$ 1,589,270.21</b>	<b>\$ 1,662,017.45</b>	<b>\$ 1,528,600.01</b>
<b>Total County Forest Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 570,818.63</b>	<b>\$ 485,315.16</b>	<b>\$ 573,173.47</b>	<b>\$ 522,470.78</b>
<b>Levy Reduction (To General Fund)</b>	<b>\$ 1,074,103.14</b>	<b>\$ 1,103,955.05</b>	<b>\$ 1,088,843.98</b>	<b>\$ 1,006,129.23</b>

\*INDICATES 2019 YEAR EXPENSES ARE AN ESTIMATE

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**III. Timber Sales**

1. 28 Timber sales were sold in 2019 for \$2,130,870
2. 21 Timber Sales Contracts were closed out in 2019 for \$749,803.81
5. Timber products paid for:

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Timber Stumpage due Rusk County @ 12/31	\$ 75,202.14	\$ 57,266.93	\$ 49,097.21	\$ 65,518.01
Timber Sales cash bonds on hand @ 12/31	\$ 250,799.54	\$ 183,424.81	\$ 103,742.00	\$ 78,409.88
Performance Bonds @12/31		\$ 35,040.25	\$ 35,040.25	\$ 46,640.00
Irrevocable Letters of Credit on Hand at 12/31	\$ 919,014.98	\$ 1,001,846.92	\$ 1,097,463.59	\$ 1,335,467.47
Finance Charges for 2019	\$ 734.96	\$ 637.05	\$ 2,487.26	\$ 1,693.18
Land Acquisition Fund Bal 12/31	\$ 16,045.53	\$ 18,782.13	\$ 36,442.17	\$ 53,211.70
Est. Timber Value Under Cont @ 12/31	\$3,300,000.00	\$ 3,100,000.00	\$ 4,900,000.00	\$ 5,583,142.75
Timber Value scaled by Co Forestry Staff	\$1,179,319.86	\$ 1,481,266.70	\$ 1,013,031.07	\$ 743,974.33
50¢/Acre Loan Acct Balance as of 12/31	00	00	00	00

**2019 Annual Payments to Townships with County Forest Lands for 10% Severance on timber stumpage revenue.**

2019 10%  
STUMPAGE  
PAYMENT TO  
TOWNSHIPS

TOWNSHIPS	ACRES	PERCENTAGE	PAYMENT
ATLANTA	4922.84	5.51120%	\$ 8,937.28
BIG BEND	1320.00	1.47780%	\$ 2,396.49
CEDAR RAPIDS	9998.65	11.19370%	\$ 18,152.35
DEWEY	240.00	0.26870%	\$ 435.74
HUBBARD	8545.16	9.56650%	\$ 15,513.59
MURRY	18885.86	21.14320%	\$ 34,287.03
SOUTH FORK	6795.73	7.60800%	\$ 12,337.57
STRICKLAND	3859.23	4.32050%	\$ 7,006.37
THORNAPPLE	441.68	0.49450%	\$ 801.91
TRUE	669.14	0.74910%	\$ 1,214.78
WILKINSON	17611.53	19.71660%	\$ 31,973.57
WILSON	16033.75	17.95020%	\$ 29,109.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89323.57</b>	<b>100.00000%</b>	<b>\$ 162,165.76</b>

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**Timber Sales Under Contract: 67**

**IV. County Forest Land Acquisition**

1. County Land Acquisition Account 12-31-19 Account Balance \$ 53,211.70

**V. County Forest Roads and Trails Gravel Crushing Account \$ 20,554.00**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeremy Koslowski, Rusk County Forest Administrator

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve as presented and send to County Board. Motion carried.

Budget Resolution:

**RESOLUTION #**

**RUSK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Forest Road Aids (100-82-56113-366) budget line has  
2 decreased from \$37,036.00 in 2019 to \$7,207.00 in 2020. and;

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Maintenance (100-52-55201-249) budget line has  
5 been eliminated from \$15,000.00 in 2019 to \$0 in 2020. and;

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Leased Equipment (100-52-55201-530) budget  
8 line has been eliminated from \$13,004 in 2019 to \$0 in 2020. and;

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Contracted Services (100-52-55201-216) budget  
11 line has decreased from \$20,000 to \$3,000 in 2020,

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, this has reduced the total County Parks and Recreation Budget (#620) from  
14 \$190,667.00 in 2019 to \$110,941.00 in 2020.

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, because of these funding reductions, maintenance services such as mowing  
17 lawn and maintaining restrooms will be limited to non-existent at the Rusk County Park  
18 and Campground facilities in 2020.

19  
20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ be added to the County  
21 Parks and Recreation Budget #620 from account \_\_\_\_\_.

22  
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** This will assure that Rusk County's Park and  
24 Campground Facilities will continue to provide adequate services for our residents as  
25 well as continue to increase tourism to Rusk County.

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Jeremy gave the Committee a report on the budget development process.

Discussion held on the resolution.

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to insert '\$45,000' on line 20 and 'general fund' on line 21. Motion carried.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to remove lines 16-18. Motion carried.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to forward Budget Resolution as amended to the full County Board.  
Motion carried.

**Wolf Resolution:**

Back in 2010, Rusk County was 1 of 36 Wisconsin counties that submitted a Wolf Resolution to the DNR. The County Clerk received a request to amend our resolution to include language not allowing relocation of problem wolves into Rusk County. Phil and Jeremy will talk about it after WCFA conference and report to the Committee.

**Summer Intern:**

The Forestry Department needs up to 3 interns for the summer season.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to advertise for summer interns. Motion carried.

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

Chapter 500 draft discussion.

Changes are as follows:

- 505.1 final word "signatures" is replaced with "approvals".
- 505.2 in final sentence, "early" is removed
- 505.4 #4 shall read: "Bids must be made per cord or ton..."
- 505.5 #2 shall read: "Tie bids may be settled by toss of a coin or redo sealed bids within a timeframe set by the committee at the current opening; otherwise the bids on that tract will be rejected and the sale re-advertised"
- 505.8.3 E Shall read: "The contractor may request a contract release. The committee shall determine whether a release shall be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for damages."
- 505.8.7 an 's' is added onto the second word to read: "contracts".
- 505.8.14 on middle paragraph on page 500-13, the second "aesthetics" shall be removed

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve Chapter 500 draft with changes listed above. Motion carried.

**Out of County Travel:**

None

**Budget Review:**

No comment

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**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Liefkring/Rathsack to approve January AP reports. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

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

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.