

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee: Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieffring, Terry Dusell, Jerry Biller and Alan Rathsack.

Also present : Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Heidi Woldhuis – Office Manager, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Dane Gravesen – Forester III. Derek Jochimsen – DNR Rusk County DNR Liaison (by phone)

Present from the Public:

George Sihsmann, Bob Grunseth, Don Mansky, and Steve Wincentsen (phone)

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lieffring/Dusell to approve December 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:

Public comment received on ATV trails.

Parks and Recreation:

Mike reported on the following:

- Updated campground reservations for 2021 and website alerts
- Snowmobile clubs trail improvement and mapping

Timber Sales:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Report on active sales
- Discussed movement and sorting of timber in 2020/2021 vs previous years

Administrators report:

- Welcomed Heidi to the staff
- WCFA meeting regarding controversial mill issues/closing
- Hatch landing acquisition – approved, DNR requires 2nd appraisal, will move to Joint Finance Committee once appraisal obtained
- 15 year plan approval was received from the WI Chief State Forester Heather Berklund, will be distributed to committee members
- Reviewed and discussed year closeout statement from state
- Distributed and discussed WCFA fact sheet
- Update regarding Forestry department assistance with missing person search
- Forestry Vehicles will be categorized as fleet vehicles, acquired one truck from Sheriff's Dept.

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Outdoor Recreation Plan:

Mike distributed 5 year plan

- History of facilities, improvements, plan for future
- City grant included in plan
- Request for approval by April

Campground care taker:

- Request for Caretaker for Audie and Perch Lake Campgrounds due to increased usage of campsites
- Discussed advertising, host location, and duties
- Request for research regarding host expectations by Dusell

Motion by Dusell/ Lieftring to advertise for a caretaker at Audie Lake Campground. Motion carried.

Summer Interns:

Update from Mike

- Request for 3 interns for summer 2021

Motion by Lieftring /Dusell to advertise for summer interns. Motion carried.

2020 Annual Report:

- Distributed and discussed 2020 County Forest Report
- Increased campground usage due to online reservations and campground improvements

Motion by Dusell/ Lieftring to forward to County Board. Motion carried.

Budget Review:

Nothing new to report

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Biller/ Lieftring to approve January AP report. Motion carried.

Closed Session – Land Purchase 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 Dusell/ Lieftring to go into Closed Session. Roll Call voting yes: Lieftring, Biller, Rath sack, Schneider and Dusell. .

Also present: Steve Wincentzen

Entered into closed session at 9:25 a.m.

Motion by Lieftring/Dusell to return to open session at 9:40 a.m. Motion carried.

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Motion Biller/Lieffring to carry land trade to the county board. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring/ Schneider to adjourn at 9:41 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.