

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
OCTOBER 15, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday October 15, 2019.

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

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 Sishman, Don Mansky, Greg Lazar and Dennis Bader.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Lieftring/Biller to approve September 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
ATV ride went well with the 'Leaf it to Rusk' event.

Parks Report:
Mike reported the following:

- Wilson Meadow Trail. – Some shaping work remaining on the south end of the trail. Wet weather has been limiting progress.
- Dairyland Power is looking to donate a bridge to Rusk County Forestry for use on a recreational trail. We will need to have an engineer approve the load rating.
- Twin Creek Bridge, Mike met with the DNR recreational wetland specialist to discuss project and permitting issues.
- Snowmobile bridge will be going in this winter over Main Creek south of Hawkins.
- Shutting water off in the parks and pulling docks in the next couple of weeks.

Timber Sale Report:
Jerrad reported the following:

- Timber contractors have moved out of Rusk County due to wet conditions. We have one contractor still working and that's Lionel Klein off Excelsior Rd.
- Closed out quite a few contracts recently.
- Talked about sales being partially completed. Contractors will be back to complete when the weather cooperates.

Administrators Report:
Jeremy reported the following:

- Annual WCFA fall administrator's meeting was last month. This was attended by Phil, Jeremy, Jerrad and Dane.
- WCFA dues will not increase next year and the new WCFA Executive Director, Rebekah Luedtke, has started.
- Annual partnership meeting between the DNR and Rusk County Forestry was last month.
- Most large black ash swamps are currently sold or established for sale and will be cut in the next

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few years. The current reforestation plan is to aerial seed with the DNR airplane using a mix a black spruce, white pine and tamarack. Extra costs will be involved.

- All 81 oak wilt flight points were identified on the ground and 10 were found to be suspicious. 8 samples were sent in. Results have been sent back on 2 and we have 1 positive.
- DNR has a new Forest Products Specialist in Hayward. He provided an email update on current local and world markets.
- 2020 budget update. The Finance Committee has recommended an additional \$45,000 in reduction on top of the previously reduced levy limits. This would be accomplished by completely eliminating line items from the Parks and Rec budget (maintenance (\$15,000) and leased equipment (\$13,004)) and reducing contracted services from \$20,000 down to \$3,000.

Temporary Access Permit:

Jeff VanDoorn would like a Temporary Access Permit for NESW Sec. 31 T36N R4W.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve the Temporary Access. Motion passed.

Timber Sale Extentions:

Phil Schneider presented a letter written by Burmeister Logging asking to waive an extension increase due to market conditions and previous blowdown work. Discussion held.

Motion by Biller/Schneider to approve the following Timber Sale Extensions as presented. Motion carried.

OCTOBER 2019 EXTENTIONS

CONTRACT #	LOGGER	INCREASE	6 MONTH EXTENTION
2489	CFP Transit	0%	Haul wood
2514	Burmeister Logging	10%	3 rd Extension
2518	Kendall Logging	10%	3 rd Extension
2525	Kreier Forest Product	10%	3 rd Extension
2526	Kreier Forest Product	10%	3 rd Extension
2527	Kreier Forest Product	10%	3 rd Extension
2529	Allen Suzan	5%	2 nd Extension
2532	JW Logging	5%	2 nd Extension
2535	Ron Olynick	5%	2 nd Extension
2537	S&S Forestry	5%	2 nd Extension
2538	JW Logging	5%	2 nd Extension
2540	Kendall Logging	5%	2 nd Extension
2545	CFP Transit	0%	1 st Extension
2546	Angry Beaver/Ted Strzok	0%	1 st Extension
2547	Ron Olynick	0%	1 st Extension
2548	CFP Transit	0%	1 st Extension
2549	Allen Suzan	0%	1 st Extension
2555	Lionel Klein	0%	1 st Extension

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Advertise for Gravel Hauling:

Wilson Meadow ATV Trail Project needs to advertise for hauling gravel during the winter. We will open bids for the project at the next Land and Forestry Committee meeting on November 20th, 2019.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to advertise for bids for Wilson Meadow ATV Trail Project. Motion carried.

Advertise for Fall Timber Sale:

The Fall Timber Sale Packet was provided for review and approval. Fourteen sales with a combined acreage of 1,669 acres are available for purchase. Bid opening will be at the next Land and Forestry Committee Meeting at 9am on November 20th, 2019.

Motion by Biller/Schneider to approve and advertise for bids. Motion carried.

Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

Chapter 200 draft discussion.

Changes are as follows:

205 on page 3. Remove italics from first paragraph but retain writing.

205.1 on page 4. Unhighlight the last bullet point and remove “as pertinent to your county...”

205.2.2.1 on page 7. Remove italics from #6 but retain writing.

215.1.1 on page 8. Change ‘spate’ to ‘separate’ on last line in paragraph.

215.2.1 on page 9. Unhighlight #8.

220.1.2 on page 11. Insert ‘of’ on 2nd line between ‘purpose’ and ‘financing’.

225.1 on page 19. On last bullet point, remove the number ‘3’ and replace with ‘multiple’.

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to approve Chapter 200 Draft as presented with changes noted. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel:

Jeremy and Mike would like approval to attend the November 28th NoRTAC Meeting in Spooner.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieftring to approve out of county travel. Motion carried.

Budget Review:

No comment

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Rathsack/Lieftring to approve September AP reports. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday November 20, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.