

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

Present (by phone) from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee: Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieftring and Terry Dusell present by phone. Alan Rath sack and Jerry Biller absent.

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

Present from the Public:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to approve September 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:

None

Parks and Recreation:

Mike gave his report on the following:

- A new 36' snowmobile bridge grant was approved for \$45,200.00. This will be located on the County Forest near Felix Road.
- A \$568,900.00 ATV grant was received to construct roughly 6 miles of trail and a 100' foot bridge over the Weirgor. This is the final large construction piece in the Blue Hills trail system.
- Water is shut off in all Rusk County parks and campgrounds.
- Docks will be taken out soon at the Rusk County boat landings.

Timber Sales:

Jerrad gave his report on the following:

- Logging remains slow due to wet weather and soft timber markets. Staff is in the field marking timber for the spring sales.

Administrators report:

No specific report given.

Potential Land Acquisition Opportunities:

Discussed 40 acre parcel north of Meadow Dam Road surrounded by County Forest. Discussion held.

Discussed an approximately 600 acre parcel in the Town of Big Bend.

Jeremy would like Committee approval to proceed with investigating the potential land acquisitions for Rusk County.

Roll call vote was taken: Schneider-yes, DuSell-yes, and Lieftring-yes. Motion carried.

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Memorial in County Forest:

A request was received to install a memorial by the Felsenmeer in the Rusk County Forest. Further details needed. Further discussion at the November meeting anticipated.

Easement/Flambeau River State Forest:

An easement request from private land owners and DNR has been received. Typically we only deal with temporary land use agreements. Will work with Corporation Counsel to determine if an easement is required in this instance. Easement will be on November's meeting agenda.

Fall Bid Opening,

We have 15 sales for the fall bid opening. We maintained a 4 year contract as we did in the spring due to the pandemic and forest industry uncertainties. Dane gave an overview of the sale packet. Bids will be due at 9:00am November, 18th, 2020.

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to approve and advertise. Motion carried.

2021-2035 Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

Still awaiting comments from the DNR. Recommend to forward to the full board for action in November incorporating any changes from DNR's review. This will complete the 15 year planning process.

Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve the 2021-2035 Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and forward to the County Board for full approval. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel:

All meetings have been scheduled virtual.

Budget Review:

Report on timber sales and report on increased vehicle repairs bills.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve September AP report. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to adjourn at 8:30 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.