

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 2:59 p.m. Wednesday, October 18th, 2023.

Present from Land and Forestry Committee: Schneider, DuSell, Kalepp, Biller, P. Unterschuetz
Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Gravesen, M. Zimmer, D. Jochimsen, A. Heath, LYNN Rosemeyer, D. Mansky, B. Grunseth, J. Waeltz, P. Zimmer, E. Webster, J. Wappenschmidt, Ross Ellwanger, T. Krizan, R. Hoyt, D. Duncan, H. Schudenbeck, D. Ewer

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by DuSell, and second by Kalepp to approve September 20th, 2023 meeting minutes with change as requested. Motion carried

Introduction of HR Director Lynn

Public Comment:

Concern regarding Wilson Meadow ATV Trail damage – email read from ATV Club President
Question regarding historical marker on Wilson Meadow ATV Trail
Request for confiscated bond funds for ATV trail maintenance
Weirgor Trail Bridge placement timeline
Request for cost analysis of Weirgor Trail expenses

Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported

- Turning the water off at all campgrounds
- Docks will be pulled next week with assistance from the Highway Department.
- Potential reroute of Bucks Lake Hill trail (new trail)
- Before freeze-up – maintenance is needed on Weirgor trail for gravel hauling and culverts

Timber Sale Report:

Dane reported

- Cumberland
- Roger Hoyt - Betty Lake, Firelane, 4-hill
- Strzok - DeJung, Betty Lake, County Line
 - Additional nine jobs with hauling and road work

Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Highway removed waterbars of concern.
 - Should continue to work as needed
- DNR mowed on Lea Lake block
 - Grouse Management area
 - Utilized Elk habitat funding
- WCFA Fall Meeting

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- Forest Health Concerns
- Elk presentation
- International Forest Product Industry Markets
- Safety Inspection – State of WI
 - Zero violations received
- Anew – Carbon Credits
 - 1st year, 1M renewable Credits, 2.8M conservation credits
 - Payments issued as credits are sold
 - 2nd year reporting period ended in September.
Report being assembled.

Public Trail Committee Report:

reported on the following:

- Inspections by committee members
- Working with departments regarding trail concerns

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Accept Bids – Winter Hauling and Spreading Gravel on Weirgor ATV Trail – South Section, Phase II:

Results of 10/17/2023 Bid Opening:

Minocqua Grading - \$50,040.00

HAAS - \$60,152.00

Stout Construction - \$77,432.00

Trinity Grading & Excavating - \$94,140.00

Motion by P. Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp, to decline the bid from Minocqua grading due to past performance and accept the bid from Haas INC. Motion Carried

Trail Recommendations:

Reviewed trails as requested by the Public Lands Committee

Motion by P. Unterschuetz, second by Biller to open up trail segment BH1328 as presented. Motion Carried

Motion by P. Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to open up trail segment BH1241 as presented to be monitored in a year due to concerns about UTV access. Motion Carried

Motion by Kalepp, second by Biller to open up trail segment BH451 as presented. Motion Carried

Concern addressed regarding downed trees on trails. ATV/UTV users are driving off the trail to avoid fallen trees.

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Timber Sale Contract Review:

H. Schudenbeck (America's Logger Council) presented the future outlook of timber sales, specifically the pulpwood market

Discussion regarding the lack of market for cut timber on County Forest Lands

Review Vehicle Ordinance:

J. Macholl discussed with the DNR Warden regarding trucks parked on a woods road would only be ticketed if a larger concern exists. Suggests a maximum distance a vehicle can park up on a woods road.

Pesticide Cabinet Purchase:

Discussed freight charges for the Pesticide Cabinet that was purchased in October.

Motion by DuSell, second by Schneider to approve overage of \$88.63 from Forestry Equipment Budget and forward to property committee. Motion Carried.

Access Permit – Private Land Language:

Updated changes to access permit language. Forest Administrator worked with Corporate Council on updates.

Motion by DuSell, Second by P. Unterschuetz to update Access Permits as presented. Motion Carried.

Pavilion Use – Imago Dei Academy:

Motion by DuSell, second by Schneider, to approve the donation of use of Murphy Flowage Pavilion. Motion Carried

Mileage Reimbursement Public Trails Committee:

Discussion regarding mileage that committee members are putting on their personal vehicles

Motion by P. Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp, to assemble a resolution and recommend mileage reimbursement for trail committee members and forward to Finance Committee. Motion Carried.

Wilson Meadow Trail – Bridge, Gravel:

D. Mansky discussed concerns regarding logging operations on ATV trail.
Concern approval of logger to go onto an ATV trail outside of frozen ground.

Weirgor ATV Trail – Gravel:

D. Mansky's concern regarding the lack of bond with a contractor for hauling gravel for the construction of the trail.

Timber Sale Prospectus:

Discussed proposed sales and bid opening procedure

Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to approve bid opening at 9 am and approvals by committee at 3 pm meeting. Motion Failed.

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Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to close bids at 3:00 pm and open at 3:30 pm at Committee Meeting. Motion Carried.

Advertise for Timber Sales:

Motion by Biller, second by DuSell to advertise for Timber Sales. Motion Carried.

Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to enter into closed session at 4:26 PM. All answered Yes.

Closed Session

The Committee Chair will entertain a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) for considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility in order to discuss public correspondence more appropriately discussed in closed session.

Present: Schneider, DuSell, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, Kalepp, J. Macholl, D. Gravesen, M.Zimmer, A. Heath, L. Rosemeyer, T. Krizan, R. Hoyt, H. Schudenbach, D. Ewer, H. Woldhuis

Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to return to open session at 7:12 p.m.

No action was taken on the closed session.

Out-of-County Travel:

- Elk Advisory – Wausau, December 12th, 2023
 - J. Macholl

Motion by P. Unterschuetz, Second by Kalepp to approve out-of-county travel. Motion Carried.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Biller, Second by DuSell, to approve the September AP report as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

*Minutes prepared by:
Heidi Woldhuis, Forestry Department Office Manager*