

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:03 am, Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee: Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieffring, Alan Rathsack, Terry DuSell; Jerry Biller (Absent)

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Heidi Woldhuis – Office Manager, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Derek Jochimsen – DNR Rusk County Forest Liaison, Dane Gravesen – Forester (Phone) Emma Dodden – DNR Wildlife Biologist, Megan VanDoorn – Youth County Board Representative, Connie Meyer – County Clerk, Miranda Kron, Andy Albarado – Administrative Coordinator

Present from the Public:

George Sihsmann, Bob Grunseth, Don Manske

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to approve October 20, 2021 meeting minutes. No Opposed, Motion carried

Public Comment:

- Forestry trucks are dirty – concern regarding wash schedule for the trucks

Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported on the following:

- Campgrounds slowing down; minimal reservations currently for hunting season
- Winter plowing - Campground loops, not individual sites
- Docks have been removed for the winter season
- Update on Weirgor trail development – upcoming bridge project to be bid out this winter

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Sales are moving forward regardless of the weather
- Discussed completed timber sales and closeouts
- Updates on newly opened timber sales
- Updates regarding Beaver Control

Administrator Report:

- Introduction of Emma Dodden – DNR Wildlife Biologist
- Blue Source contract updates
- Update on gravel pit conversations
- Emergency Radio – Perch Lake – updates of equipment

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- NORTEK meeting (birchwood) follow-up. ATV trail tour through northern Rusk County
 - Tour Led by Rusk Riders ATV
- Timber Sale Contract provided to board members
- Job Description Questioner – wage analysis paperwork completed by the department
- New ID Badges; access to the building
- Mill updates; WI Rapids, Park Falls
- Next month discussion to include issues regarding BMP issues within the County Forest
- Introduction of Megan Vandoorn – County Board Youth Representative

Summer Tour Planning 2022:

- June 21-24th
- No updates at this time

2022 County Forest Variable Acreage Share Loan Resolution:

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to forward the resolution to the County Board. No Opposed, Motion Carried

Access Permits:

- Off of Weirgor Rd.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to grant access permits – No Opposed, Motion Carried

Timber Sale Extensions:

- Timber Sales that Expire December 31, 2021

Motion by Dusell/Lieffring to grant extensions per the contract. No Opposed, Motion Carried

Out of County Travel:

- None

Budget Review:

- Updates on Stumpage Revenue

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to approve the October AP report. No Opposed, Motion carried.

Request from Committee members to compile supporting resolution for culvert replacement on Fire Lane Rd.

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Fall Timber Sale Opening:

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to reject 20-21, 22-21; award second highest bidder to 19-21, 23-21 due to past performance and number of sales past the four-year contract deadline. Award highest bidder on all remaining sales. No Opposed, Motion Carried.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to offer unsold sales as direct sales or add to spring sale per Forest Administrators discretion. No Opposed, Motion Carried.

2022 Annual Work Plan:

- Discussion of the new work plan; distributed to committee members

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to forward 2022 Annual work plan to the County Board for approval. No Opposed, Motion Carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring to adjourn at 10:09 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 22nd, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.