

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
NOVEMBER 20, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday November 20, 2019.

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

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:
George Sihsmann and Don Mansky.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Lieftring/Rath sack to approve October 15, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Discussion on the Chippewa property.

Parks Report:
Mike reported the following:

- Parks are slowing down
- Docks are pulled out for winter.
- Preparing things for Wilson Meadow trail development.

Timber Sale Report:
Jerrad reported the following:

- Timber sales are picking up.
- Wood is getting hauled.
- Couple new sales have started.

Administrators Report:
Jeremy reported the following:

- Emergency call box was installed at Perch Lake campground.
- NoRTAC strategic planning meeting was attended by Jeremy and Mike.
- Gravel was crushed at Murphy Pit.
- Cheese Factory road – Buckthorn was sheared off using the DNR dozer. A small direct sale will be sold to cut this winter in hope of regenerating Aspen.
- Updated Rusk County Forestry economic fact sheet handed out.

Public Forest Lands Handbook Review Team:
The Public Forest Lands handbook is being updated. There will be a state-wide review team and Dane Gravesen would like to represent the WCFA as part of the review team.

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to approve Dane Gravesen to represent WCFA as part of the review team. Motion carried.

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Parks Budget Cuts:

Last month there were 3 budget cuts:

- Contracted Services were reduced from \$20,000.00 to \$3,000.00. This line is used contract lawn mowing services and refuse pick up services in the parks.
- Leased Equipment line (\$13,004). This line is used as part of our 'three way' share of the tracked skid steer with highway and maintenance depts.
- Parks & Rec Maintenance line (\$15,000) was eliminated. This line is used to maintain our parks and recreation areas.
- An additional approximately \$20,000 was reduced with Jeremy's knowledge.

Total of \$65,000.00

The finance committee would like to use the Park Development funds in place of the cuts. Discussion held.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to work on a Resolution to amend the Parks Budget. Motion carried.

2020 Rusk County Forestry Work Plan:

Jeremy went through the 2020 workplan with the Committee.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieffring to approve 2020 Rusk County Forestry Work Plan and forward to County Board. Motion carried.

2020 County Forest Variable Acreage Loan Resolution:

Jeremy explained the Resolution to the Committee.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve the 2020 County Forest Variable Acreage Loan Resolution and forward to County Board. Motion carried.

Wilson Meadows Gravel Bid Opening – 8:30 a.m.:

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to close bids for Wilson Meadow Gravel Bid. Motion carried.

Rusk County Highway Estimate - \$195,000.00

A1 Excavating - \$249,500.00

Antczak Construction - \$169,740.00

Trinity Grading and Excavating - \$138,627.00

Olynick's - \$165,600.00

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to accept the low bid by Trinity Grading and Excavation per the Parks Manager's review and approval. Motion carried.

Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

Chapter 300 draft discussion.

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Changes are as follows:

300.2 on page 2-Remove the words “*add features that relevant to your County Forest*”

300.2.2 on page 2-Change 65% to 69%.

300.2.5 on page 4-Add ‘Other’ to the list of forest cover types at bottom of page.

300.3.1 on page 10-Replace ‘Recreation is ranked #_____’ with ‘Tourism is ranked #3’.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve Chapter 300 Draft as presented with changes noted. Motion carried.

Fall Timber Sale Bid Opening – 9:00 a.m.:

Motion by Rathsack/Lieffring to close bids at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

The winning bids are as follows:

Tract#	Acres	Bids	High Bidder	Bid Value	Minimum Bid
2-19	72	1	NO BID	0.00	36,635.00
16-19	143	1	Ted Stzok	41,080.00	40,190.00
17-19	92	1	Allen Suzan	14,937.50	14,875.00
18-19	131	2	Ted Stzok	49,125.00	34,125.00
19-19	174	2	Ted Stzok	111,350.00	95,855.00
20-19	15	1	Peter Kron	8,277.50	8,225.00
21-19	50	1	Ron Smugala Jr.	19,462.50	19,380.00
22-19	117	3	Ted Stzok	110,000.00	88,915.00
23-19	215	4	Ted Stzok	174,995.00	153,460.00
24-19	240	2	Ted Stzok	133,260.00	109,760.00
25-19	33	4	Ted Stzok	96,830.00	81,030.00
26-19	143	2	Ted Stzok	32,275.00	26,375.00
27-19	88	4	Ted Stzok	97,880.00	86,950.00
28-19	156	3	Ted Stzok	138,470.00	115,500.00
Bids:		31	Total Value:	1,027,942.50	911,275.00
Sales:		14			

Motion by Rathsack/Lieffring to approve all apparent high bidders. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel:

None

Budget Review:

No comment

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve November AP reports. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to adjourn at 9:39 a.m. Motion carried.

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The next meeting will be Wednesday December 18, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.