

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
DECEMBER 18, 2019

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday December 18, 2019.

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were:** Phil Schneider, Jerry Biller, Lyle Lieftring, Allan Rathsack 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 Sishmann, Don Mansky, Bob Grunseth, Eric Greiner, Steve Greiner, Tom Paulson and Nate Wittmer.

**Approval of Minutes:**  
Motion by Biller/Lieftring to approve November 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**  
Comments received on gravel hauling for Wilson Meadow ATV project and on the Excelsior Road changes.

**Parks Report:**  
Mike reported the following:

- Wilson Meadow ATV Trail is being graveled.
- Hawkins Snowmobile Bridge – Anderson brought equipment and started the project. Bridge will be installed and open for use soon and finishing touches will be done next summer.
- Audie Lake Pavilion has started.
- Snowmobile trails are not ready to open yet.

**Timber Sale Report:**  
Jerrad reported the following:

- Timber sale activity is picking up.
- Strzok Logging has been working on Betty Lake Road and will be moving to another job.
- Country Forest Products still has wood to haul on Betty Lake Road
- Burmeister is cutting on DeJung Road.
- Darin Duncan is moving in on Bergseth Road soon.
- Grindstone is finishing his sale on Cut Off Road.
- Peter Kron is on South Bucks Lake Road and will finish up this summer.
- Lionel Klein will finish his sale off of the Steam Haul Road.
- A significant amount of ATV damage has been found in a timber sale off 4-Hill Road. Lots of rutting and ponding water. Contractor isn't happy and will spend additional resources (time/money) fixing the problem so they can haul wood.

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**Administrators Report:**

Jeremy reported the following:

- Jeremy would like to thank the Committee and full County Board for the changes to the PTO accrual policy.
- Adams County (30<sup>th</sup> County Forest) will be entering into Wisconsin County Forest program.
- Certification Audit for 2020 will be in other counties.
- In 2020 we will start the planning process for the 2021 WCFA Summer Tour in Rusk County.
- Strategic Planning will begin in January for the WCFA.

**Advertisement for Bids (Wilson Meadow Bridge):**

Mike would like to advertise for bids on Wilson Meadow bridge and Highway 27 bridge north of Sheep Ranch Road.

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to approve advertising for bids on Wilson Meadow and Highway 27 bridges. Motion carried.

**Timber Sale Approval:**

Jeremy would like to approval to direct sell Tracts 2-19 (Roger Hoyt) and 7-19 (Tom King). Tract 2-19 was advertised twice and received no bids and tract 7-19 fell under the \$3,000 threshold, therefore both sales can be sold direct.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to direct sell the following timber sales to Roger Hoyt Logging (Tract 2-19) and Kings Logging (7-19). Motion carried.

**UWSP Forestry Advisory Committee:**

Approval for Jeremy's appointment to the UWSP Forestry Advisory Committee which was discussed on WCFA conference call.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve appointment of Jeremy to UWSP Forestry Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

**Budget Resolution:**

Discussion was held on the potential resolution and budget transfers.

**Excelsior Road:**

Jeremy reported that there have been some inquiries received about the decision to allow Excelsior Road to be groomed for skiing when not plowed for timber harvesting. Members of the public and ski trail association were on hand to discuss possible alternatives and compromises. Discussion held.

Motion by Biller/Lieftring to allow Snowmobiles/ATVs/UTVs on ½ of Excelsior Road and groom the other ½ for skiing during snow covered times. Trucks will not be allowed. Motion carried.

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**Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:**

Chapter 400 draft discussion. Yellow highlighted area on 450.1 may change when the new Public Lands Handbook is approved. This is static language that comes from the state.

Changes are as follows:

- 460.1 All language struck and replaced with:
  - 1. Transactions will be considered, but only when there is an advantage to the County in terms of land value, blocking, etc...
- 460.3 All language removed
- 460.4 All language removed
- 460.5 First paragraph removed and now reads:
  - County may wish to obtain deed restriction for first right of refusal if the property is ever sold.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to approve Chapter 400 draft with changes listed above. Motion carried.

**Out of County Travel:**

None

**Budget Review:**

No comment

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve December AP reports. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Biller/DuSell to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday January 15, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.