

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:03 p.m. Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Present from Land and Forestry Committee: Schneider, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, DuSell, Kalepp  
Others Present: H. Woldhuis, D. Gravesen, M. Zimmer, D. Jochimsen  
D. Mansky, B. Grunseth, J. Waeltz, E. Webster, J. Wappenschmidt, R. Ellwanger, G. Sihsmann, L Klein

#### Approval of Minutes:

*Motion by DuSell, and second by P. Unterschuetz to approve November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion carried*

#### Public Comment:

Question regarding use of logging jobs on ATV Trails

Concern regarding need for washing of Forestry Trucks

Comment regarding surrounding counties advertising ATVs running through water and mud

#### Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported

- Reviewed photos of Potato Lake Bridge
- Weirgor ATV Gravel project – photos
  - Haas is almost completed with hauling gravel, possibly done this week.
- Weirgor ATV bridge move – photos
  - The bridge is set at the creek. Some work is yet to be finished but should be installed in the spring.
- Snowmobile Clubs
  - Couple reroutes
- Clubs have been busy brushing trails

#### Timber Sale Report:

Dane reported

- 13 active sales
- Cumberland – finishing along the Firelane
- Franzen – ski trail area
- Hoyt – finished 2 sales, working on an aspen sale
- Kreier – finished small sale on Stout Rd.
- NWHW – North Bucks Lake Road sale, and prepping a couple winter sales
- Wojak – Hacket Rd. Tamarack sale almost finished, Hardwood sale next to it
- RM Bay – finished Lump Sum sale, Starting a new one North of Lea Lake
- CFP – North Bergseth Rd – thinning sale, moved in
- Strzok – Lump Sum on Dejung, Shelter on Betty Lake Rd. Oak on Wagner Rd, firelane and dejung overstore removal, started Kozak/Moose overstore and thinning off of Slack Rd.
  - Wood is getting hauled
- Staff doing a lot of marking of timber sales
- 2 job shadows with Dane.

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#### Administrator Report:

Dane reported on the following:

- Jerrad Attended the Elk Advisory Committee meeting on Dec. 12.
  - A new unit was created in Central Elk Zone by Black River Falls to help pinpoint future harvest needs as it relates to crop damage and other conflicts.
  - Approved a hunt for 2024 in the Central Zone. The number of tags is not yet set. There will continue to be a hunt in the northern zone.
- An email from Doug Brown, in response to my request, acknowledges that Rusk County is not known to be out of compliance with our 15-year plan, BMPs, state statutes, or forest certification. This is great news as it allows our Carbon Project to continue moving forward. Credit issuance has been bumped again to the first quarter of 2024 due to slow movement in the American Carbon Registry (ACR). The second year of reporting has been sent to ANEW.
- Emma Hanson (wildlife Biologist) and Jim Hanson left the DNR for Minnesota so we will be working with Josh Speigel from Hayward until Emma is replaced. DNR will look to replace Jim as well. His position does some timber marking and cruising on the county forest.
- Timber Sales sold in the 2023 Fall Bid opening allow for Logging/contractor use of the funded ATV trails when the trail is frozen.

#### Public Trail Committee Report:

reported on the following:

- Discussed decline of compensation as committee members
- Concerns regarding language in BMP manual regarding the shaping of roads

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

#### Trail Recommendations:

None at this time.

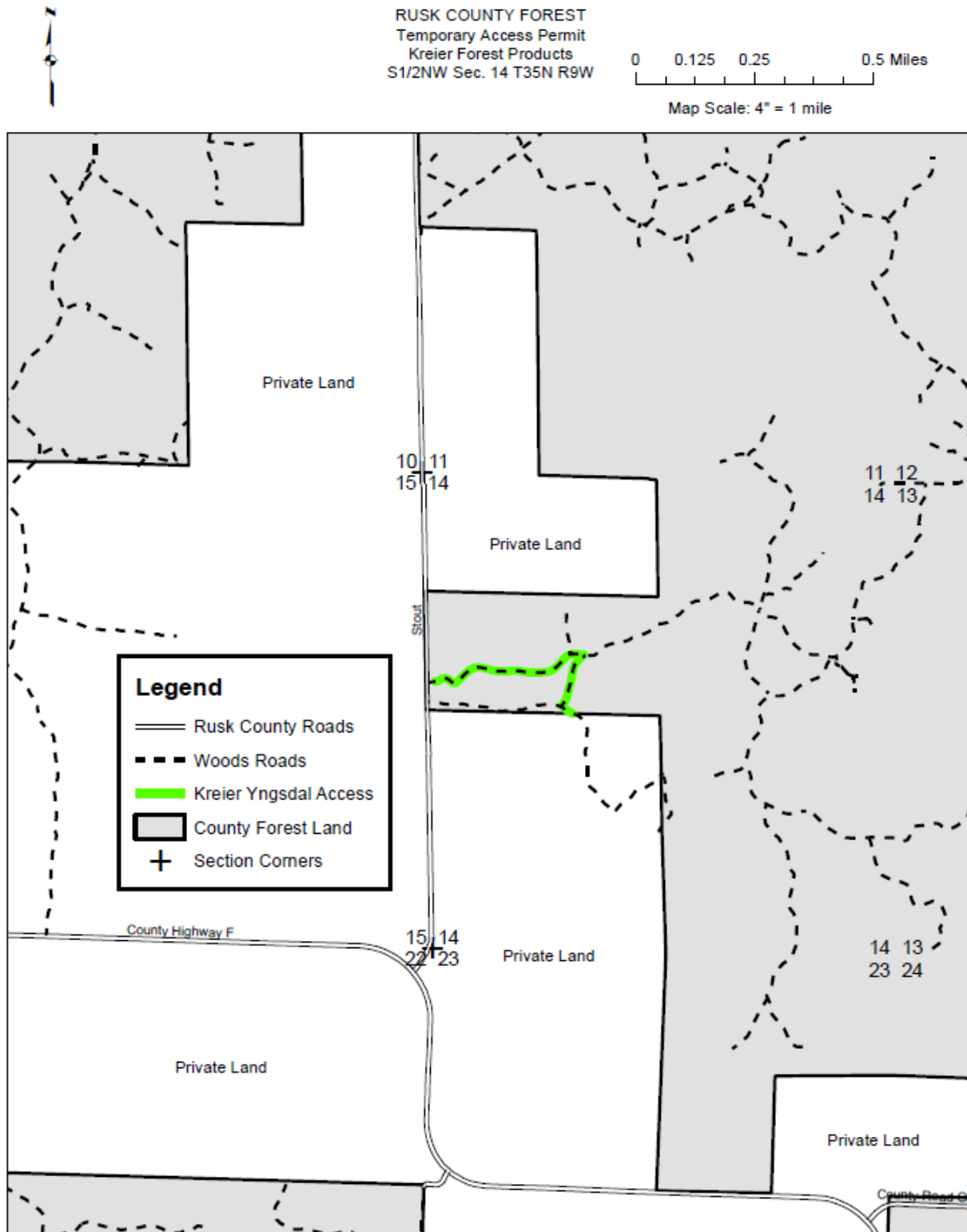
#### Amend Creation of Public Trails Ad Hoc Committee Meeting:

Sent to Committee from the Finance Committee

Ad-Hoc Committee members are no longer requesting compensation or mileage reimbursement

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Access Permit:



Was previously approved for Lake States Timber.

*Motion by DuSell, second by P. Unterschuetz to approve access permit to Kreier Forest Products. Motion Carried*

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Vehicle Use Ordinance Changes:

Presented changes to the ordinance  
 Article VII – Vehicle Ordinance  
 Sec 34-191 - Definition  
 Sec 34-194 – Applicability

*Motion by P. Unterschuetz, second by DuSell to approve changes and forward to the County Board. Motion Carried.*

Award Direct Sale:

Received two bids for 21-23 “Devil’s Kettle”

### RUSK COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATOR

311 Miner Ave. E.  
 S-115  
 Ladysmith, WI 54848



PHONE (715) 532-2113  
 FAX (715) 532-2138

## Bid Comparison Report

Tract: 21-23

Kreier Forest Products  
 Lionel Klein

Winning Bid

20,150.00   
 19,340.00

Kreier Forest Products			Lionel Klein		
		Inc <input type="checkbox"/>			Inc <input type="checkbox"/>
10-MH	6 300.000	1,800.00	10-MH	6 250.000	1,500.00
10-MX	32 150.000	4,800.00	10-MX	32 200.000	6,400.00
10-OR	12 300.000	3,600.00	10-OR	12 250.000	3,000.00
20T-B	170 5.000	850.00	20T-B	170 5.000	850.00
20T-M	1100 7.000	7,700.00	20T-M	1100 5.500	6,050.00
20T-O	280 5.000	1,400.00	20T-O	280 5.500	1,540.00
	Bid Total:	20,150.00		Bid Total:	19,340.00

*Motion by P. Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to award sale to Highest Bid. Motion Carried.*

*Motion by DuSell, Second by P. Unterschuetz to enter into a closed session at 3:32 PM. All answered Yes.*

**Closed Session – Land Purchase Negotiation**

Chair announces closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1)(e).

**Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.**

Present: Schneider, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, DuSell, M. Zimmer, D. Gravesen, D. Jochimsen, H. Woldhuis

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*Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to return to open session at 3:56 PM.*

*Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to request a written offer for the parcel discussed. Motion Carried, Biller Abstains.*

*Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to enter into closed session at 3:57 PM. All answered Yes.*

**Closed Session – Timber Sale Contract Review**

Chair announces closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1)(e).

**Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.**

Present: Schneider, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, DuSell, J. Macholl, M. Zimmer, D. Gravesen, D. Jochimsen, H. Woldhuis

*Motion by Biller, Second DuSell by to return to open session at 4:08 PM.*

*Motion by Biller, Second by Kalepp to approve payment of Bill. Forward to Finance to spend out of Park and Trail Development acct. Motion Carried.*

Out-of-County Travel:

- WCFA Legislative/certification meeting – Merrill, 1/24/2024
  - J. Macholl, D. Gravesen
- Pre-Audit Meeting – Tomahawk. 2/27/2024
  - J. Macholl, D. Gravesen, J. Moore, R. Zubrod

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

Review and Approve Bills:

*Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp, to approve the November AP report as presented. Motion carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.