

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:01 am, Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee: Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieffring, Terry Dusell, Alan Rath sack. Jerry Biller(absent)

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Heidi Woldhuis – Office Manager, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Dane Gravesen – Forester III (by phone), Andy Albarado, and Derek Jochimsen – DNR Rusk County DNR Liaison (by phone) (by phone)

Present from the Public:
George Sihsmann and Don Mansky

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve January 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Public comment received on ATV trail maps

Parks and Recreation:
Mike reported on the following:

- GPS grooming maps – updates and corrections
- Intern positions posted in Ladysmith News
- Cutting trees for Memorial Park Pavilion
- Weirgor ATV Trail Development – review of construction calendar
 - Board inquiries regarding gravel crushing options

Timber Sales:
Jerrad reported on the following:

- Updated on completed sales
 - lumber to be hauled before closing these sales
- Reported on active sales and quality concerns
- Discussed cut timber waiting to be hauled to mills regarding billing and mill availabilities
 - Request for committee to review invoicing options and upcoming due contracts at Committee Meeting in March
- Spring Bids will become available in April

Administrators report:

- WCFA Board of Directors meeting update
- WCFA Budget Committee meeting update
- Updates on purchase of Hatch property and Wincentzen land swap
- Plowed roads for Ice Age Trail use
- Tickets issued regarding illegal harvesting and birch pole harvesting
- Concerns regarding potential missing timber

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- Received Dodge from Sherriff Department, maintenance has been started to get truck to standard for use
- Update regarding personnel changes, memorial plaque(s)
 - Committee to discuss options at March 17 meeting
- Highlights of WI DNR Forest Health 2020 Annual Report

Resolutions:

Motion by Lieftring/Dusell to approve 2021 resolutions. Motion Carried

Felix Road Snowmobile Bridge:

- Update of trail reroute
- Committee to make a motion regarding approval of reroute and decline grant funds at March Committee Meeting or decline approval for reroute

Outdoor Recreation Plan:

- Dispersed at January 20 meeting

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to forward to county board. Motion Carried

Camping Reservation Cancelation Policy:

- Discussed revision of 2020 decision to amend refund policy accommodating COVID
- Request to return to no refund policy

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to return to no refund policy. Motion carried

Vehicle Use Policy:

Andy discussed

- Policy regarding who has a vehicle and use of the company vehicle
- Vehicles for work use, no personal use
- Committee discussed employee use of vehicle and take-home policy

Department Personnel Updates:

- Discuss changes in Forestry Technician positions
 - Update from Forestry Technician to Parks Assistant job description to accurately reflect job responsibilities - NW

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to forward Parks Assistant Job Description change for NW to Personnel Committee. Motion carried.

- Open Forest Technician Position options discussed
 - Rehire position - have need, tools, and justification for position
 - Remove position – includes 2000 hours of labor to remove from program
 - Absorb portions of the position within department resulting in compensation alterations to current staff

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Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to table discussion to March Committee Meeting
USDA Cooperative Service Agreement:

Motion by Lieftring/Schneider to approve USDA Cooperative Service Agreement. Motion Carried

Office Hours:

Heidi presented updated Forestry Department office hours

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to Approve Updated Office Hours. Motion carried

Out of County Travel:

- WCFA spring meeting on March 17th – attending remotely

Budget Review:

Dispersed yearend report

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to approve February AP report. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieftring/Schneider to adjourn at 11:01 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.