
Rusk County Forestry Department

311 Miner Ave. E. Suite 115
Ladysmith, WI 54848
Office: (715) 532-2113
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RUSK COUNTY LAND AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025
PLACE: RUSK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER MEETING ROOM
TIME: 3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 21st, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT – limit of 3 minutes per person

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Report
2. Timber Sales Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Public Trail Committee Report

RECOGNITION

1. Citizen Life Saving Award

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

1. Trail Recommendations
2. Resolutions
 - 2025 ATV Trail Maintenance and Development.
 - 2025 Recreational Boating Facilities Grants.
 - 2025 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance and Development.
 - 2025 County Conservation Maintenance and Development.
3. Advertise for Campground Host
4. Governance Day
5. Budget Amendment Request
6. Confiscated Bond non-lapsing account request
7. **Closed Session** – Announced by Chair

Weirgor ATV Bridge pursuant to WI Stats 19.85(1)(g). Chair announces a closed session for conferring with legal counsel for the government body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.

8. Out of County Travel
 - WI County Forest Association – March 11, Merrill
 - J. Macholl, D. Gravesen
9. Review and Approve Bills
10. Set the Next Meeting Date
11. Adjourn

Requests from persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made to the County Clerk's Office at 715-532-2100 with as much advance notice as possible. At any time, a quorum of a County Committee or of the County Board may be present at the meeting to observe the proceedings, but no action will be taken except by those Committee Members for the stated Committee meeting and only on noticed agenda items.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025

Land and Forestry Committee Present: P. Schneider, P. Unterschuetz, J. Biller, K. Halbur, A. Hampton

Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Jochimsen, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann, R. Ellwanger, D. Mansky, J. Waeltz, S. O'Keefe, D. Sprage, G. Searfoss, B. L., J. Waldron, D. Kleiby, E. Schreiner, C. Vieche, S. Greiner, D. Schreiden, C. Young, B. Youlianda, O. Martin, E. Webster, P. Zimmer

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Hampton, and second by Halbur to approve the December 17, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public spoke on Excelsior and John Creek Road access, ATV Route near Felsenmeer, Weirgor ATV Bridge

MONTHLY REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported: Camping is slow, over 100 reservations have been made for this summer currently. Snowmobile trails are not currently open, Ladysmith Snowmobile Club brushed trail in preparation for the new bridge over the Little Thornapple, meeting schedule with the Highway Department regarding shared work plans.

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported on behalf of Dane: Lots of wood is being hauled, the staff is busy scaling logs, setting up spring sales, Klein, and Strzok currently cutting Wojcik, R.M. Bay, J&J, Strzok, and Northwest Hardwoods finished sales

Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported: call with Carbon Credits- ANEW, agreement on snowmobile club trails with Fund VII Lake Newco, LLC. Worked with DNR regarding 2025 recon schedule for setting up timber sales, Direct sale of three timber sales to Kreier.

Ad-Hoc Public Trail Committee Report:

No inspections currently. Looking to bring forward two new requests in the spring. Committee looking for guidance on getting past Excelsior and Johns Creek Rad. No meeting is scheduled for February.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Trail Recommendations:

No discussion

2024 Annual Forestry Report:

Reviewed 2024 Annual Forestry Report.

Motion by Schneider, second by Hampton to forward 2024 Annual Forestry Report to County Board. Motion Carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025

Advertise to Hire Summer LTEs:

Request to hire 2 summer LTEs.

Motion by Hampton, second by Biller to advertise and hire 2 summer LTEs. Motion Carried.

USDA APHIS Beaver Control 2025:

Reviewed contract provided by USDA.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to approve the USDA Aphis Beaver Control 2025 Contract. Motion Carried.

Bond use to repair road and remark timber:

Request to utilize confiscated bonds to do road work and re-mark timber sales to re-advertise for sale.

Motion by Schneider, second by Biller to approve road repairs and re-marking timber as requested without exceeding \$5,000 of confiscated bonds. Motion carried.

County Conservation Aids Grant:

50/50 cost share grant request for a parking lot on Town Line Road and the intersection of the Ice Age Trail re-route.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton, to direct Forest administrator to apply for County Conservation Aids grant as presented. Motion Carried.

Josie Creek Clubhouse Use:

Bruce Boys Scouts requesting to utilize the Clubhouse for a weekend this winter for an outdoor camping excursion.

Motion by Schneider, second by Hampton, to approve the donation of Clubhouse use to the Boys Scouts this winter. Motion Carried.

Murphy Pavilion Use:

Ice Age Trail Association requesting use of Murphy pavilion on February 8th for the annual snowshoe hike.

Motion by Hampton, second by Biller, to approve the donation of the Murphy Pavilion on February 8th, 2025 to the Ice Age Trail. Motion Carried.

Felsenmeer ATV Trail:

Discussed MOU with state from 1969 stating the County will not encourage motorized use of the area. Sihsmann requested an ATV/UTV trail near the Felsenmeer area, club is willing to fund barricades and signage to dissuade motorized use within the sensitive area.

Motion by Schneider, second by Halbur, to rescind the motion From December 17, 2024, Forestry Committee meeting to approve submitting an application for funding. Motion Carried.

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Forestry Truck Radios:

Presented estimate for truck radios as provided by Mike's Repair & 2 Way Services. Committee requests asking for a test radio to ensure coverage as needed.

Temporary Access Agreement:

No discussion

Excelsior Road Access:

Blue Hills Trail Association has been looking at alternatives as requested.

Hunter Walking trail area near Audie Lake area and utilizing power line area as well. Will take time and money to complete re-route. Re-route may take a couple of years to complete.

Ad-Hoc Trail committee requesting drivable roads be accessible by all vehicles.

Motion by Schneider, second by Hampton to enter into a closed session at 4:30 PM. All responded Yes

Closed Session – Announced by Chair

Weirgor ATV Bridge pursuant to WI Stats 19.85(1)(g). Chair announces a closed session for conferring with legal counsel for the government body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. **Open Session** at 5:20 PM.

Out-of-County Travel:

Motion by Schneider, second by Halbur to approve six staff members to attend WCFA Spring Meeting out-of-county travel. Motion carried.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Hampton, second by Halbur, to approve the December AP report as presented. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair announced the Weirgor ATV Bridge is posted at 4-Ton for safety.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hampton, second by Schneider to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the County Board Room.

*Minutes prepared by:
Heidi Woldhuis, Forestry Department Office Manager*

Rusk County Forestry Department

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Suite 115
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VOLUNTEER CAMPGROUND HOSTS

Rusk County is looking for volunteer Campground Hosts at the Josie Creek Campground and Perch Lake Campground for the 2025 camping season. Located along the beautiful Flambeau River, Josie Campground is a popular tourist destination. Perch Lake Campground is located in the majestic Blue Hills close to Audie Lake and Murphy Flowage Campgrounds. Hosts will have opportunities to meet different people, learn about an area, and help other outdoor enthusiasts. Hosts receive free camping with electric and water hookups, and access to firewood. The duties of the campground host include assisting staff with light housekeeping and providing information to the public. Positions are May through Labor Day weekend.

A full description of the position and applications may be found on the County website, picked up in the Forestry Department at 311 Miner Ave. Ladysmith, or email parks@ruskcountywi.us Applications are due by May 1st, 2025.

APPROVAL FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY TRAVEL

NAME: Jerrad Macholl, Dane Gravesen

DEPARTMENT: Forestry

Date of travel: 3/11/25

Location: Merrill

Meeting Purpose:

Wisconsin County Forest Association

Legislative Certification Meeting

Registration Fee: \$\$

Estimated Meals: \$\$

Estimated Lodging: \$\$

Miles @ .70cents: \$\$ 179.2 125.44

Other: \$\$

TOTAL \$\$ 125.44

COMMITTEE SIGNATURES:

Three to five signatures needed.

Report Criteria:

Detail report.

Invoices with totals above \$0 included.

Paid and unpaid invoices included.

Invoice Detail.GL account = "10052"-10054","10060"-10062","204"-206","10024450","1008056114000"-1008056114999","1005955201000"-1005955201999","10081"-10083","10085"-10089"

Invoice Detail.Created date = 01/14/2025-02/10/2025

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	GL Account and Title
FLAMBEAU MTN PRINTING LLC	1270	(50) BUSINESS CARDS JSMITH	01/15/2025	15.00	100-61-56111-319 FORESTRY-OFFICE SUPPLIE
GUDIS SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	106	SAND WEIRGOR RD 1.5 HRS	01/02/2025	202.50	100-82-56113-366 FOREST RD AID- MAINTENA
HAAS SONS INC	179407	GRANT ATV4320 GRAVEL HAULING	12/31/2024	39,457.32	204-62-56122-817 ATV-4320 WEIRGOR TRAIL
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501001 0105	12/01/24-01/01/25 ACCT 17501001 MTHLY CHG	01/05/2025	50.00	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501005 0105	12/01/24-1/01/25 ACCT 17501005 MTHLY CHG	01/05/2025	48.33	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501006 0105	12/01/24 - 01/01/25 ACCT 17501006 MTHLY CHG	01/05/2025	58.10	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501008 0105	12/01/24-01/01/25 ACCT 17501008 MTHLY CHG	01/05/2025	80.41	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501009 0105	12/01/24-01/01/25 ACCT 17501009 MTHLY CHG	01/05/2025	48.55	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501010 0105	12/01/24-01/01/25 ACCT 17501010 MTHLY CHG	01/05/2025	58.78	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J84854/1	FASTNER	12/20/2024	1.09	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J84854/1	TAX	12/20/2024	.06	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J84855/1	FASTENER REIMBURSEMENT	12/20/2024	1.09	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J84856/1	FASTENER	12/20/2024	1.09	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J89879/1	TORCH HEAD	01/06/2025	22.49	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J89879/1	CYLINDER PROPANE	01/06/2025	5.99	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J91013/1	TAX REIMBURSEMENT FROM 12/20/24 J84854/1	01/09/2025	.06	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J94707/1	PVC CEMENT	01/22/2025	8.99	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
NW REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSI	320020 011420	2025 NORTAC FUNDING	01/14/2025	500.00	100-61-56111-339 FORESTRY-CONVENTIONS/
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	9570	MONTHLY NETWORK REPEATER JANUARY 2025	01/01/2025	125.44	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	9570	CALLBOX DISPATCH RADIO	01/01/2025	35.84	100-52-55201-225 PARKS - COMMUNICATIONS
SIGN STUDIO & PRINT SHOP LLC	SS23294	48"X36" CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS SIGN	01/15/2025	192.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
US DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	34EAR39	PHANTOM PRO FAA DRONE ZONE REGISTRATION	12/16/2024	5.00	100-61-56111-217 FORESTRY-TIMBER SALES E
VERIZON WIRELESS	6102833245	12/5/2024-01/04/2025 ACCT 983216421-00001 MTHLY CHRGS 61	01/04/2025	45.51	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO
WI COUNTY FORESTS ASSOC	2025-024	2025 WCFA ASSOCIATION DUES	01/02/2025	1,600.00	100-61-56111-339 FORESTRY-CONVENTIONS/
WI COUNTY FORESTS ASSOC	2025-024	2025 ACRE ASSESSMENT 0.06 X 89997.26	01/02/2025	5,399.84	100-61-56111-339 FORESTRY-CONVENTIONS/
XCEL ENERGY	907747352	11/18/24-12/19/24 ACCT 52-6357804-3 MTHLY CHG	12/20/2024	48.64	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
Grand Totals:				48,009.82	