

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee: Lyle Lieffring, Terry Dusell, Alan Rathsack, Jerry Biller; Phil Schneider (Excused)

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), and Derek Jochimsen – DNR Rusk County DNR Liaison (by phone),

Present from the Public:

George Sihsmann, Don Mansky, Bob Grunseth

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by DuSell/Biller to approve March 17, 2021 meeting minutes. No Opposed, Motion carried

Public Comment:

- Questions regarding Agenda/Meeting posting online
- Comments regarding boat landings
- Comments on ATV trails

Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported on the following:

- Docks are being put in, repairs and updates are being made
- Josie Creek roof repairs (clubhouse and pavilion) are completed
- Beginning to turn on the water at campgrounds
- Grant applications have been submitted
- 3 interns hired for the summer, one returner

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Nothing currently being cut
- All sitting pulpwood has been billed out
- Marking timber sales
- Beaver trapping is currently active within the county forests

Administrator Report:

- Carbon Credit discussion at the Association Level
- Mill Cooperative discussion at the Association Level

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- UTV Weights – WCFA requested a limit, possible additional funding for trail maintenance
- 15-year plans discussed by WCFA

Christmas Tree Permits:

- \$5 – 20’ or shorter Coniferous Tree

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to approve a \$5 Christmas Tree Permit for 20’ or shorter Coniferous; Transaction Fee Waived, add to Website for purchase

Auction Items:

- List of what was provided by the department

Accept Bid Packets:

- Reviewed Timber Sale Packets
- 13 Sales for Spring

Motion by DuSell/Biller to accept and to Advertise for the Spring Bid Opening – No Opposed, Motion Carried

Josie Creek Rifle Range Open/Closed Schedule for 2021:

- Holidays and LE Training

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve Josie Creek Rifle Range Open/Close Schedule for 2021. No Opposed, Motion Carried

Capital Improvement Plan:

- Reviewed spreadsheet of 2019-2025

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to accept the Capital Improvement Plan

Forestry Technician Interview Panel:

- DuSell volunteered to serve on the Panel

Forestry Shop Supply Purchase:

- Table Saw – above \$1K purchase limit
- Old saw was sold on Auction and needs to be replaced
- Committee recommends purchasing a reliable brand name for warranty

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve purchase with a cap at \$2,000. No Opposed, Motion Carried.

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Closed Session – Timber Sale Contract Review

- Motion by Biller/DuSell to go into closed session 8:36 AM; No opposed, Motion carried
- Roll Call: DuSell, Rathsack, Biller, Lieffring

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).

- Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to return to open session 9:09 AM; No opposed, Motion carried
- Roll Call: DuSell, Rathsack, Biller, Lieffring

Open Session

Out of County Travel:

- Summer tour is in June 22nd – 24th in Eagle River

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve out of county travel for Forestry Staff to the Summer Tour. No opposed, Motion Carried.

Budget Review:

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve March AP report. No Opposed, Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to adjourn at 9:12 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.