

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### April 19<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 3:00 pm Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Present from Land and Forestry Committee: Schneider, DuSell, Kalepp, Biller, P. Unterschuetz

Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Gravesen, M. Zimmer, D. Jochimsen  
D. Mansky, B. Grunseth

#### Approval of Minutes:

*Motion by DuSell, and second by Unterschuetz to approve March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.*

*Motion carried*

#### Public Comment:

Question regarding ATV access to Community Park.

Question regarding current and proposed ATV ordinance.

#### Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported

- Cleanup of campgrounds and boat landings happening
  - Josie needs the majority of clean-up efforts due to storm damage
- Docks to be placed week of April 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Highway to assist with the transport of equipment
- Recreation grants sent in with additional storm clean-up requests for Snowmobile Trails
- Application submitted for DNR permit for Weirgor 100-foot bridge

#### Timber Sale Report:

Dane reported

- Wood has been scaled
- Ted Strzok has wood to be hauled off of 4 sales
- Northwest Hardwoods – Moose ear road
- Completed setting up spring timber sale setups
- Marking season has begun

#### Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Roy Zubrod started March 27<sup>th</sup>, Alex Stauber begins Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>
- Trees were felled at Trails End for the new pavilion. Utilized for Chainsaw training.
- Spring WCFA meeting attendance. Discussion about northern hardwoods, timber theft education, timber market outlook, etc.
- Carbon credit updates, 10-year projection. Following 1<sup>st</sup> year, the potential of 25% increase from the initial projected revenue.
- DNR contacted by 3<sup>rd</sup> party carbon verification. Concerns from ANEW regarding ATV non-compliance concerns and certification standards.

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- Potential of no-carbon credit reporting allowed while out of compliance. The first year is in question regarding eligibility for carbon credit eligibility.
- Elk management committee meeting – the potential of kill tags available for the northern unit. Working in regards to crop damage to local farming communities.
- Sustainable Forestry Grant for storm clean up was not approved.
- Bat habitat conservation plan – includes community forest, hatch property, and Trails End property.
- Concern from a citizen regarding hunting being allowed on the Dodson Property.

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

##### Public Lands AdHoc Committee Updates – County Ordinance Update Proposal:

*Motion by Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to create a resolution to create a public land committee to recommend open or closed trails. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to instruct the Forest Administrator to have signs installed on open trails per the compromised map. Motion carried.*

##### Bid Opening – Big Weirgor Creek Clear Span ATV Bridge:

*3:00 pm - Motion by DuSell, second by Biller to accept no more bids. Motion Carried*

CWI - \$94,500

Eby's Welding and Fabrication- \$169,400

Anderson - \$148,000

Custom Manufacturing - \$137,200

*Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to approve to accept the bid from CWI. Biller Abstains. Motion Carried.*

##### Spring Timber Bid Packets

*Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to accept spring bid packets as presented. Motion Carried*

*Motion by Biller, second by DuSell to advertise spring timber sales. Motion Carried*

##### Josie Creek Rifle Range Open/Close Schedule 2023:

Presented calendar closing the range during holiday weekends and law enforcement training.

*Motion by DuSell, Second by Biller to approve Josie Creek Rifle Range Open/Close Schedule 2023. Motion Carried*

##### Ice Age Trail Camping:

The yearly work week for cleaning up the Ice Age Trail segment in Rusk County. May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion by Biller, Second by Kalepp to approve the donation of Murphy Flowage Pavilion use to Ice Age Trail. Motion Carried*

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#### Advertise for Campground Host:

Opening available at Josie Creek. The campground hosts camp free of charge in exchange for campground maintenance.

*Motion by Biller, Second by Kalepp to advertise for campground host. Motion Carried*

#### Office Hours Request:

Historical hours were 7:00 am – 3: 30 pm. to accommodate the working hours and operations of industry partners.

The committee requests a conversation with the Administrative coordinator and Facility manager. Will discuss at the May meeting.

#### Carbon Marketing:

ANEW looking for feedback regarding any organizations that the County would like to restrict carbon purchasing to.

#### Access Agreement:

The individual is currently being investigated regarding unapproved work on County Land without an agreement.

#### Out-of-County Travel:

NORTAC Meeting in Spooner WI – April 27<sup>th</sup>

- J. Macholl, M. Zimmer

WCFA Summer Tour in Mauston WI – June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

- J. Macholl, M. Zimmer, D. Gravesen, J. Moore, R. Zubrod, A. Stauber, P. Schneider

*Motion by Unterschuetz, Second by DuSell to approve out-of-county travel for WCFA Summer Tour and NORTAC Meeting. Motion Carried.*

#### Review and Approve Bills:

*Motion by Biller, Second by Unterschuetz, to approve the March AP report as presented. Motion carried.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Biller, Second by Kalepp to Adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

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