

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### May 15, 2024

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**Land and Forestry Committee Present:** P. Schneider, P. Unterschuetz, J. Biller, A. Hampton, S. Zimmer

**Others Present:** J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Jochimsen, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann, R. Ellwanger, D. Mansky, J. Waldron, J. Waeltz, R. Fisher, R. McEathron Kramer, G. Searfoss, E. Lindberg

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Schneider called for nominations for Land and Forestry Chairman.

Zimmer nominated Unterschuetz for the Land and Forestry Chairman.

Schneider called for additional nominations three times.

*Motion by Zimmer, second by Hampton to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Unterschuetz as Chair. Motion Carried.*

#### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Unterschuetz called for nominations for Land and Forestry Vice-Chairman.

Hampton nominated Zimmer for Land and Forestry Vice-Chairman.

Unterschuetz called for additional nominations three times.

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Zimmer as Vice-Chair.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Motion by Biller, and second by Schneider to approve the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public spoke on agenda items and other concerns

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

##### Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported on current campground work. Updated committee members on county campground information, boat landings, other areas maintained by the parks department, grant funding, and construction projects.

##### Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported on active timber sales, staff are marking new upcoming sales

##### Administrator Report:

Jerrad invited the committee to the Summer Tour June 19-20. County Forest Certification Audit, ATV signage update.

##### Public Trail Committee Report:

Trail committee reported a request to open Excelsior Road to the public, John Creek Road to be shared but signage from the ski trail to be removed. Continuous work on the trail inspection form.

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**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

**Set meeting schedule, date, and time:**

Committee discussed

*Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to schedule Committee meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 3:00 pm. Motion carried.*

**County Forest Law Orientation:**

Introduction of D. Jochimsen, DNR Forest Liaison, and job duties.

Jerrad presented a brief overview of the 15-year plan

**Trail Recommendations:**

Committee will continue inspections once forest roads are open again.

**Sand Lake – AIS Presentation:**

Lake association members presented a request to install an ILID at the County Boat Landing at Sand Lake.

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider, to approve the installation of ILID system at the County Boat Landing at Sand Lake. Motion carried.*

**Carbon Credit Revenue Allocation:**

Jerrad presented a recommendation for the allocation of future Carbon Credit revenue.

**Parks/Trail Development Funds:**

4-hill ATV trail, graveling, and ditching for approximately \$2500

*Motion by Biller, second by Zimmer to recommend \$2500 from Parks/Trail Development fund and forward to Finance Committee. Motion Carried.*

**Ski Trail – Excelsior/John Creek Access:**

The Committee discussed widening Excelsior Road for multi-user winter use.

The committee directed the Forest Administrator to look into options for widening Excelsior Road.

**Advertise ATV Trail Opening Dates:**

The Committee discussed a request to advertise ATV Trail and County Wood Roads opening dates in the newspaper.

*Motion by Hampton, second by Schneider to advertise in the LS News, RL, Chetek, Barron from Parks and Trail Development and forward to Finance Committee. Motion carried.*

**Wilson Meadow Trail ATV Pavilion Request:**

The Committee discussed the proposal from Rusk Riders.

*Motion by Jerry, second by Hampton to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.*

**Recreation Maintenance Agreements:**

The Committee reviewed updates as presented

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to approve 2024 Recreation Maintenance Agreements as presented.*

*Motion carried.*

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Award Spring 2024 Timber Sale Bids:

The Committee reviewed as presented

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider, to approve all high bidders pending no conflicts. Motion Carried*

*Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to advertise unsold sales from Spring 2024 Timber Sales for bid. Motion Carried*

Bid opening June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to enter into a closed session at 5:24 PM. All responded Yes.*

**Closed Session** – Announced by Chair

Timber Sale Contract Extensions pursuant to WI Stats 19.85(1)(e). 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.

**Open Session** at 5:33 PM.

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider, to award a 1 year, 40% increase to sales 2585 and 2613, provide cash bond to replace Letter of Credit. Award a 1-year, 0% increase to sales 2611, 2612, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2618, and 2619, provide a cash bond to replace Letter of Credit. Motion Carried.*

Out-of-County Travel:

Committee discussed members attending WCFA Summer Tour

Review and Approve Bills:

*Motion by Biller, second by Schneider, to approve the April AP report as presented. Motion carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Zimmer, second by Hampton to adjourn.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

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