

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2023

LL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:03 pm Wednesday, May 17th, 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, N. Stadnyk
D. Mansky, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by DuSell, and second by Unterschuetz to approve April 19th, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried

Public Comment:

ATV Trails are ready to open Friday before Memorial Day.

Question regarding the deadline for signing trails.

Question regarding implementation of the ordinance amendment.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported

- Updates on the storm damage clean-up efforts
 - Aspen trees have begun to hang low due to foliage
- Returning summer interns begin May 23rd, the new summer intern begins June 6th
- Docks have been installed with the help of the Highway Department
 - Perch Lake dock is waiting to be installed due to high water issues
- Josie Creek well project is almost completed
- Public Health has been conducting water testing at campgrounds
- Josie Creek holding tank which is approximately 12K gallons. 9K gallons were removed last May. It is full and in need of being pumped again. Questions regarding a leak into the holding tank due to high groundwater levels.
- Posted notice for Josie Creek Campground host
 - No applicants received, will post another round for applications, and potentially open site to reservations.
- Weirgor ATV Trail – 100' bridge permit is currently under review with the DNR. Public posting will be in the paper for anyone to express their thoughts or concerns.
- Snowmobile Storm damage grant – received an amendment to include Sheldon Snowmobile Club's expenses to be added to the grant.

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported

- Wood has been scaled
- Staff have been out marking sales
- Futurewood is in the process of moving into sales for the summer
- Northwest Hardwoods is hauling wood off of Moose Ear Road
- Weirgor Road has experienced damage due to a contractor attempting to haul on a soft road. Contractor is aware of the damage and need to repair.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2023

Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Welcomed Emma Hanson who will be doing a Wildlife Presentation
- Alex Stauber has started as the new Forest Technician. He has been primarily working with the parks department in getting campgrounds cleaned up for the season.
- Staff attended the BMP refresher training in Jim Falls.
- Lots of parks clean up the last month due to the December storm.
- County Forest Roads received much-needed attention of raking and cleanup of brush.
- There was a washout on 4-Hill road that is still in need of repairs
- Betty Lake Road was washed out but has been repaired
- Beaver trapping by APHIS is currently underway.
- Hatch Property survey has been completed, will be submitting a reimbursement application, and then will apply to enter the property into County Forest Law.
- Received concern regarding wording on the new boat landing signs that were installed last May.
 - Signs were updated according to the ordinance Sec 34-51
- DNR is spraying in the County Forest Lands for garlic mustard. New patches have been found near Rut Road, Bald Hill, near Audie Lake, at the intersection of Audie and Perch Lake Campgrounds, and along the ATV trail off of Stout Road.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Access Permit Update:

Discussion regarding a ¼ mile road built by B. Roach prior to receiving an access permit. The committee would like to wait to discuss issuing a permit until any investigation by law enforcement is complete.

Office Hour Update:

Request from the Department to update hours to accommodate the needs of the department.

No discussion Held. Office hours shall remain in accordance with the county-wide office hour policy per County Administrator.

Out-of-County Travel:

- BMP Training – May 16th, Jim Falls
 - R. Zubrod, D. Gravesen, J. Macholl
- Advanced Hardwood Log Scaling & Grading Workshop – June 8th, Antigo
 - D. Gravesen, A. Stauber, R. Zubrod, J. Moore
- Kotar Habitat Type Training – June 20th, Tomahawk
 - J. Moore
- Introduction of Northern Hardwood Management – June 14th, Winter

Motion by Kalepp, second by Unterschuetz to approve out-of-county travel as requested. Motion Carried

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 17th, 2023

Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to close bids for Spring 2023 Timber Sales at 3:30 PM. motion carried

Timber Sale Final Bid Results

Bid Open Date
May 17, 2023

Tract: 1-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
J.W Logging	91,575.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northwest Hardwoods	87,312.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cumberland Timber	86,575.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burmeister Logging	67,538.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 2-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Northwest Hardwoods	58,725.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cumberland Timber	70,450.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 3-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Cumberland Timber	52,340.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northwest Hardwoods	38,015.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 4-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
J.W Logging	35,108.75	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cumberland Timber	35,028.75	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 5-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
J.W Logging	78,085.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Hakes Logging, L	75,750.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Hrubby	71,015.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travis Krizan	66,470.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake States Timber	66,127.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Futurewood Corporation	58,508.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flannel Fleet Logging L	52,580.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burmeister Logging	49,599.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 6-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Flannel Fleet Logging L	72,670.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cumberland Timber	73,305.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J.W Logging	63,200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 7-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Flannel Fleet Logging L	44,280.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cumberland Timber	50,735.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burmeister Logging	41,592.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 8-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
J.W Logging	47,130.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cumberland Timber	37,900.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 9-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Lakeland Forest Manag	65,020.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Futurewood Corporation	57,005.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 10-23

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Lakeland Forest Manag	27,725.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flannel Fleet Logging L	25,825.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Futurewood Corporation	25,435.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tract: 11-21

Contractor	Bid Total	WB	Inc
Flannel Fleet Logging L	19,035.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lionel Klein	15,765.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2023

Timber Sale Bid Summary

Bid Open Date
May 17, 2023

Tract#	Acres	Bids	High Bidder	Bid Value	Minimum Bid
1-23	90	4	J.W Logging	91,575.00	60,970.00
2-23	109	2	Northwest Hardwoods	58,725.00	57,350.00
3-23	55	2	Cumberland Timber	52,340.00	37,965.00
4-23	105	2	J.W Logging	35,108.75	34,670.00
5-23	55	8	J.W Logging	78,085.00	41,840.00
6-23	114	3	Flannel Fleet Logging LLC	72,670.00	55,155.00
7-23	127	3	Flannel Fleet Logging LLC	44,280.00	37,910.00
8-23	75	2	J.W Logging	47,130.00	28,435.00
9-23	60	2	Lakeland Forest Manageme	65,020.00	56,845.00
10-23	32	3	Lakeland Forest Manageme	27,725.00	25,410.00
11-21	50	2	Flannel Fleet Logging LLC	19,035.00	15,756.00
Bids:		33	Total Value:	591,693.75	452,306.00
Sales:		11			

Species	Volume	UOM	Max Bid	Weighted Average
Basswood Sawlogs	97.00	MBF	175.00	130.11
Hard Maple Sawlogs	94.00	MBF	350.00	238.58
Mixed Hardwood Sawlogs	219.00	MBF	300.00	203.91
Red Oak Sawlogs	559.00	MBF	471.00	353.48
Aspen Pulp	7,025.00	Tons	30.00	21.88
Bass Wood Pulp	1,005.00	Tons	15.00	6.46
Basswood Pulp	90.00	Tons	12.00	6.80
Mixed Hdwd Pulp	9,460.00	Tons	15.00	8.40
Oak Pulp	6,025.00	Tons	15.00	9.97
Red Oak Pulp	65.00	Tons	7.75	7.50
Spruce Pulp	1,540.00	Tons	15.00	5.81
Tamarack Pulp	4,550.00	Tons	15.00	5.64

Discussion held regarding the two bidders who per the Rusk County Timber Sale Prospectus will be awarded sales according to Section III(2):

“All new purchasers will be allowed to have only 2 Contracts (Timber Sales) with Rusk County under contract until they have successfully completed (Closed out) 1 or more contracts. “

Motion by Biller, second by DuSell to award Tract 3-28 to Cumberland Timber Company, which is then ineligible for additional contracts at this time. All other Tracts are to be awarded to the highest bidders who are eligible. motion carried

Wildlife Update:

Emma Hanson, DNR Wildlife Biologist gave a presentation to the committee in regards to current programs occurring within the County Forest Lands.

Resolutions:

Creation of Rusk County Public Trails Ad-Hoc Committee.

A discussion was held. Amendments to the Resolution include:

Members of the public will be invited to submit a letter of intent to serve on the committee. The Rusk County Forestry Committee will review the letters, conduct interviews as needed, and select the members. Community members will serve a three-year term, with the exception of the first appointment of members. Two members will be selected to serve a one-year term, three members will be selected to serve a two-year term, and two members will be selected to serve a three-year term. This will allow for a rotation of members.

Motion by Unterschuetz, second by Biller to forward to full county board with amendments. Motion Carried

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes May 17th, 2023

Modification of Vehicle Regulations Ordinance

Motion by Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to forward to full county board with the implementation of September 1st, 2023. Motion carried

Discussion regarding the timeline to implement the updated ordinance

Private Land Fence Damage:

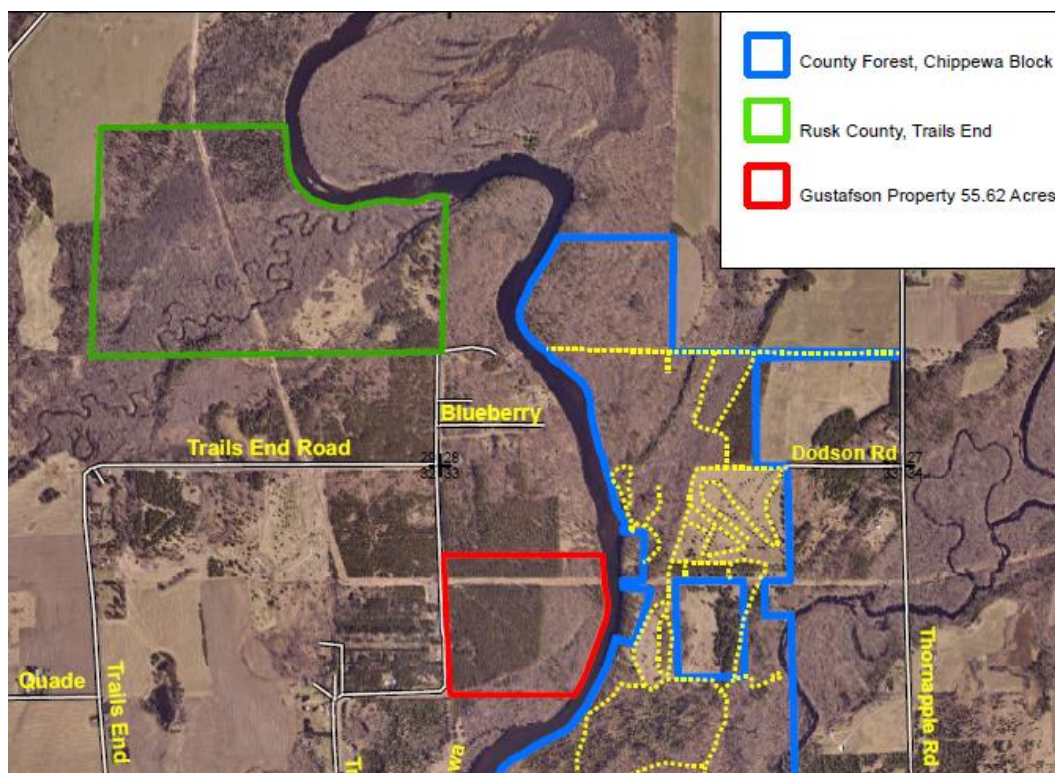
A pile of logs along the township road had tipped onto a landowner's fence causing damage. The contractor, Ted Strzok has reached out to the landowner to resolve the problem. The timber has already been paid for by the contractor and is legally owned by the contractor and not the county. As the timber was also placed on township land, and not county land, this issue is to be resolved between the landowner and the contractor.

Granchalek Land Donation:

Rusk County Forestry Department was notified of a land donation of a parcel located near Trails End Camp. The Forestry Department has been in discussion with Land Conservation Department regarding potential uses of the property. N. Stadnyk expressed interest from the Land Conservation Department to utilize the property for projects such as buckthorn removal, educational partnerships with local school districts, and additional outdoor education regarding Land Conservation.

Forest Administrator is looking into options regarding a partnership with Land Conservation in regards to putting the property into County Forest Law. The land is currently enrolled in MFL through the DNR.

Request from the Committee for additional information for Forestry and Land Conservation partnership of the property. The committee would like to move forward with the acquisition of the property.



Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2023

Audie Lake – Memorial Park Bench

Family member of Audie Christianson would like to install a permanent bench near the current memorial facing the lake. They are asking for permission to do so at their expense, but with the authority of placement to be determined in the best interest of the parks department for upkeep of the area.

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to allow memorial bench placed at Audie Lake

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Unterschuetz, Second by DuSell, to approve the April AP report as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Biller, second by Dusell to enter into closed session at 5:05 PM. All answered Yes.

Closed Session – Timber Sale Contract Review

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).

Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.

Present: Schneider, DuSell, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, Kalepp, J. Macholl, M. Zimmer, D. Gravesen, D. Jochimsen

Motion by Dusell second by Kalepp to return to open session at 5:19 pm

Motion by DuSell, second by Unterschuetz to issue contracts 2583,2588,2589,2590 a 6-month extension at 0% to haul wood and finish road repairs, and letters of credit must be replaced with cash bonds. Motion Carried

Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to issue contracts 2582 and 2591 a 1-year extension at a 40% stumpage increase to complete the timber sales, and letters of credit must be replaced with cash bonds. If contractors chose not to take extensions, the department has the authority to collect on the bonds. Motion Carried

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to enter into closed session at 5:21 PM. All answered Yes.

Closed Session – Property Purchase Request

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).

Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.

Present: Schneider, DuSell, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, Kalepp, J. Macholl, M. Zimmer, D. Gravesen, D. Jochimsen

Motion by Dusell second by Biller to return to open session at 5:28 pm

No action was taken on the closed session.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 17th, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 28th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

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