

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2020

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:05am, Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee:** Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieffring, Alan Rathsack, Jerry Biller and Terry Dusell.

**Also present:** Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Connie Meyer – Clerk III, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator and Pat Zimmer – Hayward Forestry Team Leader.

**Present from the Public:**  
Don Mansky and George Sishman

**Approval of Minutes:**  
Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to approve May 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**  
Comment was received on ATV trails, oak wilt and Perch Lake Campground.

**Parks and Recreation:**  
Mike gave his report on the following:

- Campgrounds update.
- Update on Wilson Meadow ATV construction.
- Report on the summer interns.
- Inspection on last year's bridge installation by Hawkins.

**Timber Sales:**  
Jerrad gave his report on the following:

- 1 active sale by Team Forestry (Bruce Petit).
- Closeouts.
- Timber marking progress for fall timber sale.

**Administrators report:**  
Jeremy gave his report on the following:

- Announced retirement for local DNR forestry technician, Gary Sarauer
- Report on interns.

**8:15 Gravel Bid Opening Skinner Creek Road Gravel:**  
Gravel Bid was advertisement: To haul, spread and grade 3,213 yards (4,819 tons), more or less, of crushed gravel over 7,140 linear feet on Skinner Creek & Hervas County Forest Roads, located in South Fork and Cedar Rapids Townships. Gravel is to be supplied by the contractor at the contractor's expense. Project must be completed no later than August 31, 2020.

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The bids were as follows:

|                          |            |             |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Stoute Construction Inc. | \$14.60 CY | \$46,910.00 |
| Russ Thompson            | \$13.25 CY | \$42,572.25 |
| John Olynick             | \$12.88 CY | \$41,383.44 |
| Trinity Grading and Exc  | \$19.25 CY | \$61,850.25 |
| Rusk Cty Highway         | Estimate   | \$40,690.00 |

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to accept the bid from John S Olynick for \$12.88 CY - \$41,383.44. Motion carried.

**Verso Mills Closing & Ramifications:**

Jeremy spoke to the Committee about the current Rusk County timber sales with hardwood pulp and the potential negative impacts to our revenues if the Verso mills remain idled. Discussion to develop a resolution to present to the County Board at the June 23, 2020 meeting. Jeremy and Phil will work on drafting this.

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to present a resolution to the full Rusk County Board of Supervisors on June 23 noting potential impacts and ramification of a prolonged Verso mill shutdown to Rusk County and the region. Motion carried.

**Chapter 1000 Draft Approval:**

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve the draft. Motion carried.

**Josie Creek Roofing Projects:**

Jeremy reported the adjuster has not yet provided information to move forward. Discussion on overall county insurance ensued.

**Parks Reservation System Presentation:**

Connie presented the new online Parks and Reservation system to the Committee.

**Out of County Travel:**

NONE

**Budget Review:**

No question or comment.

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to approve June AP report. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Lieffring/Schneider to adjourn at 9:30 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.