

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 28th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:00 pm Wednesday, June 28th, 2023.

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

Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Gravesen, D. Jochimsen, D. Mansky, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann, R. Fisher, J. Wappenschmidt, J. Waltz

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Biller, and second by DuSell to approve May 17th, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried

Public Comment:

Comment regarding the Vehicle Use ordinance and current trail maintenance

Parks and Recreation Report:

Jerrad reported

- Bridge permit received for Weirgor 100' Bridge
- Weirgor Bridge plans received, minor adjustments being made
- Discussions with Highway regarding working together regarding gravel for the Weirgor ATV trail
- Parks doing well for reservations
- Interns busy prepping for Holiday weekend camping
- Further discussions regarding the expansion of Dodson Golf course

Timber Sale Report:

Dane reported

- Peter Kron – Cutting red pine off of Fireland
- Futurewood – Lump sum popple jobs
- Ted Strzok – Hauling wood
- Weirgor Rd fixes, 32 loads of gravel, and graded
- Northwest Hardwoods -Hauling wood off of Moose Ear Rd.
- Staff have been busy marking sales for Fall
- Couple thousand cords of wood need to be hauled from winter sales

Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Stream restoration work from BMP violation, hopefully, done in the next couple of weeks
- Wildlife Habitat meeting with E. Hanson and J. Spiegel regarding habitat mowing
- Work to finish from Elk grant received two years ago
- Training – log scaling and grading, visual merchandising, Kotar Habitat Type training
- Trails End Camp – presentation to Middle School and High School students
- WCFA summer tour attended by staff in Juneau and Vernon Counties
- 5-year DNR Audit completed
- Discussions with DNR regarding Certification Compliance and moving forward

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- Received contracts and bonds for all Spring Timber Sales

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Appointment of Public Trail Committee:

Discussion of role of Public Trail Committee. Recommendations from the committee to go to Forestry Department and then brought to committee for approval.

Letters of interest received by Jay Waltz, Bob Grunseth, Dave Williams, Chris Ellwinger, Don Mansky, Rod Ellwinger, Ross Ellwinger

Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to accept the seven applicants as committee members. Committee members to select terms. Motion carried.

Approval of purchase for ATV Access signage:

Received quotes from Rent-A-Flash, Bureau of Correctional Enterprises, Wiemer Art, and Sign Studio

Motion by DuSell, Second by Unterschuetz to approve purchasing signs and posts from Rent-A-Flash. Motion carried

Boat Landing Ordinance:

Boat landing signage was updated in 2022 including "Day Use" language following current ordinance.

Motion by DuSell and second by Kalepp to have Forest Administrator to update ordinance language in Sec. 34-51 and 34-80 to allow for 24-hour boat landing use, and to work with Law Enforcement regarding updated ordinance proposal. Motion Carried

Recreation Maintenance Agreements:

Yearly Snowmobile and ATV maintenance agreements were presented for the 2023 - 2024 season.

Discussion regarding working with other counties on process of working with Snowmobile Club Associations.

Motion by Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to Table discussion of Snowmobile to July meeting. Motion Carried.

Motion by DuSell and second by Unterschuetz to authorize 2023-2024 ATV recreation maintenance agreement; Motion carried.

Granchalek Land Donation:

Forestry Department and Land Conservation Department working to put together paperwork for the allocation of Land donation to the County Forest with special use for Land Conservation. Resolution to be created for a future meeting.

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Commercial Driver's License:

Discussion about budget funds going through Highway Department for moving the truck, trailer, and skid steer around the county forest for use by forestry staff. The department is requesting County financing for Commercial Driver's License.

Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to deny the request for County to pay for CDL License. Motion Carried.

Equipment/Truck Concerns:

Department requesting the purchase of a truck for the Department due to safety concerns. Three trucks in and out of the shop for maintenance issues through May and June. The truck has been welded back together for the second time.

Request from the committee for quotes for used replacement vehicle.

The committee suggested a truck washing maintenance of forestry vehicles following each work day. Would like a draft for the July meeting.

Biller suggests switching trucks over to flatbeds.

Sustainable Forestry Grant Application:

Forest Administrator would like to apply for \$30K for infrastructure road improvements to access summer/fall timber sales, including storm cleanup.

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to allow Forest Administrator to apply for Sustainable Forestry Grant. Motion Carried.

Timber Sale Bond Confiscation:

Sale 2591 – Darin Duncan – returned sale to the County

Sale 2582 – Norton Lumber - returned sale to the County

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to confiscate cash bonds and close sales 2591 and 2582. Motion Carried.

Out-of-County Travel:

N/A

Budget Review:

Nothing to report

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Kalepp, Second by DuSell, to approve the May AP report as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 19th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

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