

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### July 15, 2020

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

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

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

**Present from the Public:**

George Sishman, Bob Grunseth, Lionel Klein and Don Mansky

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to approve June 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**

Public comment was received on ATV trails.

**Parks and Recreation:**

Mike gave his report on the following:

- Campgrounds
- Parks reservation system.
- Summer interns.
- Wilson Meadow ATV trail.
- Serley Camp trail..
- Dock at Hwy D boat landing.
- Trail mowing.
- Hawkins snowmobile bridge.
- Surveying at Potato Lake to apply for a RBF Grant.

**Timber Sales:**

Jerrad gave his report on the following:

- 2 sales are active.
- USDA beaver trappers have had 28 locations so far within the Rusk County Forest.

**Administrators report:**

Jeremy gave his report on the following:

- APHIS program (beaver trapping) is around \$9,000.00 per year.
- Discussed WCFA letter and impact from Verso paper mill closure for Rusk County.
- WCFA office is moving to the Lincoln County courthouse.
- All spring timber sales contracts are signed. .
- No update from insurance adjuster from Josie Creek hail damage.
- Skinner Creek forest road gravel project will be done next month along with new signage.
- Gravel crushing in Rusk County Forestry pits, future discussion needed.

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**Ski Trail Building Improvements:**

The Blue Hills ski trail building needs to be stained and the club would like to ask for cost share from Rusk County.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to deny cost share due to previous county policy of recreational clubs being responsible for their own maintenance of buildings. Motion carried.

**2021 Budgets:**

Budget process for 2021 has started. The following budgets have changed.

- Park and Trail Development (100-59-55201) \$75,000.00 per year will be eliminated.
- Parts of the parks budget were eliminated last year.
- A 5% reduction in budget expense is being asked for.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to return to 2019 funding levels for the following lines (without any further reductions to the 2021 forestry and parks budget): Parks & Rec Contracted Services 100-52-55201-216 (\$20,000), Parks & Rec Maintenance 100-52-55201-249 (\$15,000), Parks & Rec Leased Equipment 100-52-55201-530 (\$13,004). Motion carried.

**Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:**

Chapters 2000, 3000, 4000 Draft Approval.

30 day public comment period is required. We will issue a press release in the newspaper and email known stakeholders. The entire plan can be found on our website and we will have paper copies available upon request. Public comments will be reviewed at our regular business meeting in September.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve draft chapters 2000, 3000, 4000 and the 30 day online public commenting period. Motion carried.

**Out of County Travel:**

NONE

**Budget Review:**

No question or comment.

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve July AP report. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

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

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.