

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### August 19, 2020

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

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

**Also present:** Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Connie Meyer – Clerk III, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager and Dane Gravesen – Forester.

**Present from the Public:**  
George Sishman and Bob Grunseth.

**Approval of Minutes:**  
Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to approve July 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**  
Bob and George reported on the Northwest Regional meeting held in Rusk County.

George reported on ATV trail maintenance.

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

- Contract #2566 - Bruce Petit and contract #2549 - Al Suzan finished logging jobs.
- Ted Strzok is doing some road work and is getting ready to start contract #2603.
- The County and DNR have around 1,000 acres ready for 2020 fall marking season.

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

- Campgrounds are staying busy and revenue is up.
- ATV trail usage is up from prior years.
- Peak of construction season.
- RBF Grants have been received.
- Amacoy Lake restroom was raised up 17 inches.
- Potato Lake boat ramp concrete panel replacement construction will begin tomorrow.
- Curve will be removed after the Moose Ear Bridge has a curve after the bridge for grooming purposes.
- Electric is complete at the Audie Pavilion.

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

- 15 year plan is out there for public comment.
- Reset the base stumpage rate.
- Oak Wilt flyover will not happen due to Pandemic.
- Working with Land Conservation with the drone on Devils creek project.
- Andy received a request to make Rusk County a foraging forest.

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- Snowmobile and ORV Council meeting has been canceled due to Pandemic.
- Tourism did an article on the Rusk County campgrounds.
- Budget for the Department starts next week.
- Jeremy attended the budget meeting for WCFA in Medford WI.

#### **Boat Landing Improvements:**

- Bob DeVoe submitted a petition to the County to upkeep the Boat Landing on County D during winter months.
  - ✚ The Committee reaffirms the motion that was made in November 2018.
- Discussed improvements on boat landings and the County's cost share.

#### **Wilson Meadows ATV/UTV Trail Opening:**

Jeremy and Mike are requesting formal Committee approval to open the Wilson Meadows ATV/UTV trail. Discussion held.

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to open Wilson Meadows ATV/UTV Trail. Motion carried.

#### **Josie Creek Weekend Reservation Request:**

Project Appleseed would like to reserve the Josie Creek Campground for a weekend. The Committee would like more information to make a decision. Discussion will continue at the September meeting.

#### **Remote Campsites:**

Mike informed the Committee about the 6 remote campsites in the Rusk County Forest. The Health Department requires 300 yards from the access point to be a walk in site. He reported the damage and destruction happening and would like them to be part of the undesignated camping starting in 2021.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieftring to remove the remote campsites and make them all undesignated camping. Motion carried.

#### **County Forest Access Permit:**

Steigerwaldt land services is starting a sale in Sawyer County and is requesting access off of Weigor Road.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve Steigerwaldt access permit off of Weigor Road. Motion carried.

#### **Forestry/Finance Ad Hoc Committee:**

Discussed member election to the Forestry/Finance Ad Hoc Committee to put a plan in place for the upcoming sales and/or exciting contracts due to the pandemic.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieftring to nominate Phil and Terry to the Ad Hoc Committee. Motion carried.

#### **County Forest Roads:**

Hervas road, Skinner Creek road and Betty Lake road Improvement – gravel will be applied.

Jeremy would like to offer Hervas road 1.1 miles and Skinner Creek road 1.35 over ownership to the

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prospective Townships.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to contact the townships and offer ownership of Hervas and Skinner Creek Road. Motion carried.

**Big Falls Dam:**

Shoreline Buffer Zone Amendment Excel would like to cut trees to remove old cabins along the shore.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to approve the Shoreline Buffer Zone Amendment for Big Falls Dam to Excel Energy. Motion carried.

**USDA/WS Beaver Control 2021:**

Jeremy submitted a county forest beaver activity sheet to the Committee. Last year 24 sites were reported and this year 30 sites have been reported. The contract request for 2021 is for \$8,900.00.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve 2021 USDA/WS Beaver Control contract for \$8,900.00. Motion carried.

**Logger Relief Package:**

This package would help contractors apply for relief through the USDA to assist them with their ability to continue business operations for the next twelve months while their markets attempt to recover.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to table the Logger Relief Package until September meeting. Motion carried.

**Fall Tour of Rusk County Forest:**

Discuss next month

**Out of County Travel:**

Jeremys travel to meeting on August 18, 2020 for WCFA Budget meeting.

Motion by Rathsack/Lieffring to approve travel date listed above. Motion carried.

**Budget Review:**

No question or comment.

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve August AP report. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Lieffring/Biller to adjourn at 9:35 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.