

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, August 25, 2021

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

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Heidi Woldhuis – Office Manager, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Derek Jochimsen – DNR Rusk County Forest Liaison, Connie Meyer – County Clerk, Andy Albarado – Administrative Coordinator

Present from the Public:
George Sihsmann, Don Mansky, Jim Wapenshmidt, Ralph Fisher

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Lieffring/Schneider to approve July 21, 2021 meeting minutes. No Opposed, Motion carried

Public Comment:

- East of Meadow Dam – Beaver damn concern
- Commentary regarding ATV trail maintenance – grading and brushing

Parks and Recreation Report:
Mike reported on the following:

- Ladysmith club request for looking at Little Thornapple Bridge
- Maps updated with snowmobile reroutes, given to the state for groomer tracking system
- Weirgor ATV trail – development has begun
 - Permits received
 - Should be shaped in time for the winter
- Interns finished their obligations last week
- Funding meetings next week for Snowmobile and ATV grants
 - Potato creek – bridge
 - ATV Parking lot improvements

Timber Sale Report:
Jerrad reported on the following:

- Nine active sales
- Winter sale clean ups, ready to close sales
- Two unsold spring sales updates
- Six-year sale is active with anticipation to complete by end of fall

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2021

Administrator Report:

- Continuing contract work with Blue Source
- Knowles-Nelson award letter received
- Received confirmation regarding land trade; closing to be scheduled
- Annual stumpage base-rate determined last month for future sales
- Beaver maintenance; estimates for next year's cost received
- Elk Grant – completed wildlife opening areas and road work
 - Tilling and seeding to be completed
- Timber Mats received through Sustainable Forestry Grant
 - 40 to be utilized on Timber Sales
- Updates on Mills/operations/buy-outs
- NoRTAC quarterly meeting attended; motorized and non-motorized trails
- Dozer work on Ski-trails completed

Gravel Bid Opening:

- Weirgor (North) Trail; 2 miles – supply and place gravel over winter/frozen grounds
- Bids received from Rusk County Highway, Trinity, and HAAS

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to accept the bid from Trinity. No opposed, motion carried

Timber Mat Policy:

- Hold timber bond until borrowed mats are returned
 - Bond amount to cover the complete cost of mats
- No one contractor may have all mats at one time
- Replacement fee for damage above regular wear and tear

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to hold bonds until mats are returned and no one contractor can have all mats at one time. No opposed, Motion carried.

Summer Tour Planning 2022:

- June 21-24th
- Calling and receiving: vendors, meeting spaces, transportation quotes
- 1986 was last time Rusk County hosted the Summer Tour
- Specialty stops and unique features of Rusk County
- Swag bag – ideas, local business involvement

County Conservation Aid Grant Application:

- \$2450 – 50/50 grant.
- Excelsior road – close during winter for skiing, hunters, etc.
- Firelane Rd/Excelsior Rd intersection has become a dangerous area due to parking
 - Grant application to create parking area

Motion by Lieffring/Biller to apply for grant to create parking area. No opposed, motion carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2021

Perch Lake Reservation Request:

- Wilkins Wedding request
- May 13-15 2022

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to rent out Perch Lake Campground the weekend of May 13-15 2022 following campground regulations. Motion carried, no opposed.

Murphy Flowage Park Memorial Request:

- Chadwick Family request to place a memorial bench at the Murphy Flowage Park

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to allow Chadwick Family to donate and place a memorial bench at Murphy Flowage Park.

Out of County Travel:

- August 27, 2021, BMP Water Quality Training
- August 31 – Sept 1, 2021, DNR Grants – Council Meetings

Motion by DuSell/Schneider to approve out of county travel. No opposed, Motion carried.

Budget Review:

Review and Approve Bills:

- Commentary regarding how some expenses and vendors are chosen

Motion by Dusell/Biller to approve the July AP report. No Opposed, Motion carried.

Forestry Department Donation:

- Thank you from the Rusk County Fair in regards to the donation of timber used for the Rodeo Loading Shoots and Bleachers.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring/Biller to adjourn. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 15th, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.