

# Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:00 pm Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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

Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Gravesen, M. Zimmer, P. Zimmer, N. Stadnyk  
D. Mansky, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann, J. Wappenschmidt, J. Waeltz, Rod Ellwanger, E. Webster, O. Martin

#### Approval of Minutes:

*Motion by Biller, and second by Kalepp to approve June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried*  
*Motion by DuSell, and second by Biller to approve July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried*

#### Public Comment:

A letter read by the Chairman, submitted by community member regarding concerns about the appointment of Trails committee members and representation of the community

Public members assigned to the AdHoc trails committee addressed their reason for appointment to the committee

Comments regarding the funding of trails, carbon credit funds

Saturday is the WI ATV Association meeting

ATV trails are being graded and brushed

Meadow Dam outlook – request for signage for historical areas

Request for Timber Operation ahead sign on Dejung

#### Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported

- Jeff Eby – potato Lake Bridge construction has begun
- Ladysmith Snowmobile Club – confirmed the location of Little Thornapple Bridge location and reroutes to bridge location. The bridge moved east, an easement was received from the private landowner.
- Highway hauling gravel on Weirgor ATV Trail – material from the Murphy Pit.
  - Possibly 200 more truckloads to be hauled
  - Heavy truck travel concerns on the trail in current weather conditions
- Interns are mowing again
  - Brushing open campsites
- Interns will be assisting with sign installation for off-road ATV access

#### Timber Sale Report:

Dane reported

- Ted Strzok – shelterwood, hardwood thinning
- Northwest Hardwoods – working on a couple of sales.
- Cumberland Timber – working off the Firelane
- Peter Kron -finished the sale off the Firelane

#### Administrator Report:

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Jerrad reported on the following:

- Concerns from contractors regarding the timber market – hardwood pulp
- Discussion regarding Carbon Credits. Will do another quarterly report
- Highway completed work on the BMP Violation area
- Nolan Kreagel – DNR Hydrologist, received photos of the repairs
- Issues with ATVs going through wetlands around the BMP area
- Highway mowing/brush cutting
  - Will be mowing Hunter Walking Trails + dozer work on trails
- DNR mowing near the Lea Lake area with Elk Funding
- Signs for Off-Road Vehicle use arrived this morning
- Emerald Ash Bore found in the Village of Sheldon

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

##### 2024 Budget Development

Met with Finance Committee to review the proposed 2024 budget. Few changes to match up the budget with expenses. Updated staff budget lines for paying from the budget that they are working from. The potential of future controlled burn options through the DNR, looking for funding options.

##### Dodson Disk Golf

The original designer of the Disc Golf Course reached out requesting an additional 9 holes added to the current disc golf course. He would like to be involved in the design and implementation.

##### Public Trails AdHoc Committee Recommendations

Members have done field verification of several locations. Request to have Loggers ditch, crown, and place culverts into logging areas upon completion of logging jobs. Photos shared of areas that the committee is requesting to have open access through.

Opening access through wetland areas, a wetland delineator must review the wetland area at the cost of the taxpayer.

Request for a formalized process to request changes to open access areas. Request form may be submitted by community members directly to the AdHoc committee. Those submissions must be submitted by the AdHoc committee to the Forestry Department to be added to the Agenda and paperwork sent to Committee. Photos submitted should be GEO referenced.

Discussion regarding wetland maps vs field verified information.

Motion by Unterschuetz, second DuSell to open trail access to the property to Pat Morgan's property. Motion Carried. Trail LL-56, 57

Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to open trail access created for potential snowmobile reroute area of the Glen Flora block. Motion carried.

Motion by DuSell, second by Biller to open trail access in the Glen Flora Block, trail GL 175, 176, 189, 190, 191, 204, 205 with partial closure. Motion carried

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Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to open trail access in the Glen Flora Block, trail GL 208. Motion carried

Motion by Biller, second by Kalepp to open trail access in the Glen Flora Block, old snowmobile trail east of River Road in unit 2. Motion Carried.

#### Vehicle Maintenance Policy

Property Committee is working on a maintenance policy for all fleet vehicles

#### Weirgor ATV Bridge

Concern regarding the current building of the 100' Weirgor ATV bridge.

The steel received was incorrect specs for self-weathering steel required per bid specs. O. Martin shut down the build upon notification of the issue. The engineer recommends sandblasting and painting the bridge in lieu of purchasing different steel and starting over.

Motion by DuSell, Second by Kalepp to approve sandblasting and painting of the Bridge with updated engineer plans. Motion Carried, Biller Abstain

#### Vehicle options

Reviewed options. Potential for a truck from another County Department.

#### Pesticide Storage Cabinet Purchase

Required to have an approved pesticide storage cabinet. The current cost is around \$1700 - \$2000  
Request to utilize the Forestry Equipment budget to pay for the cabinet.

Motion by Unterschuetz, second by Kalepp to forward to Property Committee, approve \$2000 from Forestry Equipment. Motion Carried.

#### Culvert Purchase for Timber Sales

Request to purchase culverts from Highway Department for use on Timber Sales as needed.

48", 36", 32", and 18" culverts.

Recommendation to discuss with Admin Coordinator and Highway Commissioner to purchase culverts and have culverts available to Forestry Department as needed utilizing the internal transfer of funds.

#### Parks, Special use areas and boat landings ordinance changes. Sec 34-51, Sec 34-80

Postpone until September Meeting

#### Weirgor ATV Gravel – Request for Bid

Highway is working on getting gravel on the trail. If highway department does not complete the gravel project, department will need to put remaining gravel hauling out for bid.

Motion by DuSell, second by Schneider to approve the request for Bid if needed. Motion Carried

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#### Little Thornapple Snowmobile Bridge – Request for Bid

Motion by Biller, second by DuSell to approve the request for Bid. Motion Carried

*Motion by Biller, second by DuSell to enter into closed session at 5:25 PM. All answered Yes.*

#### Closed Session – Timber Sale Contract Review

Chair announces closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1)(e).

Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.

*Present: Schneider, DuSell, Biller, P. Unterschuetz, Kalepp, J. Macholl, M. Zimmer, P. Zimmer, D. Jochimsen, J. Unterschuetz, B. Stout.*

*Motion by Biller second by DuSell to return to open session at 5:28 pm*

No action was taken on the closed session.

#### Out-of-County Travel:

- DNR Grant Application Review – August 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> - Westin WI
  - M. Zimmer, J. Macholl
- BMP Workshop & Training – August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Tomahawk
  - A. Stauber
- WCFA Fall Meeting – September 26, 27, 28 – Hayward
  - J. Macholl, D. Gravesen, J. Moore, P. Schneider

*Motion by Biller, second by DuSell to approve out-of-county travel as requested. Motion Carried*

#### Review and Approve Bills:

*Motion by Biller, Second by DuSell, to approve the June and July AP reports as presented. Motion carried.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Biller, Second by Kalepp to Adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

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