

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2021

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The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee:** Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieffring, Alan Rathsack, Terry DuSell; Jerry Biller - Absent

**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

**Present from the Public:**

George Sihsmann, Don Mansky, Lionel Klein

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve August 25, 2021 meeting minutes. No Opposed, Motion carried

**Public Comment:**

- Commentary regarding ATV trail maintenance – grading and brushing
  - Maintenance Authorization process implemented by the club
- Questions regarding beaver dams

**Parks and Recreation Report:**

Mike reported on the following:

- Snowmobile trail map updates
- Attended funding meetings, approvals of applied grants
- Weirgor ATV trail updates

**Timber Sale Report:**

Jerrad reported on the following:

- Updates on active sales
- Updates on completed sales
- Sale clean-ups including ski trail areas
- Updates on older sales/contracts
- Working with DNR on Fall Sales
- Oak wilt test samples came back with negative results

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**Administrator Report:**

- Dane presented Hunter Walking Trail updates
  - Discussed updates and future plans
  - Explained maintenance and funding
- Land trade anticipated closing
- Hatch property, Stewardship funding, trusts, anticipated closing on property
- Highway Dept is brushing forest roads
- New Wildlife Biologist – DNR
- Funding Meetings last month, projects were approved
- Concerns regarding Birch Pole theft in Big Bend township

**Summer Tour Planning 2022:**

- June 21-24<sup>th</sup>
- Calling for quotes – hotels, banquet, meeting spaces, transportation
- Plan on setting registration fees in April 2022; registration to go out in May with due date first of June, potentially

**Gravel Pits:**

- Unexpected visit from Safety and Professional Services Department – inspection of gravel pits; Murphy and County W
  - Received update requirements/warnings
- Completed Deer Lake gravel pits updates per Land Conservation Department's requirements
- Discussed mine/gravel pit reclamation as an option
- Discussed lack of financial options for completing pit update requests

**Out of County Travel:**

- September 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Fall annual Meeting
  - Shared agenda from WCFA

Motion by Lieftring/Rathsack to approve out-of-county travel. No opposed, Motion carried.

**Budget Review:**

- Table Saw approved in June arrived
- Commentary regarding speed bumps in Josie Creek

**Review and Approve Bills:**

Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve the August AP report. No Opposed, Motion carried.

**Closed Session: Timber Sale Extensions and Closeouts**

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Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to go into closed session. Motion carried, no opposed.

- Roll Call: DuSell, Rathsack, Lieffring, Schneider

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to go out of closed session. Motion carried, no opposed.

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell. To approve extensions for contracts 2558, 2559, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564 with increases per contract. Motion carried, no opposed.

**Closed Session: Contract Negotiation Carbon Credits**

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to go into closed session. Motion carried, no opposed.

- Roll Call: Duseell, Rathsack, Lieffring, Schneider

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to go out of closed session. Motion carried, no opposed.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to forward contract to County Board with the recommendation for approval from the committee. Motion carried, no opposed.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Lieffring/Schneider to adjourn at 10:40 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20th, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.