

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

Land and Forestry Committee Present: P. Schneider, T. DuSell, J. Kalepp, J. Biller
Excused: P. Unterschuetz

Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, M. Zimmer, A. Heath, D. Jochimsen, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann, R. Ellwanger, R. Ellwanger, D. Mansky

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by DuSell, and second by Kalepp to approve the February 21, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public spoke on agenda items and concerns

MONTHLY REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Report:

Mike reported on campground reservations and usage, snowmobile trails, dock placement, and the intern application process.

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported on active timber sales and completed sales.

Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported on the bat habitat compliance report, re-certification forest pre-audit, safety updates, spring timber sale work, trail meeting update, and ANEW communication.

Public Trail Committee Report:

R. Ellwanger reported committee recommends a June 25th opening date for the county trails, Excelsior Road discussions, and ski trail area use.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Trail Recommendations:

None at this time.

Josie Creek Rifle Range Open/Close Schedule 2024:

Motion by Biller, Second by DuSell to approve the Josie Creek Rifle Range Open/Close Schedule 2024. Motion Carried

2024 Recreational Grant Approval:

The Committee discussed the grants as presented.

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to approve the 2024 Recreation Grants as presented. Motion Carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024

Off-Road Vehicle Use Ordinance Updates:

The Committee discussed updates as presented

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to update closure of wood roads to March 15 – June 15. Motion carried.

County Forest Law Entry:

The Committee discussed

Motion by Kalepp, second by Biller to approve County Forest Law entry as presented. Motion Carried

Motion by DuSell, Second by Biller to enter into a closed session at 4:09 PM. All responded Yes.

Closed Session – Announced by Chair

Timber Sale Contract pursuant to WI Stats 19.85(1)(e). 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.

Open Session at 4:24 p.m.

Out-of-County Travel:

Motion by Biller, second by DuSell, to approve the Elk Advisory Committee Meeting for the Forest Administrator in April to Wausau. Motion carried.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp, to approve the February AP report as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by DuSell, second by Kalepp to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

Minutes prepared by:

Heidi Woldhuis, Forestry Department Office Manager

Rusk County Trail Inspection

Submitted by: dgravesen

Submitted time: Mar 27, 2024, 9:50:09 AM

Inspection Information

Inspector Name

Dane Gravesen

Date

Mar 27, 2024

Trail Number

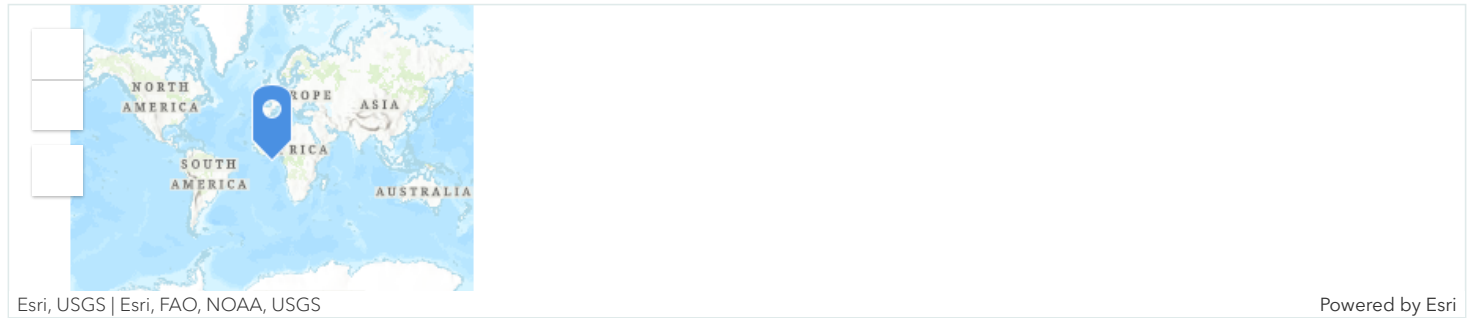
BH - 65 Northern Portion

Current trail status

Non-Motorized Use

Mapped Location

Lat: 0 Lon: 0



Coordinates or Legal Description

T36N R9W Sec 1

General Inspection

Are there any non-permitted stream crossings?

No

Are there any non-permitted wetland crossings?

No

Are there any crossings in need of repair?

No

Are there any ruts or gullies 6" deep or more resulting in channelized flow to a wetland?

No

In a Riparian Management Zone or wetland, are there any ruts or gullies 6" deep and 100' in length?

No

In an upland area, are any ruts or gullies 10" deep and 66' in length or more?

No

Trail Construction Assessment

Is water able to easily flow off trail?

Yes

If trail construction has created cut/fill banks, are slopes stable and vegetated?

Yes

Comments

Not vegetated but stable. Planning to seed.

Is trail compacted and hard?

Yes

If trail contains steep slopes or Highly Erodible soils, are they surfaced with gravel?

N/A

Drainage Structure Assessment

Does this trail contain drainage structures?

No

Are cross drain culverts present?

No

Hydrology Assessment

Are there any culvert or ford crossings on streams/waterways?

Culvert

Are stream/waterway crossing located in optimum locations?

Yes

Are stream crossing constructed at right angles to the waterway?

Yes

Are stream crossing approaches stable and vegetated?

Yes

Does the stream crossing construction minimize waterway disturbance?

Yes

Have dips, diversions or other practices been used on waterway crossing approaches?

Yes

Comments

Overflow constructed with rock on south side.

Have crossing approaches ben stabilized with crushed rock or gravel?

Yes

Comments

Overflow constructed on south side with rock.

Has riprap been placed around the inlet and outlet of culverts?

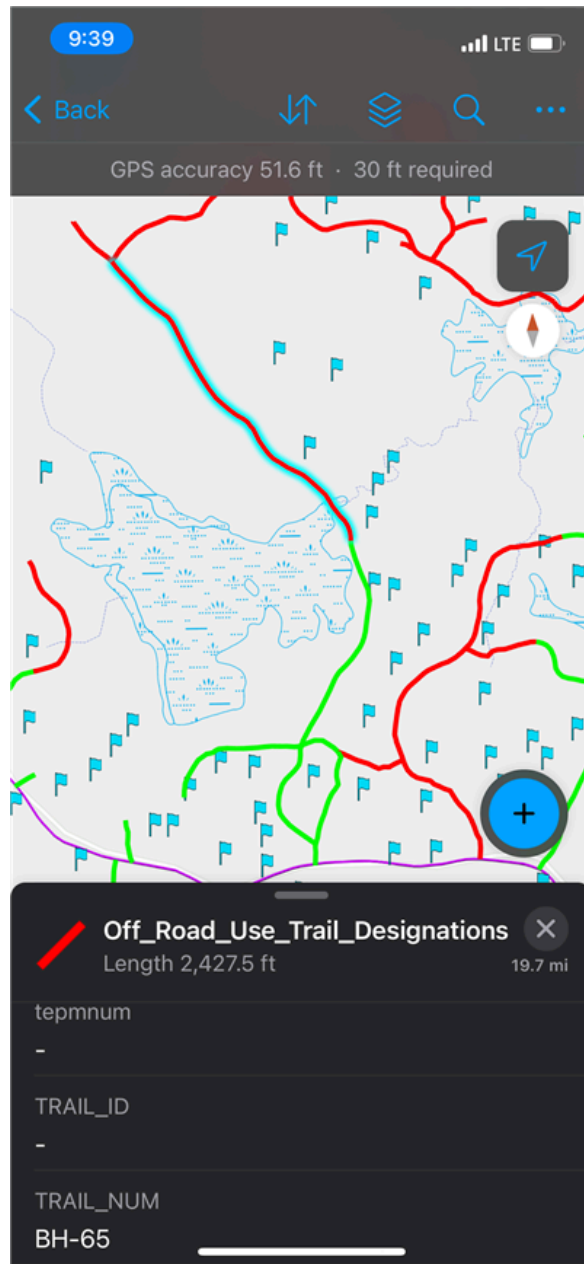
Yes

Are culverts installed so that there is no change in streambed elevation?

Yes

Media

Pictures



pictures-20240327-094321.PNG

Additional files

PDF 12-21 Hodge Podge 2653.pdf
285.9KB

Active Trail Compliance Check and Recommendation

Checklist

- **Inspect trail at regular intervals and after heavy rainfall to identify problems and help determine necessary repairs.**
- **Check all culverts, ditches, dips, and other drainage structures and remove any debris to prevent clogging.**
- **Check trail surface for ruts and holes and schedule necessary repairs.**
- **Identify areas where berms along the edge of the trail have developed and schedule removal.**
- **Identify locations where tree fall has made the trail impassable and schedule for clearing.**

Recommendation to committee

change designation

Comments

Highlighted section of road can be opened after improvements from timber sale work. Stream crossing has a good culvert installed.

Rusk County Trail Inspection

Submitted by: dgravesen

Submitted time: Mar 27, 2024, 10:19:56 AM

Inspection Information

Inspector Name

Dane Gravesen

Date

Mar 27, 2024

Trail Number

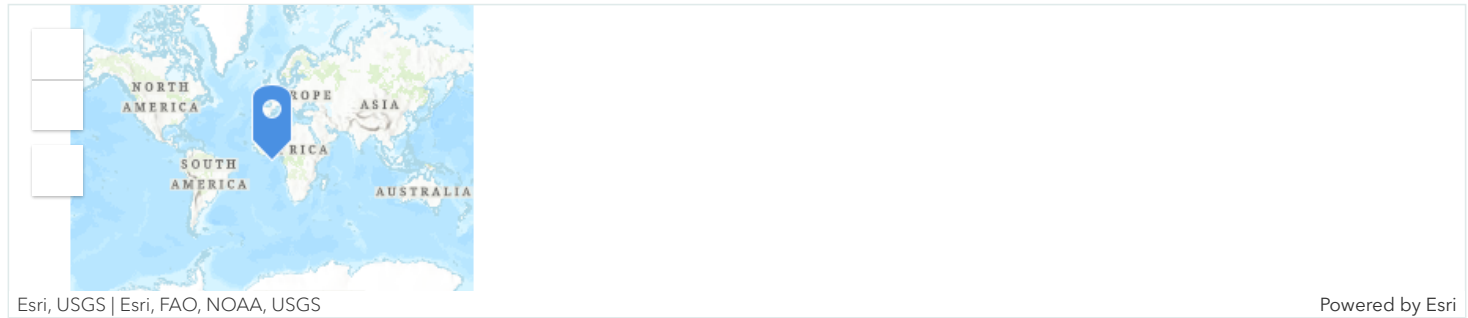
BH-108

Current trail status

Non-Motorized Use

Mapped Location

Lat: 0 Lon: 0



Coordinates or Legal Description

T36N R9W sec 1

General Inspection

Are there any non-permitted stream crossings?

No

Are there any non-permitted wetland crossings?

No

Are there any crossings in need of repair?

No

Are there any ruts or gullies 6" deep or more resulting in channelized flow to a wetland?

No

In a Riparian Management Zone or wetland, are there any ruts or gullies 6" deep and 100' in length?

No

In an upland area, are any ruts or gullies 10" deep and 66' in length or more?

No

Trail Construction Assessment

Is water able to easily flow off trail?

Yes

If trail construction has created cut/fill banks, are slopes stable and vegetated?

N/A

Is trail compacted and hard?

Yes

If trail contains steep slopes or Highly Erodible soils, are they surfaced with gravel?

No

Comments

Plans to seed this coming summer.

Drainage Structure Assessment

Does this trail contain drainage structures?

No

Are cross drain culverts present?

No

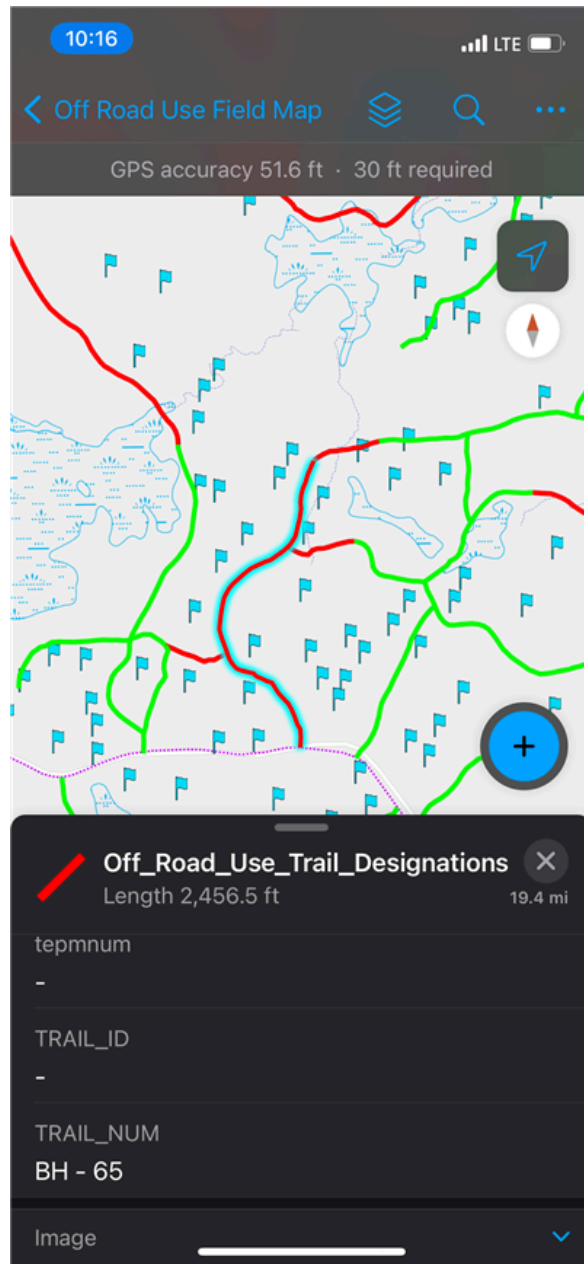
Hydrology Assessment

Are there any culvert or ford crossings on streams/waterways?

No

Media

Pictures



pictures-20240327-101843.PNG

Additional files

PDF 12-21 Hodge Podge 2653.pdf
285.9KB

Active Trail Compliance Check and Recommendation

Checklist

- Inspect trail at regular intervals and after heavy rainfall to identify problems and help determine necessary repairs.
- Check all culverts, ditches , dips, and other drainage structures and remove any debris to prevent clogging.
- Check trail surface for ruts and holes and schedule necessary repairs.
- Identify areas where berms along the edge of the trail have developed and schedule removal.
- Identify locations where tree fall has made the trail impassable and schedule for clearing.

Recommendation to committee

change designation

Comments

This section of road can be opened to motorized use following improvements from a timber sale.

Rusk County Trail Inspection

Submitted by: dgravesen

Submitted time: Mar 27, 2024, 9:19:59 AM

Inspection Information

Inspector Name

Dane Gravesen

Date

Mar 27, 2024

Trail Number

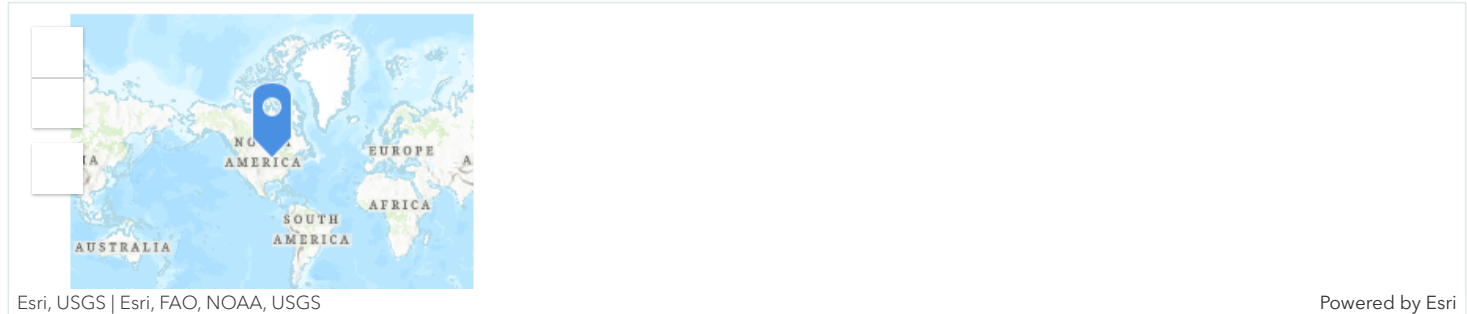
BH-1286

Current trail status

Non-Motorized Use

Mapped Location

Lat: 45.470866 Lon: -91.425028



Coordinates or Legal Description

T35N R9W Sec 36

General Inspection

Are there any non-permitted stream crossings?

No

Are there any non-permitted wetland crossings?

No

Are there any crossings in need of repair?

No

Are there any ruts or gullies 6" deep or more resulting in channelized flow to a wetland?

No

In a Riparian Management Zone or wetland, are there any ruts or gullies 6" deep and 100' in length?

No

In an upland area, are any ruts or gullies 10" deep and 66' in length or more?

No

Trail Construction Assessment

Is water able to easily flow off trail?

Yes

If trail construction has created cut/fill banks, are slopes stable and vegetated?

Yes

Is trail compacted and hard?

Yes

If trail contains steep slopes or Highly Erodible soils, are they surfaced with gravel?

No

Drainage Structure Assessment

Does this trail contain drainage structures?

Yes

Are structures installed immediately above steep grades, below seepages and where water will run onto trail?

Yes

Are structures spaced at intervals close enough to minimize water runoff volume and speed?

Yes

Are berms present at the inlet of drainage structures?

Yes

Are structures at a grade of about 2% or more than the ditches and at an angle of 30-45 degrees to the road?

Yes

If present, are broad-based dips deep enough to provide cross drainage and provide safe passage of equipment?

N/A

Are cross drain culverts present?

No

Hydrology Assessment

Are there any culvert or ford crossings on streams/waterways?

Culvert

Are stream/waterway crossing located in optimum locations?

Yes

Are stream crossing constructed at right angles to the waterway?

Yes

Are stream crossing approaches stable and vegetated?

Yes

Comments

Could be better but done satisfactory

Does the stream crossing construction minimize waterway disturbance?

Yes

Have dips, diversions or other practices been used on waterway crossing approaches?

Yes

Have crossing approaches ben stabilized with crushed rock or gravel?

No

Comments

Not needed

Has riprap been placed around the inlet and outlet of culverts?

Yes

Comments

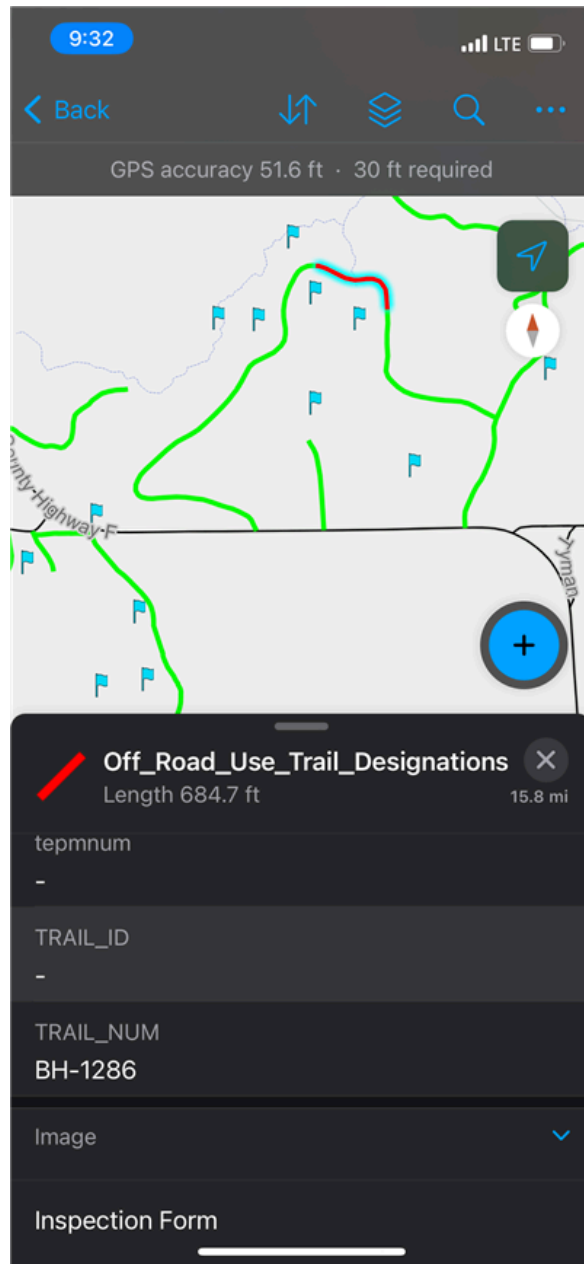
Could have been better but an attempt was made.

Are culverts installed so that there is no change in streambed elevation?

Yes

Media

Pictures



pictures-20240327-093614.PNG

Additional files

PDF 1-20 F&Moose 2609.pdf
1.1MB

Active Trail Compliance Check and Recommendation

Checklist

- **Inspect trail at regular intervals and after heavy rainfall to identify problems and help determine necessary repairs.**
- **Check all culverts, ditches , dips, and other drainage structures and remove any debris to prevent clogging.**
- **Check trail surface for ruts and holes and schedule necessary repairs.**
- **Identify areas where berms along the edge of the trail have developed and schedule removal.**
- **Identify locations where tree fall has made the trail impassable and schedule for clearing.**

Recommendation to committee

change designation

Comments

A portion of the trail that was previously closed can now be opened after timber sale operations installed a new culvert at the crossing allowing the trail to be opened.

Blue Hills Trail Association
P.O. Box 251
Bruce, WI 54819

Statement for Rusk County Forestry Committee Meeting April 10, 2024
John Waldron, Blue Hills Trail Association president

This document is aimed at providing accurate information regarding the Blue Hills Trail and the Blue Hills Trail Association, and to facilitate discussion regarding use of county forest lands.

Property: The buildings (warming house, pit toilets, and small garage) on the Blue Hills Trail are public property, and always have been. They were built, secured, and are maintained by BHTA (the Blue Hills Trail Association). Cameras have been placed in the surrounding woods to deal with theft and vandalism. The mobile storage units are owned by BHTA and will be removed if BHTA were to cease operations.

Public use: The Blue Hills Trail is on county property and has never been anything but a public facility. The Blue Hills Trail Association (BHTA) is a non-profit that maintains certain Rusk County Trails for year-round non-motorized types of uses – hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, and mountain biking among others. BHTA asks for donations to support trail maintenance and grooming operations. We estimate that most of the use is by non-members, although this is hard to track. The Blue Hills Trail has been utilized by the Ladysmith, Flambeau, and Bruce School systems over the years for a ski club, snowshoe outings, running cross country, and other school projects. We see great educational possibilities – year-round – for forestry and wildlife education, environmental studies of forests and wetlands, as well as geology studies of receding glaciers. Additionally, Rusk County’s Forestry Department has received commendations and awards for its coordination with community organizations, such as BHTA.

Johns Creek Road: As the deer gun hunts wind down and snow accumulates, BHTA has groomed Johns Creek Road for skiing for 37 years, since 1987. We ask hikers to avoid hiking the groomed road and other groomed trails during the ski season (mid-December to mid-March), so as to avoid punch-holing the surface. This is a routine rule for ski areas utilizing public lands. Timberland Hills in Burnett County, Barron Area Nordic Trails (BANTA) in Barron County, Hickory Ridge in Chippewa County, the Birkie Trail in Sawyer County – all have the same rules, pleas to users, and signs. All are located in county or other public forests. Johns Creek Road provides critical access to our trail system and is the best area for beginners due to its gentle grades.

Trail Damage: Trails that are damaged by foot traffic and vehicles are not only unpleasant to ski but become dangerous. Damaged trail surfaces require frequent passes of grooming equipment to repair. Snowmobile trails have the same issues with vehicles and trucks as we have with hikers. Thus, there is Rusk County ordinance: “Chapter 46-67(b) – No four-wheel drive vehicle, passenger car, all-terrain vehicle, truck or motorcycle shall be permitted to travel on approved county snowmobile trails between December 1 and April 15 without the written permission of the county snowmobile coordinator.” Like other ski facilities, we are trying to educate users, and requesting common courtesy on the trail, not law.

Excelsior Road: This is a more recent addition to our trail system. It is greatly loved by skiers. On December 18, 2019, the Forestry Committee passed a resolution establishing wintertime shared use of the road, with ATVs and snowmobiles to the south side of the road, with no trucks to be allowed. We agree with the Ad Hoc Public Trails Committee that trucks and skiers trying to share use of Excelsior Road is not feasible. (In the past few years, skiers were largely successful however sharing Excelsior Road with ATVs and snowmobiles). BHTA, the Rusk County Forestry Department, and the Ad Hoc Public Trails Committee are involved in discussions regarding the sharing rules that were established December 2019, and various options.

Signage: Lots of signs have been put up over the years. The vast majority are simply wayfinding signs. There are two memorials to past trail supporters who have died. There are signs at the warming house recognizing donors, and addressing use of trails as well as requesting donations. We believe that as an organization, we can do a better job of emphasizing that the Blue Hills Trail is a public facility open to all.

Interest Groups: The issue of “interest groups” came up at the March 20th meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee. Certainly, BHTA is an interest group, with its own wishes and requests. But fishermen are an interest group to which the county responds. As are bird hunters. As are bear and coyote hunters. As are ATV enthusiasts. As are snowmobilers. As are horse-back riders, boaters, and campers. All of them have their own constituencies, wants and needs. It is the duty of the Rusk County Board and Forestry Committee to continue to balance these competing needs for the good of all, and the diversity of recreation in Rusk County, including non-motorized recreation.

Does Rusk County want non-motorized trails, including Nordic skiing? If Rusk County wishes to have Nordic ski trails, on this very small portion of Rusk County Forests, the county needs to support and protect those trails. In the summer months that means protecting them from rutting damage by motorized vehicles. In the winter that means supporting some simple educational rules for vehicles, hikers, bikers, and snowshoers.

CONCLUSION:

The Blue Hills Trail Association is a non-profit entity that is run entirely by volunteers with a mission to provide a healthy recreational benefit to Rusk County residents and visitors alike by offering a quality cross-country skiing experience and year-round use of the non-motorized Blue Hills Trail. As the trail system is located entirely on public land owned by the people of Rusk County, we understand that the Blue Hills Trail Association operates solely at the pleasure of Rusk County. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of the Rusk County Forestry Committee, the Forestry Department, and the Rusk County Board. We hope to continue to help you maintain and protect these highly vulnerable trails, and continue the legacy of best-in-class non-motorized trails.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, January 10, 2001. All members of the committee were present. Also present were: Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester, and from the public: Daryl Kinnear, Steve Popowich, Dan Gavin, Jan Paulson, Carolyn Chatterton and Sharon Larson.

Tatur made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous (December 10, 2000) meeting, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

Vehicle Use Ordinance – West Side Ski Trail.

Steve Popowich representing the 4 Wheel Drive Club presented a proposal in which their club would step up and take over and commit to fixing up the west side of the ski trail in the fall of 2001. As of June 1, 2002, they would like to see the ski trail open to everyone, and their club would still maintain it. The club would like to look at the trail in the spring and if they felt they can repair and maintain it they would do a contract. If they didn't fulfill the commitment then the trail could be closed to motorized use. This is a good chance to bring 2 opposite user groups together. The trucks aren't even asking for use until 2002. As of October 1 each year, the trail could be closed to all motorized use until June 1st. There are a lot of other areas for hiking and hunting and skiing uses. At present, they are only committing to look at the trail in the spring. If it is beyond their means then their club would not be able to fix it. Feels it is a good way to boost the image of 4 wheel drive trucks.

Dan Gavin stated problems in Bayfield County. Felt the trails should only be open when clubs are maintaining the trails, otherwise the clubs have no say. The county maintains the authority over the trails. Felt Steve's ideas was good and a contract is good. Let the Trails Association sign the trails No Motorized Traffic and take care of enforcement. There is a need for an ATV Club so they can fix the trails. Offered to donate time running equipment to fix trails if necessary.

Daryl Kinnear has talked to a number of people about the resolution going before county board and the belief is that a proposal like this one, is a beginning to closing all trails. Cannot see the county board agreeing to spend tax-payers money to support a club. There are 2 issues here. 1. Asking for money and 2. Closing the trails to motorized traffic or not. Would agree and like to see the ski trail closed to all motorized traffic in the winter. Total closure to taxpayers is not the way to go. The Exeland Rod & Gun Club meets Sunday and there is a possibility of an ATV club forming out of them. Joint Rusk and Sawyer.

Jan Paulsen – Steve Popowich's plan sounds good but there is still a large user conflict. The trail is for skiers, hikers, bikers, hunters, etc. Their club's interest is not only for the ski season. The only reason the 4 wheel drive truck club wants to help them is so that their loop becomes a 4-wheel drive loop. It doesn't fit with the interest of the Hunter Walking Trail. There were over 170 skiers this weekend for their race. Many great comments on the trail. Very Positive and a lot of money brought into the area. It is a great retreat for many people.

Carolyn Chatterton – The summer time is when a lot of damage occurs to the trail. Why wouldn't it be easier to detour the trail, go to the right of the powerline. The ATV's have the rest of the hills, rather than using an area that the Trail Association has developed. Why should anyone pay for repairs when the trail for the ATV's could be detoured? The rest of the Blue Hills are closed to grooming for the Cross Country Ski Trail, let's share the hills. They only want their little area and it won't be long before they cannot groom the trail. They are being booted out of their area because soon the trail won't meet standards for use. There are hunters that donate heavily to the Trails Association and help with the maintenance. Their sport is a low impact activity to the environment. Can the West side of the ski trail be closed off to motorized traffic for this winter? The trails are being damaged now also.

Gene DuSell – Walt Herrmann did not hear the exact wording on the resolution at the last meeting. Feels the money set aside (\$5,000) could be used partly to detour the trail if necessary. Possibly split into 2 different motions or see if Steve Popowich's proposal would work, then they don't need the money.

Randy Tatur – 4 Wheel drive people are offering to fix the trails and they aren't the ones who damaged them. Even if we send this resolution to County Board, the committee should still look at the trails. The resolution gives the committee options and something to work with. Hopes it brings attention to the ATV people what the Trails Association works hard on their trail and maybe the ATV people will form a club and help maintain the trails.

Walt Herrmann made the motion to postpone and look at as a group in the spring/summer, 2nd by DuSell. Voting Yes – DuSell, Herrmann. Voting No – Jablonski, Tatur, Schneider. Motion defeated.

Len Jablonski – Not sure if the county would go along with the \$5,000.00 but there are 2 choices: Keep the ATV's off the ski trails or get money from the county to repair or close them down. The committee had tentatively agreed to close the trails until healed unless the county board agrees to give money to fix the problem.

Schneider made the motion to proceed with the resolution as written with the wording changes and present to county board, 2nd by Jablonski. Voting Yes – Jablonski, Schneider, Tatur. Voting No – DuSell, Herrmann. Motion passed.

Teska – For the ski trail closure for this winter, the change needs to be in the ordinance, then published in the paper for 30 days before it is law-enforceable. Suggests the Trails Association putting up signs for now. Not sure of the West side trail solution. Wants to keep the west side workable for the trails association. The most probable amendment to the resolution when it reaches the County Board will be the \$5,000.00. Can see this becoming confusing at County Board.

Tatur made the motion to allow the Trails Association to put up signs for NO MOTORIZED TRAFFIC on the west side of the Ski Trail. 2nd by Jablonski, carried.

Veh Use Ordinance – Schneider made the motion to present the Spring Closure of the County Forest Amendment to the County Board, 2nd by Tatur, carried.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, February 12, 2001. Present from the committee were : DuSell, Schneider, Tatur and Herrmann. Absent was Jablonski. Also present were Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator and Wayne Tappan, DNR Forester. Also present were Ron Weber and some of his High School Students. Art Kunstmann, Jan Paulsen, Carolyn Chatterton, Bob Swenson, Daryl Kinnear, Jim Johnson, Don Benson and Jerry Siverling.

Tatur made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

Island Lake Boat landing – Art Kunstmann stated that the Land Conservation would like to put on a 1-day workshop to teach people about re-vegetating shorelines. They would divide the right side of the boat landing in half and show people how to plant and spacing. Art will have a plan to bring to the committee at the next meeting. Discussion on Josie Creek Park, they have lost a lot of the beach area by not mowing.

Jan Paulsen representing the Rusk County Trails Association stated that after the County Board Meeting they decided to ask the county to make the West Side of the Ski Trail non-motorized and their club would maintain it rather than the county using \$5,000.00.

Luckily this year there has been enough snow, but if there were low snow, the rocks and erosion would be visible. Their club does not get any state funding for their trails; they use their own money from fundraisers and don't think it is fair that they have to keep repairing the damage done by motorized vehicles. A lot of people use the trails from other areas and bring tourism money into the county. If the trail is left motorized, who and how will we address the continuing damage?

The trail would be restricted to non-motorized, not to users. The trails are open to everyone, the issue is damage.

Carolyn Chatterton stated that if the trail were non-motorized, their club would maintain it, but it does need to be non-motorized for that to happen. There are no hunting cabins in that area so there would be nothing interfered with, and it is a small percentage. Their club works hard to groom the trails and they put a lot of work into the trail system. As logging is done, they usually can work something out to detour the trail around the logging. Hunters are welcome but leave the motorized vehicles off. Their club will fix the trail now, it needs to be re-seeded and set up before next fall.

Once the time for repairing, dozing and re-seeding is past, then it is almost impossible to fix the trails. Jan does a lot of fund raising. They are trying to compromise and they are not the only one having problems. They want a small area, nothing more. For hikers, scouts, bikers, skiers, schools. Please leave the vehicles out. Their club works well with snowmobilers.

Ron Weber – When a group is taking care of a small area, the committee should not even consider allowing ATV's on the trails. ATV operators have not shown any interest in helping fix trails, maintain or shown any responsibility when damage occurs on the trails. They are asking for 2% or less, let them have that little bit. They are a group that spends a lot of time and money, the committee should respect the clubs work and closing the trail deserves serious consideration. Is a hunter and enjoys quite areas like the ski trail.

Bob Swenson asked if skiers pay fees. There is a donation box there. The land belongs to everyone, cannot start to chop up areas.

Jerry Siverling asked about other people that bring revenues into the county. Believes that cutting off certain areas in the county forest is bad.

Don Benson – Cutting off that 2% is someone's hunting area. Does not think that 1 group has priority, everyone needs to get along. Wants other hunters to know that he was against the West Side Ski Trail Closure.

Tatur – The areas are open to everyone, for vehicles there needs to be limitations.

DuSell – Put this off until spring when the committee can look at the areas. The Trails Association is no longer asking for money, just closure to motorized vehicles.

Teska – The closure of the west side of the trail has no potential to affect private land access.

Vehicle Use Ordinance - Tatur mentioned any closures like the Ice Age Trail. Areas need to be considered for repair. There are areas on the Ice Age Trail that you cannot even walk anymore because of ATV traffic.

Schneider asked about fines?

Teska – have to prove intent to damage to give citations to people.

DuSell stated that the chairman of the Town of Wilson agrees to open town roads to ATV traffic.
Discussion.

Art Kunstmann stated that the road from the Audie/Perch Campgrounds go on 2 separate township's roads and some county forest road. If the west side of the ski trail were closed then ATV's could use the town roads to access the county trails.

WCC Program – Paula Carow stated that she is thinking of taking over sponsorship for the WCC Crew. App is due the 1st week of March. Asked if it is worth having a WCC Crew.

Teska asked if they have a shop area. Paula stated that they are working on the old DNR Building, which may be available. Paula asked why the Forestry Dept. will no longer sponsor the WCC.

Teska stated that the Forestry Committee went on record to not sponsor a WCC crew as of July 2001. Due to incidents, which have compromised the Forestry Dept. reputation. Tapon stated that the state supervision is not great. Warren King WCC Crew Leader stated that the City of Ladysmith is willing to be a minor sponsor. Teska stated that the Forestry Dept. is willing to be a minor sponsor. It is a jobs program, not a productive group. Some help to workers is to provide training and education.

Paula questioned why they could not stay at the current Forestry Shop, as when it was built, it was to be the WCC Shop and WCC budgeted money was used. If they cannot use the DNR buildings for a shop they county board may say that they built the Forestry Shop to be a shop for the WCC and will not give Paula a shop. Tapon stated that theft is a big problem. Schneider suggested that Paula try it for a year 1st, use the DNR area for now and see if the program works for her. Paula asked how many administrative hours were used by the Forestry Dept. Teska stated that supervision of the crew is a problem. There was not a lot of administrative work involved, the application takes a little time to complete. Paula asked about the costs, phone, gas, and tools. Teska stated that all the tools belong to the Forestry. Paula asked if the WCC would have to start from scratch for tools and also if there were any of the \$8000.00 left in the line item from Parks & Rec – would it be transferred to her budget. Teska stated that whatever is left can be transferred and they can also have the present WCC van. Paula stated that there should be more tools for the WCC Crew as they have been with us for 10 years and use \$8,000.00 each year. Teska reported that the state is not much help with problems; their response time is slow. Paula has seen positives of WCC and is seriously considering sponsoring them.

Timber sale closeouts – Schneider made the motion to close out contract # 1978, Todd Schultz and cancel letter of credit, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

Tatur made the motion to close out contract # 2047, Allan Olynick and cancel the letter of credit, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Monday, May 14, 2001. All members of the committee were present. Also present were: Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester; Steve Popowich and Daryl Kinnear.

Herrmann made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

Set a date to tour the west side of the ski trails. Schneider feels that they should be closed to all motor vehicle traffic anyway. Date of Tour - June 1st, meet at the courthouse at 8:00 A.M. and will be at Audie at 9:00 A.M. Discussion on a gentleman that was given a citation for having his truck in a restricted area. The gentleman had a fire-wood permit and said he was gathering firewood. Mike Bates informed Paul Teska that the gentleman had no chainsaw, no wood in his truck and was in an area not getting firewood. The citation stands.

Lester Solberg camps a lot at the Audie/Perch Lake Campgrounds. Is handicapped and wants to know if he can get a permit to drive his ATV to his camper. Teska reported that he will need to get a WI DNR Permit.

WCFA Summer Tour – June 28 & 29 in Spooner. Schneider made the motion to allow the Committee Members who are able to attend, as well as Forestry Staff. 5 PEOPLE TOTAL 2nd by Jablonski, carried.

Meeting Change to Monday, June 18, 2001 at 9:00 A.M.

Marlo Vorce Acquisition – State needs more information. Steve Anderson, Corp. Council has the opinion done and is working on the rest. Hopes to get it done today. Will do a closing statement.

Fish Lake Boat Landing – Steve will file by the end of the week. No great hopes, see what happens. Could take until the end of summer for a judicial ruling.

Access Permit Policy – Steve talked to a couple attorneys and feels that nothing clearly prohibits the county from requiring landowners to leave their land open. The county is not obligated to provide improved access. The County would be giving a benefit by allowing people to fix up the roads to their land. The policy is in line and the county could start using. Private owners may object to having to keep their land available to the public. Tatur is inclined to NOT make the landowners keep their land open, questioned liability. Steve said that we would be immune. More concerned that if the county wanted to set aside the benefit for a particular person or persons. Here, you are setting aside the property in exchange for the benefit of crossing county land to access their land.

Although the safest way would be to not do anything. Jablonski agreed. Teska stated that the spring closure takes away from the landowners. Steve stated that the county hasn't taken anything from them, that the non-motor vehicle ban in the entire county forest. This is a general ban based on Forest Management Practices, we are not taking a benefit away. Enforcement was discussed.

No Word from Kuhrt Lumber.

Snowmobile Trail Warming Houses – Teska has not heard anything more. Discussion on maintenance. Teska has a patch of Red Pine that may work for 1 house. Teska reported that he does not have the staff and man-power to do the work. Discussion on the plantation being cut/thinned. Could be a problem with a direct sale if it exceeds \$1,000.00. Jablonski made the motion to request a plan for these houses, for the Forestry Committee's approval and also with the basis that the county would provide standing logs for a 16 x 24 building, an agreement would be signed similar to that of the Trails Association Warming House and plans would be furnished. 2nd by Schneider, carried.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Tuesday, June 19, 2001. All members of the committee were present. Also present were Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester; Daryl Kinnear, Steve Popowich and Carolyn Chatterton.

Herrmann made the motion to approve the bills, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

Jablonski made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

West Side of the Ski Trails – Rusk County Trails Association: Carolyn Chatterton – Thanks to the Spring Closure, grass is growing back in many areas. There are still bad areas on the trails by K & J. An indication of damage is how the power line looks. Their Trails Association has a 14-year history, they started off with nothing and have had to rely on donations and volunteers and have done everything on their own. They have had over 30 culverts put in and paid for and have done their own bridges and brushing and preparing trails. Agreed they keep losing areas for logging operations, but have been able to work together. They are asking for less than 5 miles, less than 2%, the club does not want to put more money into the trails if ATV's are allowed. There are so many areas for ATV's to go, please consider working this out. There are so many costly repairs because of ATV's. There are rocks and ruts everywhere. There have been no payments or fund raiser by ATV groups or users. Soon Audie Lake Parking lot will fill with ATV's and there will be no room for boats or horse trailers. Loggers come in and cut and then it is 10-30 years before they come back in again, giving the land time to heal itself.

DuSell – What he saw when the committee toured the trails was damage at the bottom of the trails. There are 2 areas where water could be drained. Feels closure helped a lot.

Kinnear – Went on the tour also. Saw some spots that were dug-up. Has wanted to get ATV users to work on repairs, but it seems that the Trails Assoc. does not want their help. If they want areas for themselves, then they should buy their own land. ATV users were in favor of the winter closure for their vehicles, but the Trails Association wants it all year long. ATV's don't cause much damage. Have stated that ATV people will do self-policing.

Schneider – ATV's are getting bigger and bigger and there have been no ATV people offering to help with anything. The only ones who have been interested are the 4-wheel drive club and the trails association. The issue is motorized verses non-motorized vehicle use. ATV's have had time to attend these meetings, but there has been no interest, no one has talked to the committee. The truck people have made proposals and we haven't done anything for them, it has been all for ATV's. The trails were built as hunter walking trails. Now ATV groups have taken them over. We need more non-motorized areas. The Trails Association never complained about logging operations, they have always worked with us. How long do we have to wait for an ATV Group?

Tatur – The county forest is open to everyone on foot, but when mechanical means are involved, it is a different story. Loggers are restricted by their contracts. When the land was first obtained, horses were used for logging, no vehicles were used, times have changed and we are getting new sets of problems. Let things sit this year, agrees a group other than the Trails Association needs to help. Go over the trails in the fall and see the conditions, and if no ATV group offers to help, then close the trails next year. Advertise a meeting/clean-up day.

Popowich – It is public land, have to learn to share. Everyone wants his or her own areas. If you don't want to be bothered by others, go on private land. Agrees to the need for an ATV Club. The East Side of the Trails are all ready non-motorized.

Jablonski- Would like to see the ATV's and Trails people get together and try to work this out. Need a responsible group of ATV people. If they don't respond, then have to close the trails to ATV's because of too much damage.

Tappon – Committee is interested in multiple use – concern is the County Forest Law. The County Forest is for multiple use. If we end up splitting the forest that would not work, and also there would be administrative problems. Forge compromises with groups and give them the opportunity to work together with the understanding that if things don't work out then areas will be closed to everyone.

Schneider – whomever is responsible for damages, should repair them. We have to force the issue. The power line is also very bad.

Tatur made the motion to have a Clean-Up/Repair Day of the West Side Ski Trail System. Require multi user groups to assist. If no interest by other groups, close the trail to motorized vehicle use. 2nd by Jablonski, carried.

Jablonski made the motion to authorize Teska to draw up a press release regarding this, 2nd by Tatur, carried.

Teska – has recommended closing the power line to vehicle traffic because of damage and a safety issue of the chance of the power line being exposed. Bring this back to the July 9 meeting.

Timber Sake Contracts – Motion by Jablonski to sell direct, Tract # 10-01, Sec 4, 9 & 10, T38N, R8W to Bruce Burmeister for the minimum bid value, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

Teska reported that since the windstorm, there is heavy damage. He needs to get up in the woods and look at it.

Schneider made the motion for Teska to proceed with whatever he finds is in the best interest of the county, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

Teska has seen 4 – 5 loggers' jobs, existing contracts have had significant damage from the storm. They have verbally agreed to cut the wind-damaged trees at their contract prices. May have to amend contracts to clean up damaged trees. If Teska finds a lot of damage, we will probably have to have a special bid opening.

Discussion on FEMA Funding.

Trail warming houses – Teska has not received any proposals or talked to anyone yet.

Summer Intern – Gary Albrecht reported that this year we have Corey Verdegan as our summer intern and he is doing an excellent job. He is a great worker, has knowledge of equipment and can fix just about anything. He is enrolled to go to Stevens Point this year. He will get 3 credits for his work this summer.

WCFA Summer tour – Leave Gateway Parking Lot at 6:15 A.M., Thursday, June 28. 5 are going, Walt to drive his van.

Access Permit Policy – Nothing to report.

Fish Lake – Nothing from Steve Anderson.

WCC Program – At the end of the month the Forestry Dept. Sponsorship ends. Tools will be split up, hopefully start on the move next week.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, September 20, 2001. All members of the committee were present. Also present were: Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator and Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester and Daryl Kinnear, Jan Paulsen and Art Kunstmann.

Herrmann made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 2nd by Tatur, carried.

Off Road Vehicle Use: Audie Lk Power Line. We received a letter from Jump River Electric Power regarding the Power Line at Audie Lake. (See attached) DuSell stated that now the power line will have to be closed to all motorized vehicle traffic. Another route should be looked at to keep ATV Traffic off the ski trail. Tatur made the motion to recommend to County Board to adopt into the County Forest Ordinance to close the power line to any motorized vehicle use, 2nd by Schneider, carried. Jan Paulsen asked when the power line will be repaired and if they can drive on it for grooming the ski trail. Teska stated that the Ordinance allows for Maintenance Vehicles to use the trail. Jan asked if the repairs could be done on October 13, the ATV clean-up day and if someone can donate their bulldozer work. Schneider stated that ATV's caused the problem, more trails need to be shut down until they take responsibility for their actions. Kinnear stated that ATV's would find an alternate route. Tappon stated that it is too easy to get hung up into who is responsible, the problem needs to be corrected. Teska stated that he thought it would cost around \$2,000.00 to fix. There is money in timber sale revenue. Jablonski made the motion to have Teska get an estimate for the repair of the Power Line from Vern Chandler and take this to the County Board. Also to have Hank from Jump River Electric advise on what should be done and see if it would be better to fix this in the spring, 2nd by Tatur, carried.

October 13 is the ATV-Ski Trail Clean-up Day. They are to meet at the Ski Trail Warming House. People on the list will be called.

Josie Shooting Range – Jerry Carow stated that they had Thompson Excavating bulldoze the burms. They have been seeded and mulched. He is requesting Rusk County's \$1,000.00 funding. Insurance people will be out to look at this on October 24. Carow is working on what signs will be needed. Tappon stated that there is such heavy use of the shooting range that he does not feel safe with the lack of control at the firing line. Possibly make it a single lane shooting range or consider moving it to another area. Carow doesn't feel this is a problem the way it is now, problems can be taken care of with design. People would be against moving the range. To find a different place would be very difficult. There should not be a conflict with the campers. The hours are posted for use and people have to adjust. The range has been in since 1987. The campground would have been closed if it weren't for the shooting range and WRA, the way he remembers it. The committee should look at it now. Tappon stated that the range had fallen into mis-use and not maintained. It is worth talking about alternatives, any more work on the range should be held off until the insurance people look at it. At the last committee meeting, it was only discussed, only in the planning stage, the project went forward too fast.

Corp. Council – Steve Anderson – Czekalski Line Dispute. Steve cannot find anything in the case law to interpret the case regarding the 1996 adverse possession changes. Cannot say for sure if the land is the county's or Czekalski's. We do not know how long the fence has been there, did Czekalski maintain the fence? The burden of proof is Czekalski's to prove the land is his. Teska – how can the county be at risk if there are surveyor pipes and Czekalski hasn't made a claim for adverse possession. Steve – he can make a claim. He doesn't have to notify the County, possession has to be open and he has to prove intent to do something with the land. The law change for municipalities does not make it impossible but challenging on adverse possession. If the county wants to take the risk, understand that it is a risk. There is valuable timber on the land. Schneider made the motion to put the timber sale up for sale, 2nd by Jablonski, carried. The loggers who bid on this sale should be made aware of the problem. Corp. Council recommended gathering evidence of the fence, and even the fence if possible.

Kuhr Lumber – We sent in a denial of his claim. Kuhr has 6 months to respond. He requested some information; Steve has not gotten it to him yet. All Correspondence is to go through Steve.

Fish Lake – No Answers from defendants yet. This has to go into court. Steve cannot say for sure who is the owner. All descriptions start 33' north of the line. Surveyor indicates he thinks the county took title to re-do Hwy D and may have gotten a deed to all the land in the old highway right-of-way. Cannot tell for sure because of the description.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Monday, December 10, 2001. All members of the committee were present. Also present were: Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester; Daryl Kinnear and Jan Paulsen from the public.

Herrmann made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the following change, regarding the Dave Sances Sale – the minutes state that he owes \$123.00 it should read \$213.00. 2nd by Jablonski, carried.

Snowmobile Trail – FEMA – Teska reported that we have received all of the bills from the Clubs. Rusk County is awarded \$49,600.00 for the damage caused to the trails from the summer's windstorm. FEMA pays 87.5% which is \$44,851.80 which is what we had to work with. Teska explained that the Trails Association (Ski Club) was supposed to receive some FEMA funding, but the paperwork had not been done properly and they had not as of yet received anything. Teska will take \$2,603.00 from the Snowmobile clubs to help go towards the Ski Trails work. Teska had asked the Weyerhaeuser Snow Club President (Paul Huiras) about this and Huiras had no problem. The committee agreed with this. Schneider made the motion to pay the FEMA project with pro-rated amounts to all clubs, including the Trails Association, for a total of \$44,851.80. 2nd by Tatur, carried.

Teska reported that the Trails Assoc., had turned a bill for work done on the Sister's Farm Trail, however the county cannot pay it as it is private property. Jan Paulsen will turn it into the City to see if they will pay it.

Jan Paulsen reported that the ski race is set for January 6, (if there is snow). She invited the committee to attend, and said it is run to watch.

Plum Creek Snowmobile Trail Agreement. Schneider made the motion to approve the lease agreement for the snowmobile trail to go through the Paper Company's land, it is a 5 year agreement, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

County Surveyor Work on County Land – Teska reported that he is still waiting to get survey work done. There is no WCC help. We need to have the survey work done now while the leaves are down.

Timber Sale Close-Outs – Jablonski made the motion to close out timber sale contract # 2107, Jeff VanDoorn and return the cash bond in the amount of \$165.00, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

Herrmann made the motion to close out contract # 2106, Mike Soltis and cancel the Letter of Credit, 2nd by Jablonski, carried.

Herrmann made the motion to close out contract # 2099, Pk Falls Hardwoods and cancel the Letter of Credit, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

Discussion on not allowing machinery into the many timber jobs. Teska stated that he does allow skidding, but not to the landings or roads because it causes a lot of damage. Committee agreed.

Not much happening in the blow-down sales because of the weather, the ground is not frozen yet.

County Con 2002- Herrmann made the motion to use County Con 2002 funds for – The clear-cut area on South Bucks Lake Road for Trails and Openings and to build a multi-use parking lot at the South End of the Ski Trail System, west of the fire lane. \$4,950.00, ½ is levied money and the state provides the other ½, 2nd by Jablonski, carried. This might alleviate the ATV problem at Audie Lk Campground. DuSell stated that the Town of Wilson intends to open all their town roads to ATV's, they are currently looking for funding for ATV signs.

Land for Sale – Teska is working on the Strickland Township land. Teska has not been able to look at Tate VanDeVoort's land yet.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Monday, January 14, 2002. All members of the committee were present. Also present were: Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester; Jan Paulson and Howard Chatterton for the Rusk County Trails Association; Art Kunstmann, Watershed Proj. Manager; Richard Brandt and Vern Chandler from the Highway Dept.

Herrmann made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the change in the sentence regarding the ski race, instead of the word run; it is to be "fun to watch." Discussion on information in the minutes. 2nd by Jablonski, carried.

At the previous meeting, the Committee approved a parking lot development to be made from County Con funds. The lot is located on the Excelsior Rd. Jan Paulsen and Howard Chatterton voiced concerns with access to the Ski Trails. They feel that this will funnel much ATV traffic onto the trails and would like to see alternative areas for the parking lot. Howard presented a map of different locations. He showed the committee a Sawyer County Map and where it states that Trail #133 is designated as an ATV/Snowmobile Trail. We have not heard anything from Sawyer County. Teska stated that the county cannot do an area for exclusive use; County Con money is for multi-use. Paulsen asked if County Con funding can be used for ski trail repairs and Teska stated that it cannot. Put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Also the West Side of the ski trail is not in the ordinance as being non-motorized in the winter. The committee needs to see that it is put in the ordinance.

Timber Sale Closeouts:

Schneider made the motion to close out Sale # 2099 (Blowdown) Park Falls Hardwoods and cancel the Letter of Credit, 2nd by Tatur, carried.

Tatur made the motion to close out Sale # 2106 (Blowdown) Mike Soltis and cancel the Letter of Credit, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

Teska reported that Contract # 2036 – John Schultz, had heavy Blowdown. Contract amendment has been made to reduce prices 50% Hdwd and 25% mixed.
Contract # 2052 – Chris Hershey contract amendment. Everything at the original price except the hardwood pulp, price reduced to \$4.50/Cord (50%) for Mixed Hardwood Pulp.

Dave Sances job – Contract # 2030 – he had cut most of the job over the last 2 winters, about 24 acres left. Heavy blow down on what he had already cut. Sances does not want to cut the blow down. Teska reported that it is difficult to make loggers cut blow down on existing jobs. If Sances won't cut it then when he is done, Teska will close out the sale and re-sell it as a blow down sale. His contract does not state he has to cut blow down and it was after the contract that the storm hit.

Teska reported that there is not much activity on blow down jobs. 7 out of 30 are going, and 9 additional jobs that should be working are also not. We will see spoilage in saw logs by this summer. Markets and private jobs are part of the problem.

Devils Creek – Art Kunstmann stated that there is an area of washouts and they would like to put a permanent structure in to direct the power of the water from breaking into a different stream channel. Richard Brandt the Highway Commissioner stated that we need to have this done. They have had to repair extensive damage on Highway O because of these washouts. DNR permits for summer work are in place; Art will have to get approval for winter work. we can re-enforce the structure but cannot make it higher than the original banks.

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Monday, February 11, 2002. All members of the committee were present. Also present were Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Wayne Tappon, DNR Forester; Art Kunstmann, Watershed Proj. Manager; Jan Paulsen & Howard Chatterton from the Trails Association; Daryl Kinnear and Steve Popowich.

Jablonski made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 2nd by Herrmann, carried.

Hunter Walking Trails Parking Lot – Using County Conservation Aids monies. The Trails Association is not happy with the projected location of the parking lot. They feel that it will funnel more ATV Traffic onto the ski trail. Jan Paulsen stated that Howard Chatterton had presented alternate areas at the last meeting and they suggested at the end of 3 Lakes Road.. Their concern is on-going maintenance and repairs to the ski trail. Tatur asked if it is essential to have a parking lot. Teska stated that there is a need for a parking lot in an area of multi-use. The cost would be \$1,000-2,000.00 At the end of 3 Lakes Road, it is closed to pick-ups so a parking lot would have to be before that. Popowich asked if the Parking Lot would also serve people using the ski trail. Paulsen agreed that it would, but it would funnel so much more traffic onto the ski trail and who is going to keep helping them fix the trails. They were very appreciative of the help they received from ATV and 4 Wheel Drive People but are concerned on how many times they will be willing to help repair trails. Put the ATV traffic in an area where it won't have to be repaired each year, spread the usage around. Chatterton stated that the parking lot would cause a lot more traffic to the ski trail than before and by putting it in a different location it would avoid a lot of future damage. Schneider stated that money is already needed to fix the damage to the power line, why increase the traffic in that area?

Teska stated that County Con money is used to enhance opportunities for people to use the areas. If the West side of the ski trail is to be closed then the Committee needs to close it. But if it is considered multi-use than there is need for a multi-use parking lot. If damage from overuse occurs, then deal with it. As damage occurs anywhere on the county forest we should shut down the areas. The County Con money does not have to be spent this year, it can be on a carryover fund.

Schneider made the motion to abolish the parking lot and use the money for redeveloping wildlife habitat in the County Forest. 2nd by Tatur, carried, voting No was Herrmann.

Paulsen stated that the East side of the ski trails needs seeding and asked for funding.

Kinnear asked who should have to pay for this? Teska started that the West side of the trail would grow clover, but on the East side it is hard to grow. Logging roads usually re-seed themselves. The county will continue to help with seeding needs. The trail people will do the seeding and mulching. Discussion on trail usage.

Josie Creek Rifle Range – the County's insurance company came up with recommendations (see attached). The county gave the WRA \$1,000.00 in the fall to cover costs of berming, fixing covers and buildings and for signs. Art Kunstmann stated that the money was all used up on the reconstruction of the berms. They cost more than Jerry Carow had estimated.

Signing is the first definite thing needed. Est. cost about \$1,000.00 Then shooting covers, est. cost \$1,421.00 Kunstmann thinks that the WRA will fund one of the shooting covers but needs to double check. Discussion on insurance concerns. There at present is minimal signage and it also needs to have garbage cleaned up on the range. The shooting club was to be maintaining the range.

Schneider stated that the signs are something the county better deal with immediately. Inform the WRA that the covers need to be fixed or they will be torn down. Teska stated that we couldn't find a policy for hours of the shooting range. Need a better handle on this for when summer shooting occurs and signing needs to be addressed by June 1st. Kunstmann suggested a donation box on the range, as there is a lot of use of the range and it would draw in some funding. Jablonski stated that the donations should go to the shooting club and then they can take care of maintenance of the signs. Have WRA, shooting club and sheriff's dept. at the next meeting to discuss this. Give the list of the insurance recommendations to the club and inform them that the county has no money for repairs and if they want to keep the range open than they'll have to maintain it. Jablonski made the motion that corrective actions as given by the Insurance Company and with the Forestry Staff Recommendations to be done by Memorial Day Weekend or the range will be temporarily shut down until it is up to standards. 2nd by Tatur, carried. Voting No was DuSell.

May 14, 2007

Bucks Lake Dam Repair Project – Teska reported that there a couple bills for engineering. Hwy Dept. hopes to get started on this project at the end of June or first part of July.

Ski Trail Storage Shed and Bridge approval - The Ski Trail Association is asking permission to build a storage shed at their trail head and to replace 2 bridges on their trail. They are applying for park aids for these projects. Motion by to allow the club to construct a 12' X 16' storage building and replace the 2 bridges on the trail using Park Aids monies, by Platteter, 2nd by Schneider, carried.

WCFA summer tour is in Antigo, (Langley County) on June 21, 22. DuSell and Teska need to be at meetings there on June 20. Teska and DuSell to attend the summer tour on June 20, 21, 22.

Schneider and Platter to attend on the 20-21.

Schneider made the motion to approve the bills, 2nd by Platteter, carried.

April 9, 2007 Timber Bid Opening – Tract 4-07 - Tim Vacho had received this bid at the April meeting. Teska assumed he was bidding under a different name than he has on the current contracts, and that was not the case. He was the high bidder on Tract # 11-07 and was only to be allowed to receive one bid. Vacho's bid on Tract 4-07 was rescinded as he reached the limit of sales he was entitled to receive. Motion by Svoma not to award Tract # 4-07 to Tim Vacho and re-bid it for opening at this meeting. 2nd by Hauser, carried.

4- Hill Flowage; Donations so far are \$ 10,000 from NRCS and \$ 13,000.00 from US Fish and Wildlife. DNR is donating the labor and some of the equipment. We are waiting for the permits from the DNR and the Dam Engineer.

2008 budgets – The paperwork will be starting on those soon. Teska stated that if anyone has any special projects that they will want him to get started on he needs to know soon. Discussion held.

Certification (SFI) Audit is June 13. Teska, Tappon, Pat Zimmer will be involved in this. Start at the county office and then will have to go out to timber sales.

11:00 Schneider made the motion to close the timber bidding 2nd by Hauser, carried.

Only 2 bids received – both for Tract # 4-07.

Kyle Ewer	\$ 37,100.00
Mike Prokop	\$ 37,096.00

Schneider made the motion to accept the high bidder (Kyle Ewer), and to sell direct the other sale (2-07) 2nd by Platteter, carried.

Hauser made the motion to adjourn at 11:06 , 2nd by Platteter, carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:30 A.M., Monday, August 11, 2014.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were: Phil Schneider, Bob Nawrocki, Arian Knops, Pete Boss, and Jerry Biller.

Also present: Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator, Pat Zimmer – Liaison Forester.

Present from the Public:

Bob Grunseth, Tom Paulson, Ron Jaspersen, Carolyn Chatterton, Howard Chatterton and Rick Cote.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Boss/Knops to approve July 14, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:

Rick Cote, Vice President of the Rusk Riders ATV Club complimented Rusk County ATV trails on the up keep and how nice the trails are.

OFF Road use Policy/Ordinance:

A request has been made by the Rusk Riders ATV Club and the Blue Hills Trail Association to further restrict vehicle use on the Blue Hills Ski Trails. The Town of Atlanta is considering opening up Fire Lane Road.

The East Side proposal is as follows:

- Close John Creek Road to ATV/OHMs (off highway motorcycles)
- Close Rut road to ATVs/OHMs
- Place appropriate signage at existing and future access points to the Blue Hills Trail from Fire Lane Road, John Creek Road and Rut Road.
- Place appropriate signage on the blue Hills Trail at existing and future intersection points with old logging roads and skid trails.
- No ATV signs along Fire Lane would include John Creek road #26 on BHTA map gated logging road between #26 and #25 and Rut Road.

The West Side of the Blue Hills Trail proposal:

- Designate as non-motorized year round (currently non-motorized in winter cross country ski grooming season – December through early April.
- Place appropriate signage at existing and future access points to the Blue Hills Trail from Fire Lane Road, Excelsior Road and Perch Lake Road.
- Place appropriate signage on the Blue Hills Trail at existing and future intersection points with old logging roads, skid trails and power line (already non-motorized).
- No ATV signs along roads adjacent to the west side of the Blue Hills Trail would include on Excelsior Road at A (on BHTA map), on Fire Lane road at L (BHTA map), Perch Lake Road at gated logging road across from Perch Lake Campground.
- Excelsior Road would remain open to ATVs and other motorized vehicles.

The Blue Hills Trail Association and the Rusk Riders ATV Club will split the cost of the signs and the Rusk Riders ATV Club will install all ATV signs.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2014

Motion was made by Knops/Schneider to recommend a change in the East and West Blue Hills Trail Proposal Off Road use Policy/Ordinance to the County Board. Motion carried.
Voting - Yes 3 and No 2.

Timber Sales Contracts, Closeouts and Renewals:

No Timber Sales closeouts.

Paul gave a Report on Timber Sale activity; Income current in August is \$74,172.26, total Stumpage Revenue is \$476,959.72.

2014-2015 Forestry Department Budgets:

All Department Budgets were reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Knops/Boss to forward the 2014-2015 Budget to the Finance Committee with the changes made. Motion carried.

Murphy Flowage Campground Well:

A new well has been drilled, water has tested safe and will be hooked up to the Pump House this week.

Forestry Department Vehicles:

Paul would like to order a new truck and the State Aid Forestry Budget is short approximately \$8,500.00 and would like recommendations from the Committee where to Budget the remaining money. Pete Boss recommended getting the money from the County General Fund at a lower interest rate (2%) and pay them back in 2015.

Motion by Nawrocki/Biller to borrowing approximately \$8,500.00 from the County General Fund at 2% interest and pay it back in the 2015 Budget. Motion carried.

Closed Session – Announced by Chair:

Possible Land Acquisition – Purchase or Trade

Chair announces closed session for negotiating sale of city/county owned property: 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).

Motion by Knops /Nawrocki to go into closed session. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Boss, Nawrocki, Knops, Biller and Schneider. Motion carried.

Also Present: Pat Zimmer – Liaison Forester.

Entered into Closed Session at 10:21a.m.

Motion by Nawrocki/Biller at 10:31a.m to come out of Closed Session into Open Session. Motion carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2015

Blue Hills Ski Trail:

The Blue Hills Trail Association is looking for Financial Support. Tom Paulson spoke about the Blue Hills Ski Trail and why the County should support the trail. No action taken.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Knops/Biller to review and approve the bills. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Boss/Nawrocki to adjourn at 10:45a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be November 8, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2016

Blue Hills Ski trail Grant Request:

The Forestry Department with the Blue Hills Trail Association would like to apply for \$5,000.00 grant to improve the Storage shed at the trailhead. Estimates for the improvements are \$5,999.00.

Motion by Nawrocki/Biller approve the signature of the agreement as long as there are no legal issues. Motion carried. Knops abstained.

C.F. Land Dodson Access Road/Agreement:

Discussion on who will maintain the road off of Dodson Road in the Town of Thornapple. The Poolers who have a cabin are not interested in entering into a road maintenance agreement because the road is open to the public. The County ordinance needs to be addressed and the property owners deeds should be looked at. Discussion on the condition of the road.

2016 Rusk County Outdoor Recreation Aid:

SNOWMOBILE APPLICATIONS:

- Snowmobile Maintenance – 331.92 Miles @ \$250.00/mi.
- Bruce Club Trail 31 Mandatory Relocation
- Snowmobile Trail Development
Weyerhaeuser Trail 113 (2.75 mi.)

ATV APPLICATIONS:

- ATV Maintenance 24 miles x \$600.00/mi. + Insurance
- UTV Maintenance 24 miles x \$100.00/mi.

TROUTE APPLICATIONS:

- Betty Lake Rd. Trout (4.7 mi.)
- Serley Camp Rd. Trout (1.5 mi.)

Motion by Knops/Biller to approve the Rusk County Outdoor Recreation Aids Resolutions. Motion carried.

Timber Sale Contract, Closeout and Renewals:

Contract #2437 – Darin Duncan, close out and cancel letter of credit.

Contract #2468 – Addison Bender, close out and cancel letter of credit.

Contract #2483 – Allen Suzan, close out and cancel letter of credit after final stumpage payment.

Contract #2485 – Allen Suzan close out and cancel letter of credit after final stumpage payment.

Motion by Biller/Nawrocki close out cancel letter of credit (#2437 - #2468) after final stumpage payment(#2483 - #2485). Motion carried.

Discussion on Oak Wilt and down wood on Kafka terminated sale and Loggers that are at the end of the 4 year contract.

Total stumpage revenue for the year is \$675,000.00 so far.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2019

Administrators Report:

Jeremy reported the following:

- Jeremy and Phil gave a report on the Jackson County summer tour they attended.
- EAB traps will be checked next week and bait will be refreshed.
- The Lea Lake elk grant is finished which consisted of mowing trails and shearing alder.
- The Ice Age Trail Association held a work week and stayed at Murphy Park the last week of June.
- Jeremy wrote a letter supporting Rusk County Public Health Dept's application for a tick borne disease study.
- Approximately 1 mile of Betty Lake Road was resurfaced with gravel.
- Garbage dumping complaint in the county forest.
- Tom Paulson reported 2 miles of truck ruts on the non-motorized ski trail system which has been forwarded on to the Rusk County Sheriff's Dept.

Elk Grant Application and Acceptance:

DNR Wildlife Biologist Josh Spiegel has received \$4,627 towards access improvements on the county forest. He is also applying for another grant for an additional \$9,000. The new woods road will come off of Hervas Road thru state land and into county forest. This will allow us to establish a large block of aspen for sale and simultaneously provide great elk habitat.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to accept the current funds and support the application for the Elk Grant. Motion carried.

Advertise for Crushing:

Jeremy would like to advertise for crushing in Murry and Deer Lake pits for the Wilson Meadow ATV Trail. Town of Murphy would like to include crushing in the bid to improve Firelane Road.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to advertise for crushing in Murry and Deer Lake pits. Motion carried.

Road Improvements:

Murry Township - Firelane, South Fork Township - Hackett Road, would like to dump the stumps on county forest.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to allow the road improvement debris to be dumped on county forest. Motion passed.

Clubhouse Update:

An estimate from Huffcut for 2 showers would be \$63,000, 2 full service bathrooms would be \$83,000.

Out of County Travel:

Dane, Nick, Jerrad and Jeremy have training for Forest Metrix Pro in Spooner (23rd) and Phillips (25th).

Motion by Lieffring/Schneider to approve out of County travel. Motion carried.

Budget Review:

No comment

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

- The base stumpage rates were set for 2020.
- The new Executive Director for the WCFA will start October 2, 2019. Jane Severt will retire.
- WCA will vote on Resolution #4 offer for consideration by Burnett County, titled request a change in the definition of a forester at the annual business meeting on September 22, 2019. WCFA Board of Directors does not support the resolution.
- Jeremy went to the personnel committee for a compensation adjustment related to PTO for the Forestry Department. They are now looking at PTO compensation adjustment changes for the county as a whole.
- Monday, October 14 the courthouse will be closed for employee training. This will occur at the Miner Theater.

Ski Trail Route Change:

- Changes to the west side ski trail route were presented. A request to use Excelsior County Forest Road during the winter ski season. Any timber projects will still take precedence over trail grooming. Proposal will operate similarly to the east side trail system which involves Johns Creek County Forest Rd.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve the change to the west side trail system and use Excelsior Road during winter ski season for a ski trail route. Motion carried.

Transfer Dams to Land Conservation Department:

The forestry department currently operates and maintains 8 dams. The responsibilities of these along with the dams budget and aeration systems (Lea and Audie) will be transferred to the Rusk County Land Conservation Department as of January 1, 2020. The Forestry Department will provide assistance during the transfer and will continue to provide vegetation management of the dams that lie within the county forest.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve transferring the operation and maintenance of the dams, dam budget and aeration system to Land Conservation. Motion carried.

2019-2020 Snowmobile Club Maintenance Agreement:

SNOWMOBILE FUNDS		GRANT # S-5369
310.1 MILES @ \$300.00 PER MILE = \$93,030.00		
CLUB NAME	MILES GROOMED	TOTAL FUNDING
BRUCE CLUB	91.8	\$ 27,540.00
HAWKINS	49.9	\$ 14,970.70
LADYSMITH	85.0	\$ 25,500.00
SHELDON	24.2	\$ 7,260.00
WEYERHAEUSER	59.2	\$ 17,760.00
TOTAL	310.1 MILES	\$93,030.00

Mileage has been adjusted due to the recent GPS data provided to the DNR.

Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve 2019-2020 Snowmobile Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
DECEMBER 18, 2019

Administrators Report:

Jeremy reported the following:

- Jeremy would like to thank the Committee and full County Board for the changes to the PTO accrual policy.
- Adams County (30th County Forest) will be entering into Wisconsin County Forest program.
- Certification Audit for 2020 will be in other counties.
- In 2020 we will start the planning process for the 2021 WCFA Summer Tour in Rusk County.
- Strategic Planning will begin in January for the WCFA.

Advertisement for Bids (Wilson Meadow Bridge):

Mike would like to advertise for bids on Wilson Meadow bridge and Highway 27 bridge north of Sheep Ranch Road.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to approve advertising for bids on Wilson Meadow and Highway 27 bridges. Motion carried.

Timber Sale Approval:

Jeremy would like to approval to direct sell Tracts 2-19 (Roger Hoyt) and 7-19 (Tom King). Tract 2-19 was advertised twice and received no bids and tract 7-19 fell under the \$3,000 threshold, therefore both sales can be sold direct.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to direct sell the following timber sales to Roger Hoyt Logging (Tract 2-19) and Kings Logging (7-19). Motion carried.

UWSP Forestry Advisory Committee:

Approval for Jeremy's appointment to the UWSP Forestry Advisory Committee which was discussed on WCFA conference call.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to approve appointment of Jeremy to UWSP Forestry Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Budget Resolution:

Discussion was held on the potential resolution and budget transfers.

Excelsior Road:

Jeremy reported that there have been some inquiries received about the decision to allow Excelsior Road to be groomed for skiing when not plowed for timber harvesting. Members of the public and ski trail association were on hand to discuss possible alternatives and compromises. Discussion held.

Motion by Biller/Lieffring to allow Snowmobiles/ATVs/UTVs on ½ of Excelsior Road and groom the other ½ for skiing during snow covered times. Trucks will not be allowed. Motion carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2020

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 Lieftring/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 Lieftring/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/Lieftring to approve July AP report. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieftring/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.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 16 2022

WRA Sturgeon Spawning Viewing Area:

Wildlife Restoration Association (WRA) has an interest in developing the county property along Thornapple Road for a sturgeon viewing area. WRA would like the county to help develop access for the public to this area. The WRA would like the county to design, retain permits, and conduct long-term maintenance. WRA would provide material and labor for the construction of the project. 39-acre area is located west of Thornapple Road, North of Highway 8. The area could additionally be utilized as fishing access through the remainder of the year.

County staffing for long-term maintenance is limited without giving up other maintenance obligations. Staffing for designing is a large commitment for a county staff member. County currently has MOUs with user groups to develop and maintain user areas in the county land.

Request for County to consider selling 44 acres to the WRA to develop as they desire. Would be interested in purchasing at the same price that Rusk County paid for the property from the State. County would have to pull the land out of County Forest Law to sell the land. The process to remove the property is a multi-year process and would not likely be approved.

Is there a low-maintenance design option for this viewing area? WRA stated they could include the Environmental Challenge students to assist with the maintenance of the project. Walking trail and steps down to the area. WRA stated they will not agree to long-term maintenance of the project unless they own the land.

Motion by DuSell, second by Rathsack for Forest Administrator to draft an MOU with WRA for Sturgeon Access plan for the next committee meeting. Motion Carried.

Excelsior Road Parking Lot Development:

Excelsior Road has been used during the winter for motorized access on one side and grooming of ski trails on the other. Parking has increased along Fire Lane Road for access to the ski trails. Rusk County received a grant for the development of a parking lot area. The Highway Department has been approached for the construction of the parking area. The County Forest program does currently snowplow the parking area and will continue to provide snow plowing of the parking area.

Motion by Biller, Second by Dusell to approve highway to do the construction of the parking lot. Motion carried.

County Road F Parking Lot Privy Bid:

Estimates have been received for the building of the vault toilets. Estimates for building the vault toilets were higher than anticipated. It is recommended to put out for bid.

Motion by Biller, Second by Lieffring to bid out the County Road F Parking Lot Privy project. Motion carried.

Intern Wage Review:

Wage increases were approved overall for county interns as a whole by the County Board. The forestry department would like to recommend the following wages for forestry interns:

New incoming interns to get \$12.50

Returning Interns to get \$13.50

Lead Intern to get \$14.50

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2022

- Dozer work on old sales, will close out upon completion
- Wiitala/Vozka working on road work
 - Will try and cut this summer
 - Waiting on DNR permit for crossing stream with timber mat bridge
- Will be marking mixed hardwood sales this fall
- Closeout dozer work on sales Rut Rd, Narnia, Eke Rd, Weirgor Rd – Ted Strzok
- Illegal ATV access around gates

Administrator Report:

Jeremy reported on the following:

- Buildings on county forest lands
 - Warming shelters – county ownership, clubs maintain the buildings and raise funds to build
 - Since 2019 – Development grants \$93,5421 – ATV
 - Snow \$372,000
 - Ice Age Trail - \$0
 - Ski Trail - \$2,400 + dozer hours via DNR

Summer Tour Follow-up:

Was held June 22nd - 24th

Discussed success of Thursday and Friday tours and events throughout the county forest lands.

County Forest Non-Compliance Issues – Appointment of AdHoc Committee:

Request from Sanderson to include members of the Forestry department in the committee. Motion to form AdHoc committee did not include Forestry Staff. The Forestry Department will be able to address concerns from the committee as needed.

Motion by Biller and second by Kalepp to assign members who applied by letter of interest to the AdHoc committee; Motion carried.

Members include: Don Mansky, Rod Ellwanger, Ross Ellwanger, Arian Knops, Jay Waeltz, George Sihsmann, Ralph Fischer, and Dave Williams.

Thursday, July 28th, 6:30 pm. At the Rusk County Senior Center.

AdHoc Committee members Terry DuSell and Shane Sanderson to reach out to community members regarding the date and time of the meeting prior to the meeting date.

Recreation Maintenance Agreements:

Yearly Snowmobile and ATV maintenance agreements were presented for the 2022-2023 season.

Motion by DuSell and second by Kalepp to authorize 2022-2023 recreation maintenance agreements; Motion carried.

Forester Hiring Update:

Interviews were conducted this afternoon for the new Forester. Good candidate pool. Forest Administrator is working toward making a selection.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 21st, 2022

Blue Hills Trail Reimbursement Request:

Tom Paulson presented a request for reimbursement for gravel hauled to the ski trail. Gravel is \$600.00 and the skid steer work was \$225.00

The road was utilized by a logger to gain access to the timber sale. The logger had built up the road by hauling in gravel, did some ditching, and inserted culverts.

The committee discussed the impact of spending funds in this manner.

Forestry Equipment Request:

Currently, the department has one UTV machine with tracks that can travel through heavy snow. Staff would like the option to purchase tracks for a 4-wheeler to have access to a second machine to get through the snow.

Would be part of the 2023 forestry equipment budget. Options between \$3,100 - \$4,900+

Kalepp inquired about utilizing a snowmobile vs purchasing tracks for four-wheelers. Department had requested a snowmobile previously and was denied the purchase.

Motion by Biller second by Kalepp to approve \$4500 on four-wheeler tracks. Forward to property, motion carried.

Out-of-County Travel:

December 7th 2022 Tigerton, WI

Visual Merchandising Workshop

Motion by DuSell, Second by Biller to approve out-of-county travel for D. Gravesen, N. Wilson, J. Moore, M. Zimmer to attend Visual Merchandising Workshop. Motion Carried.

Budget Review:

The budget report was made available to committee members in the committee folder on the server for review.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Biller, Second by Kalepp to approve the November AP report; Motion carried.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. LEC Board Room.

Minutes prepared by H. Woldhuis – Forestry Department Office Manager

2025-2029 CIP Request Form

Forestry DEPARTMENT
 Jerrad Macholl CONTACT PERSON

		REVENUE SOURCES						
		TOTAL	TAX LEVY	G.O. DEBT	DEPT. FUND BALANCE	FED OR STATE GOVERNMENT/ GRANTS	FEES	
2025 Projects & Equipment								
A	trimble GPS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B	2 docks	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
C	Murphy add 2 sites	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
D		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
E		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal		\$ 38,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Total Revenue							\$ 38,000	
2026 Projects & Equipment								
A	ATV	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B	mower	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
C	Pavillion Bucks Lake trailhead	\$ 60,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
D	Paving Murphy pavillion(32,000)/Josie	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
E	Josie back sites upgrade	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal		\$ 149,000	\$ 119,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
Total Revenue							\$ 149,000	
2027 Projects & Equipment								
A	Truck 3/4 ton	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B	Audie Lake upgrade and expansion	\$ 735,000	\$ 367,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 367,500	\$ -	
	1. well/wellhouse	30,000						
	2. toilets/showers	250,000						
	3. dump station	20,000						
	4. 15 new sites	60,000						
	5. access road/driveway	110,000						
	6. electric to 30 sites	105,000						
	7. water to 30 sites	90,000						
	8. playground	70,000						
Subtotal		\$ 785,000	\$ 417,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 367,500	\$ -	
Total Revenue							\$ 785,000	
2028 Projects & Equipment								
A	2docks	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
B	mower	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal		\$ 36,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Total Revenue							\$ 36,000	
2029 Projects & Equipment								
A	Truck	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Revenue							\$ 45,000	
Total 5 Year Project Costs		\$ 1,053,000						
Total 5 Year Project Revenue Sources		\$ 1,053,000						

Project Narrative

7 trucks. Replace 1 every other year so that they are replaced after 14-15 years. 5 ATVs. Replace 1 every 4 years so that they are replaced after 20 years. 1 UTV. No replacement anticipated before 2030. 1 brush mower for skid steer. No replacement anticipated before 2030. ORV grant applications for pavilion and campground. RBF grant applications for docks.

Impact to Operating Budget

Normal operating budget should remain unchanged.



MODIFICATION OF VEHICLE REGULATIONS ORDINANCE

RUSK COUNTY

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROLL CALL Board Members	AYE (Yes)	NAY (No)	Abstain / Excused
1. TERRY DUSELL			
2. JERRY BILLER			
3. VACANT			
4. TONY HAUSER			
5. TERRY WEDWICK			
6. ROBERT STOUT			
7. RANDY TATUR			
8. TOM CUDO			
9. PHIL UNTERSCHUETZ			
10. JON UNTERSCHUETZ			
11. PHIL SCHNEIDER			
12. JIM MEYER			
13. MARK SCHMITT			
14. JOHN KALEPP			
15. TOM HANSON			
16. LOIS GOODE			
17. DAVE WILLINGHAM			
18. MICHAEL HRABAN			
19. DAN GUDIS			
TOTAL			

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted

1st _____ Defeated

2nd _____

No: _____ Yes: _____ Exc: _____

Reviewed by: _____, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: _____, Finance Director

FISCAL IMPACT: (Note if there is any fiscal impact or not)

Certification:

I, Connie Meyer, Clerk of Rusk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2024 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

 Connie Meyer
 County Clerk, Rusk County

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ARTICLE VII. - VEHICLE REGULATIONS

Sec. 34-190. - Purpose.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the county under Wis. Stats. § 28.11(3)(b) and in accordance with the purpose of the management plan adopted under Wis. Stats. § 28.11(5), the purpose of this article is to regulate vehicle use of lands in the county forests in order to both protect the public users of such vehicles and to facilitate proper management of the county forests while promoting responsible recreation.

(Code 1987, § 16.02(28)1; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989)

Sec. 34-191. - Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

All-terrain vehicle Wisconsin law ss 340.01(2g) defines an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) as a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device that has a net weight of 900 pounds or less, was originally manufactured with a width of 50 inches or less, equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and which is designed by the manufacturer to travel on three or more tires. This includes small or child-sized ATVs. Certain ATVs that do not currently fit the ATV definition may be registered as UTVs, see the UTV definitions for details Wisconsin law ss 23.33(1)(ng) defines a utility-terrain vehicle (UTV) as a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device that is designed to be used primarily off-highway, and originally manufactured and equipped with all of the following: a weight, without fluids, of 3000 pounds or less; four or more tires; steering wheel; tail light; brake light; two headlights; width of not more than 65 inches; seat belts; and roll bar or similar device designed to reduce the likelihood that an occupant would be crushed as the result of a rollover. This includes small or child-sized UTVs. Vehicles that do not qualify as an ATV as defined in ss.340.01(2g) but are commercially designed and manufactured, motor-driven devices that contain 3 or more tires, a weight without fluids of 3000 pounds or less, a width of 65 inches or less and a seat designed to be straddled by the operator may also be registered as a UTV.

Authorized means by a motion passed and entered into the minutes of any land and forestry committee meeting.

Committee means the land and forestry committee of the county board and its successors.

County forest means lands owned by the county and entered under the county forest law as described in Wis. Stats. § 28.11.

44 *Emergency* means a situation where a threat exists or is imminent involving loss of
45 life, personal injury, or serious resource or property damage.

46 *Gate* means any cable or metal pipe gate constructed to obstruct entrance to roads,
47 trails, or areas.

48

49 *Law enforcement officer* means any peace officer, including the county sheriff,
50 county sheriff's deputies, city or village police officers, or their designees.

51 *Motorized vehicle* means any motorized vehicle designed or capable of cross-
52 country travel on or over land and water, under frozen, wet or dry conditions. This
53 definition includes, but is not limited to, four-wheel drive units, motorcycles, all-
54 terrain vehicles, and air-cushioned vehicles.

55 *Official use* means use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the
56 county.

57

58 *Posted notice* means signs constructed of metal, plastic, or wood, placed in areas of
59 high visibility to all roads and trails. Wording shall be in the English language and
60 denotes any one of the following:

- 61 (1) Open to ATV/UTV.
62 (2) Open to ATV only.
63 (3) Open to Highway Licensed Vehicles.
64

65 *Timber sale vehicles* means any motorized vehicles used to harvest timber under a
66 contract with the county, including vehicles used to access timber sale contract
67 areas.

68 (Code 1987, § 16.02(28)2; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989; [Res. No. 00-40B, 2-26-2013](#)
69)

70

71 **Sec. 34-192. - Disabled vehicle usage.**

72

73 The county forestry department shall issue a permit authorizing persons with
74 physical disabilities to use vehicles as a mode of transportation in county forest land.
75 A permit is not required for a disabled person using a motorized wheelchair.

76 (Code 1987, § 16.02(30); Res. No. 05-03, 1-25-2005)

77

78 **Sec. 34-193. - Motor vehicles prohibited.**

79

80 It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of a motorized vehicle of any
81 kind on all roads, trails, or areas within the county forest, contrary to posted notice
82 authorized by the committee, except there shall be no prohibition to authorized
83 maintenance patrol, emergency vehicles or other official use. Timber sale vehicles
84 shall be permitted entrance to the timber sale contract area upon written and/or
85 authorization by the Rusk County Forest Administrator.

86 (Code 1987, § 16.02(28)3; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989; [Res. No. 00-40B, 2-26-2013](#)
87)

88

89 **Sec. 34-194. - Applicability.**
90

91 (a) The land subject to this article and regulations associated with each tract
92 are as follows (areas closed to any motorized vehicles):

93 (1) All areas within Rusk County Forest Lands not designated
94 and signed as Rusk County ATV/UTV Trail, Club Trail, all state-funded
95 designated and signed ATV trails or all-weather gravel county forest
96 gas tax roads or county forest roads designated open.

97 a. This prohibition shall not apply to authorized maintenance
98 patrol, emergency vehicles, or other official use.

99 b. This prohibition shall not apply to a licensed hunter
100 possessing a valid WDNR Harvest Authorization while
101 retrieving applicable harvested deer, bear, elk or wolf
102 during the regulated hunting season.

103 (b) Areas closed to motorized vehicles greater than 3,000 pounds.
104

105 (1) Timber sale vehicles shall be permitted entrance to the
106 timber sale contract area upon written and/or authorization by the
107 county forest administrator.

108 (2) It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of
109 any motorized vehicle greater than 3,000 pounds during non-
110 frozen conditions except ~~maintenance equipment on designated~~
111 ~~and signed Rusk County ATV/UTV Trail, Club Trail, all state-funded~~
112 ~~designated and signed trails.~~ where signed open to highway
113 licensed vehicles.

114 (3) ~~When the ground is frozen, vehicles greater than 3,000~~
115 ~~pounds are not permitted on the funded ATV trail system, the ski~~
116 ~~trail system, beyond the parking lots of the Josie Creek rifle range~~
117 ~~and archery range or other areas determined by the committee.~~

118
119 (c) Restrictions and allowance in parks, campgrounds, and boat landings. It
120 shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of any all-terrain vehicle
121 or snowmobile in the following areas:

122 (1) Any area within the boundaries of Audie Lake Park, except
123 the parking lot located in the boat landing area ~~and the access road~~
124 ~~from the boat landing area to Perch Lake Rd. for ice fishing use from~~
125 ~~November 16 through March 14, and ATVs will be allowed to load~~
126 ~~and unload at the designated ATV loading and unloading area in~~
127 ~~the Audie Lake boat landing area, except from March 15 to the~~
128 ~~Friday before Memorial Day weekend.~~

129 (2) Any area within the boundaries of Perch Lake Park, except
130 the parking lots, access road, designated ATV/UTV trail, and
131 designated campsites.

132 (3) Any area within the boundaries of Community Park, ~~except~~
133 ~~for paved areas. the parking lot located in the boat landing area for~~
134 ~~ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14.~~

135 (4) Any area within the boundaries of Josie Creek Park except
136 for paved and graveled surfaces. Motorized vehicles are not

137 permitted in the rifle range or beyond the parking lot of the rifle
138 range except for snowmobiles when the snowmobile trail is open.
139 Motorized vehicles are not permitted in the archery range. ~~the~~
140 ~~Josie Creek Campground area will be open to ATVs during daylight~~
141 ~~hours and except designated county snowmobile trail, and the~~
142 ~~parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from~~
143 ~~November 16 through March 14.~~

144 (5) Any area within the boundaries of Murphy Flowage
145 Recreation Area (campground and picnic area), except the parking
146 lot ~~by the boat landing, the parking lot by the pavilion and the~~
147 ~~access roads from the lots to County F. located in the boat landing~~
148 ~~area for ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14.~~

149 (6) Any area within the Blue Hills Ski Trails system and
150 established Hunter Walking Trails. ~~Any county maintained boat~~
151 ~~landing and associated parking lot from March 15 through~~
152 ~~November 15, except for winter ice fishing use from November 16~~
153 ~~through March 14.~~

154 (7) Other areas determined by the committee. ~~The county~~
155 ~~will provide access from the Audie Lake Campground parking area~~
156 ~~to the ATV trails for ATV use.~~

157 -
158 (d) Seasonal restriction.
159

160 (1) It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of
161 any motorized vehicle except on all-weather gravel county forest
162 gas tax roads from March 15 to December 31, or when the ground
163 is defined as frozen by the order of the forestry committee.

164 a. This prohibition shall not apply to authorized maintenance
165 patrol, emergency vehicles, or other official use.

166 b. This prohibition shall apply to the state funded, graveled
167 ATV/UTV trails from March 15 through April 30th. These
168 trails open on May 1.

169 c. This prohibition shall apply to all other signed open trails and
170 signed open woods roads from March 15 until ~~June 15. the~~
171 ~~Friday before Memorial Day weekend.~~ These signed trails will
172 be open for use on ~~June 15 the Friday before Memorial Day~~
173 ~~weekend~~ until March 15 of the following year, unless it is also a
174 county snowmobile trail that is groomed or open for
175 snowmobiles.

176 d. Woods roads may be signed as an open trail by request to the
177 Rusk County Forestry Committee upon field verification by
178 authorized personnel appointed by the committee.

179 e. Open trails may be temporarily closed by the Forest
180 Administrator for the following reasons.

181 a. safety/public health

182 b. maintenance

183 c. extreme fire danger or active wildfire
184 d. natural disaster
185 e. trail degradation
186 f. natural resource concerns
187 g. BMP violations
188 h. man-caused emergency
189 f. Any and all closures shall be subject to review and approval by
190 the Rusk County Forestry Committee at the next legal forestry
191 committee meeting.
192 (2) No motorized vehicles shall be permitted to travel on
193 approved county snowmobile trails while they are groomed or
194 open without permission of the Committee.
195 a. This prohibition shall not apply to the following:
196
197 1. County forest roads are listed as follows:
198 a. Serley Camp Road, Weirgor Road, Betty Lake
199 Road, Three Lakes Road and 4 Hill Road.
200
201 2. Snowmobiles.
202 Sec. 34-195. - Ice Age Trail.
203 (a)There is hereby created in the county an Ice Age Scenic Trail to be
204 established by the county and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Inc.,
205 pursuant to an agreement between those parties. This trail shall be
206 designated and maintained as a hiking trail with other non-motorized
207 uses such as jogging and cross-country skiing allowable. Where county
208 authorized snowmobile trails coincide with the Ice Age Trail,
209 snowmobiling on the trail shall be allowed during the winter season
210 when snowmobile trails are open. Other motorized use of the Ice Age
211 Trail, except for authorized maintenance, patrol emergency vehicles or
212 other official use is prohibited except as stated in subsection (b) of this
213 section.(b)Motorized vehicle use will be allowed on the following areas
214 where dual use between trails and open roads exist:
215 T.36N.-R.9W. Town of Wilson:
216 SWSW Section 19
217 S½ Section 28
218 SE Section 30
219 E½ Section 33
220 SW Section 34
221
222 T.35N.-R.9W. Town of Wilkinson:
223 SW Section 2
224 N½ Section 3
225 Section 11
226 NWNW Section 13

227 W½ Section 26
228 NW Section 35
229
230 T.34N.-R.9W. Town of Strickland:
231 SESW, SWNW Section 3
232 SESE Section 4
233 NENW Section 10.
234
235 (Code 1987, § 16.02(28)4; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989; Res. No. 00-40B, 2-26-2013)
236
237 **Sec. 34-196. Operation Rules**
238 (a) Operation of ATV and UTV on trails to follow guidelines set forth by Wis.
239 Stat. 23.33
240 (1) Illuminated headlight/taillight
241 (2) ATV certification required if born after 01/01/1988
242 (3) Under 16 requires accompanying adult
243 (4) Headgear required if under 18
244 (5) Illegal to operate in such a manner as to result in soil erosion, pollution,
245 trail degradation or other damage
246 (6) Motorcycles prohibited on trails
247
248 **Sec. 34-197. Signage Rules**
249 (a) Unsigned woods roads are closed to all motorized use including ATV/UTV
250 except from December 31 until March 15.
251 (b) Open trails will be signed for ATV, ~~or~~ ATV/UTV and/or Highway Licensed
252 Vehicle use.
253
254 **Sec. 34-198 Enforcement**
255 (a) This ordinance shall be enforced by any officer employed by the Rusk
256 County Sherriff's Department or any other law enforcement officer defined
257 in Sec. 34-191
258
259 (Code 1987, § 16.02(28)3; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989; [Res. No. 00-40B, 2-26-2013](#)
260 ; [Amend. of 6-18-](#)
261 [2013](#) ; [Res. No. 00-40C, 10-29-2013](#) ; [Res. No. 00-40C, 11-12-2013](#) ; [Ord. No. 00-](#)
262 [40D](#), 8-26-2014; Res.
263 No. [00-40E](#), 4-23-2019)



RUSK COUNTY

RESOLUTION #

MODIFICATION OF CHAPTER 46

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROLL CALL Board Members	AYE (Yes)	NAY (No)	Abstain / Excused
1. TERRY DUSELL			
2. JERRY BILLER			
3. VACANT			
4. TONY HAUSER			
5. TERRY WEDWICK			
6. ROBERT STOUT			
7. RANDY TATUR			
8. TOM CUDO			
9. PHIL UNTERSCHUETZ			
10. JON UNTERSCHUETZ			
11. PHIL SCHNEIDER			
12. JIM MEYER			
13. MARK SCHMITT			
14. JOHN KALEPP			
15. TOM HANSON			
16. LOIS GOODE			
17. DAVE WILLINGHAM			
18. MICHAEL HRABAN			
19. DAN GUDIS			
TOTAL			

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted

1st _____ Defeated

2nd _____

No: _____ Yes: _____ Exc: _____

Reviewed by: _____, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: _____, Finance Director

FISCAL IMPACT: (Note if there is any fiscal impact or not)

Certification:

I, Connie Meyer, Clerk of Rusk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2024 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

 Connie Meyer
 County Clerk, Rusk County

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Sec. 46-67. – Restricted uses of snowmobiles.

(a) No person shall operate a snowmobile:

(1) On any land under the supervision, management or control of the county forestry department that is posted as "Closed."

(2) At a speed in excess of ten miles per hour when the trail is posted with a yellow caution sign such as "Steep Hill," "Dip," "Turn," etc.

(b) No four-wheel drive vehicle, passenger car, all-terrain vehicle, truck or motorcycle shall be permitted to travel on approved county snowmobile trails **while they are groomed or open for snowmobiles between December 1 and April 15** without the written permission of the county snowmobile coordinator.

(c) ~~Holders of wood-cutting permits from the county forester shall not be permitted to travel on approved snowmobile trails after January 1 of each winter. Permit holders who wish to travel on approved snowmobile trails for the purpose of securing firewood prior to January 1 shall contact the county forester and state when and where they intend to travel on approved snowmobile trails.~~

(d) Landowners who permit snowmobiling on their land pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 895.52 shall notify the county snowmobile coordinator if they intend to travel on an approved snowmobile trail with a vehicle other than a snowmobile. The notifications shall be the same as that required in Wis. Stats. § 895.52.

(Code 1987, § 7.06(2); Ord. No. 76-3, 11-11-1976)

SUBMITTED BY:

Rusk County Forestry Committee

Phil Schneider, Chairman

Jerry Biller

Terry DuSell, Vice Chairman

John Kalepp

Phil Unterschuetz

Rusk County Forestry Department

311 Miner Ave. E. Suite 115
Ladysmith, WI 54848
Office: (715) 532-2113
Fax: (715) 532-2138



April 11, 2024

Dear Prospective Bidder,

Enclosed you will find the spring timber sale advertisement packet. The Forestry Committee understands the prolonged supply chain constraints and will continue offering contracts at a 4-year length.

Timber mats (4x8x16) and a portable clear-span bridge are available to contract holders for use on Rusk County sales. Availability is on a first-come-first-served basis. No single contractor may check out the entire quantity of timber mats at once. Please contact the office if you are interested.

A reminder that the Avenza app allows the timber sale map to be uploaded to your phone and can then provide you tracking data on the map without needing cellphone reception. If you currently use Avenza maps or are interested in learning more, please feel free to contact us.

Some other items to consider are listed below:

- Timber Sale Avenza compatible maps are available online: ruskwi.govoffice3.com/timber
- Timber sale packets are also available online.
- Bids must meet or exceed the overall minimum listed on each sale map.
- Bid sheets must be filled out completely. Lump-sum sales still require a per-product price.
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit may be used for the performance deposit as long as they expire on or after **December 31st, 2028**.
- Irrevocable letters of credit/Performance bonds, or cash bonds are due to the Forestry Office no more than one month from the award of sale.
- Timber sale contracts will **expire on June 30, 2028**.
- Contract extensions should not be expected and are not guaranteed.
- The Purchaser shall ensure that at least one in-woods person actively engaged in the performance of this contract and responsible for the logging site is Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance (**FISTA**) Certified.
- All timber sales begin with an on-site pre-sale meeting with a member of the Rusk County Forestry Department and the contractor.
 - Advance payment of 25% of sale value is required to begin on scaled sales
 - Lump-sum sales require advanced payment

If you'd like to be placed on our timber sale email distribution list, please contact our office with your email address.

Thank you for your continued interest in Rusk County Forest Timber Sales.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerrad D. Macholl", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Jerrad D. Macholl
Rusk County Forest Administrator

RUSK COUNTY TIMBER SALE PROSPECTUS – NOTICE OF SEALED BIDS

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Rusk County Forestry Committee for the purchase of the designated stumpage on the attached tracts. Bids will be opened on **Wednesday, May, _____ 2024**, in the Law Enforcement Center Meeting Room of the Rusk County Government Center, 311 Miner Ave E, Ladysmith, WI 54848. **Bids will not be accepted after 3:00 P.M.**

I. BIDDING:

1. Sealed bids are to be marked with the bidder's name and the tract number on the envelope.
2. Bids must be placed separately for each tract.
3. Bid forms must be filled out in their entirety.
4. Bids must be made per ton or per thousand board feet as indicated on the sale prospectus.
5. Bids must meet or exceed the overall minimum bid listed for each sale. Any bid not meeting this requirement will be rejected.
6. Bids must be accompanied by an irrevocable letter of credit, check or cash equal to 10% of the total bid value of the sale.
7. The estimated volume indicated on the timber sale prospectus is no guarantee of that volume. More or less volume may be on the tract and it is the obligation of the bidder to view the tract for purposes of estimating the volume. New bidders and other bidders unfamiliar with Rusk County Timber Sales and Policies should contact the Forest Administrator prior to bidding. An on-site meeting with the successful bidder must occur with a member of Rusk County Forestry (RCF) before any operations can begin. Bidders may use ATVs to view the tract for purposes of determining a potential bid; with the advanced permission of the RCF Administrator.

II. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Successful bidder must agree to perform all operations under his contract in compliance with Wisconsin's Workman's Compensation Act, Chapter 102, Wisconsin Statutes.
2. The successful bidder must provide Rusk County with a Certificate of Insurance indicating Workers' Compensation coverage is in force for all timber producers on the site or must sign off by the disclaimer in the timber sale contract.
3. A certificate of Comprehensive General Liability Insurance must accompany all bids or be on file in the Rusk County Forestry Office. Rusk County will be listed as a holder of a Certificate before operations begin.

III. TIMBER SALE CONTRACT AWARDING:

1. The number of Timber Sale Contracts that a timber producer may have will be based on a proven performance record with Rusk County.
2. All new purchasers will be allowed to have only 2 Contracts (Timber Sales) with Rusk County under contract until they have successfully completed (Closed Out) 1 or more contracts.
3. If a new bidder is the highest bidder on more sales than allowed with Rusk County, the County will select which bids will be awarded. The awarding of sales will be done on a basis of the largest price differential between the total highest bid and the next highest bid or zero if no other bids were received. The total bid value of the sale will be used to determine the value of the bid.

IV. PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS:

1. The **10% Bid Deposit** of successful bidders will be retained as a performance deposit. Bids will be understood to be irrevocable offers for a period of 14 days. Deposits will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. A **Performance Deposit of 25%** of the total bid is required of the successful bidder, who will have 30 days after the bid opening to deposit the additional 15%.
2. The performance deposit may be replaced by an irrevocable letter of credit. Irrevocable letters of credit will be made out until at least **December 31, 2028**.
3. Upon successful completion of the contract, the performance deposits will be returned after the timber sale closing.

V. LOGGER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ON RUSK COUNTY TIMBER SALES:

Rusk County requires appropriate training for its logging contractors. Successful purchasers of Rusk County Forest stumpage will need to ensure that the logging purchaser complies with the **Wisconsin Sustainable Forestry Initiative®** Training Standard as adopted by the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). Criteria for the standard can be found at <http://www.fistausa.org/become-sfi.html>. Documentation confirming completion of the training standard will be required prior to any work on the contract area.

VI. CONTRACTS AND EXTENSIONS:

1. Contracts must be signed and returned to the RCF Administrator within 30 days of the bid letting. The 10% performance deposit may be held by the County if a contract is not signed within this time period.
2. No timber sale may begin without a meeting on-site with a member of the RCF Department.
3. Contracts will be issued for a period of 4 years. Contract expiration dates will be listed on each timber sale map.
 - a. **All Tracts EXPIRE June 30, 2028.**
4. Contract Extensions are not guaranteed.
5. If an extension of a Timber Sale Contract is deemed reasonable, the stumpage price agreed upon shall be determined by the Rusk County Forestry Committee.
 - a. **Timber sale contracts for the 2024 Spring opening are 4 years in length.** Extensions may be considered only in extreme circumstances once a contract reaches 4 years of age.
6. All purchasers who have Rusk County Timber Sale Contracts that are 4 years or older, will not be allowed to purchase any additional Rusk County Timber Sales until all current contracts 4 years of age or older are closed out.

VII. VOLUME STANDARDS/STUMPAGE PAYMENTS:

1. Rusk County Forestry reserves the right to either accept mill scale or scale wood on the site.
2. All scaled sales will have wood scaled by RCF Department staff or use the County lockbox system prior to wood being removed from the sale.
3. Rusk County will charge 1.5% interest compounded monthly on all past-due timber stumpage bills after 30 days.
4. Saw log merchantability standards are:
All pine with at least one 100” log to a 9” top, and all hardwood with at least one 100” log to a 10” top.
5. All saw logs will be scaled using Scribner Decimal C. Log Rule.
6. Pulpwood merchantability standards for all species with at least one 100” stick to a 4” top.
7. Rusk County will use the Cordwood weight conversion factor table from the WDNR Timber Sale Handbook.

CORDWOOD WEIGHT CONVERSION FACTORS
POUNDS PER CORD

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Weight (tons)
Ash	4600	2.300
Aspen	4500	2.250
Balsam	4250	2.125
Balsam poplar	4900	2.450
Basswood	3850	1.925
Beech	5050	2.525
Black Cherry	4300	2.150
Cedar	3150	1.575
Cottonwood	4650	2.325
Elm	5000	2.500
Hard maple	5100	2.550
Hemlock	4800	2.400
Hickory	5400	2.700
Jack pine	4250	2.125
Locust	5300	2.650
Mixed hardwood	4800	2.400
Red oak	5500	2.750
Red pine	4500	2.250
Soft maple	4550	2.275
Spruce	4000	2.000
Tamarack	4650	2.325
White birch	4800	2.400
White oak	5850	2.925
White pine	4200	2.100
Yellow birch	5350	2.675

VIII. SAWLOG/BOLT WOOD SCALE AND PULPWOOD TICKET SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Removal of wood from the sale area without being scaled by RCF Personnel or without the correct use of the County lockbox system is deemed as harvested without the owner's consent or permission and subjects the Purchaser to civil and/or criminal penalties provided for under sections 26.03, 26.06 and 943.20 of Wis. Statutes. Such unauthorized removal of forest products shall cause cancellation of this contract and forfeiture of the performance bond or deposit and all monies paid to the County. Purchaser agrees to pay double the stumpage rate as indicated in Clause 9 of the contract, as liquidated damages, for such removed timber.

SAWLOG/BOLT WOOD SCALE

1. All scaled loads of saw logs or bolts will have the appropriate ticket stub deposited in the lockbox prior to leaving the sale area.
2. All saw logs and bolts shall be separated from pulpwood when piled. All saw logs and bolts will be yarded for scaling. If logs are decked, small ends of logs shall be piled all one way, and the log length shall be marked on the small end with a lumber crayon. Decks shall be no higher than 6 feet. At least 5 MBF (thousand board feet) of sawlogs will be skidded and yarded before a scale is requested. All logs and bolts shall be scaled and painted prior to leaving the premises.
3. All pieces which scale 30 board feet or more, net Scribner Scale, and are 50% or more sound must be paid for at the MBF rate. Pieces that scale less than 30 board feet and pieces less than 50% sound must be paid for at the cord rate.
4. After scaling, or, in the event of multiple scaling under this contract, after each scaling, payments for all timber scaled shall be made to the Forestry Administrator at the office of the RCF Department, Rusk County Government Center, Ladysmith, WI within 30 days of billing. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement, and time is of the essence as to all payments required under this contract.

PULPWOOD MILL SCALE

1. Ticket books shall be issued by the RCF Department as needed. Advance payment of 25% of the sale value will be required before the sale begins.
2. Lockboxes shall be placed on the premises by the RCF Department.
3. The Purchaser shall provide the RCF Department with a list of all destinations of timber to be removed from the premises; changes in timber destination shall be reported before hauling to the new destination.
4. Prior to hauling any timber, the Purchaser agrees to provide, on forms supplied by the RCF Department, the intent of all buyers of cut timber from the premises to return copies of scale slips attached to corresponding tickets. Purchaser agrees to sell no cut timber to any buyer who has not provided written verification of his/her intent to return scale slips and tickets.
5. Each time a load of cut timber leaves the sale area, the appropriate portion of the ticket shall be clearly filled out and deposited in the lockbox.
6. Failure to deposit tickets in the lockbox each time a load of cut timber leaves the sale area will constitute termination of the timber sale contract. Purchaser agrees to pay double the stumpage rate as indicated in clause 9 of the contract, as liquidated damages, for such removed timber.
7. Tickets are issued for the Contract specified on the cover of the ticket book and shall not be used for any other contract.
8. When transporting timber from the sale area, the truck driver shall have in their possession the appropriate portion of the ticket applicable to the load.
9. A list of all truckers that will be hauling wood from the premises shall be provided to the RCF Department by the Purchaser. It shall be the responsibility of the Purchaser to provide such truckers with appropriate ticket books.
10. The RCF Department may check scale and scale tickets at any time.
11. Truck Delivery: The appropriate portion of the ticket shall be detached at the point where the wood is scaled and attached to a duplicate copy of the scale slip. Both shall be returned to the RCF Department.
12. Rail Car Shipment to a Mill: The appropriate portion of the ticket shall be attached to the bill of lading for the car. At the mill, the ticket shall be attached to a copy of the scale slip, then immediately returned to the RCF Department.

IX. ACCESS AND ROADS:

1. All new construction must be approved by RCF Administrator before construction. The RCF Office must be notified at least 5 working days before road construction.
2. Before closing sales, the purchaser will be responsible for replacing existing soil berms and other obstacles as approved by RCF. Purchasers are also responsible for reclaiming or berming new roads as designated on the sale map.
3. Purchaser is responsible for securing access across any lands not owned by the County prior to bidding.
4. Navigable stream crossings must comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. All necessary water crossing permits will be the responsibility of the RCF Office after written notice of need is provided by the purchaser.

5. No skidding, landing, or piling of wood products will take place on funded ATV Trails, town, county, state, or county forest roads, or on the cleared right of way of same, without written permission from the agency responsible for the said road. Written permission must be on file in the RCF Office.
6. Snowmobile trails are not to be used as access unless permitted in the prospectus. Where permitted, the trails must be maintained with snow cover and be kept free of all logging debris.
7. Wildlife openings may be used for landings provided that the topsoil is not disturbed and remain free of all logging debris at the close of the sale. Other restrictions may be listed on the sale map.
8. Road damage to existing access, roads, or county forest roads, due to logging, will require purchaser repair.
9. Road approaches to surfaced roads or other governmental public roads are the responsibility of the purchaser. Damage to these roads is the responsibility of the purchaser.

X. **RESTRICTIONS:**

1. Sales listed as winter logging are limited to frozen ground operations between December 1 and March 15. Logging before or after these dates is allowed only with prior permission from the RCF Department.
2. Special considerations including Oak Wilt may apply and will be listed on individual sale maps.
3. The use of continuously rotating saw heads (i.e. hot saws) may be prohibited as noted on individual sale maps.

XI. **RUSK COUNTY FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:**

1. Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality will be followed. Rutting and other excessive soil damage will result in ceasing operations.
2. RCF Department may change, suspend or terminate any timber sale contract with no penalties to the county if any of the following occur:
 - a. Errors in timber sale planning or design cause or may cause serious environmental damage or violate any county, state, or federal law or regulation.
 - b. Any Forest Health issues arise that may cause serious damage to the Rusk County Forest.
3. More detailed information is available at the RCF Office concerning what is expected of purchasers operating on an RCF Timber Sale.

XII. **RUSK COUNTY FOREST RUTTING POLICY:**

1. The County’s goals for the management of soil disturbances are to:
 - a. Minimize inadvertent soil disturbances and potential adverse impacts on soil productivity, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resources.
 - b. Maintain roads and related structures to intended design standards.
 - c. Combine professional-level expertise and operator experience in the formation of on-the-ground decisions.
 - d. Provide a protocol for identifying and responding to maintenance needs.
2. Excessive Soil Disturbance Determinations
 - a. A soil disturbance is “excessive” if it has exceeded the threshold (see Table 1). An area with an excessive soil disturbance requires special attention from a Timber Sale Administrator (if part of a timber sale) or RCF staff (if part of the county forest road system). Excessive soil disturbances require special attention to evaluate the effect of the soil disturbance and to develop repair or mitigation recommendations. Classifying a soil disturbance as “excessive” does not mandate the closing of a timber sale or a forest road; however, actions should be taken, as appropriate, to minimize further soil disturbances.

Table 1. Thresholds for soil disturbances.

Timber Sale Infrastructure	Soil disturbances are excessive if:
Roads, Landings, Skid Trails, and General Harvest Area	A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and is resulting in channelized flow to a wetland, stream, or lake.
Roads, Landing, and Primary Skid Trails	In a riparian management zone (RMZ) or wetland, a gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more. In an upland area (outside of RMZ), a gully or rut is 10 inches deep or more and 66 feet long or more.
Secondary Skid Trails and General Harvest Area	A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more.

APPROVAL FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY TRAVEL

NAME: Macholl, Gravesen

DEPARTMENT: Forestry

Date of travel: June 4th

Location: Merrill, WI

Meeting Purpose: Wisconsin County Forest Association - Summer Tour

6 Staff Members

2 Forestry Committee Members

3 Vehicles

Registration Fee: \$\$

Estimated Meals: \$\$ 20.00

Estimated Lodging: \$\$

Miles @ .655cents: \$\$ 98 64.19

Other: \$\$

TOTAL \$\$ 84.19

COMMITTEE SIGNATURES:

Three to five signatures needed.

Report Criteria:

Detail report.

Invoices with totals above \$0 included.

Paid and unpaid invoices included.

Invoice Detail.GL account = "10052"-10054",10060"-10062",204"-206",10024450",1008056114000"-1008056114999",1005955201000"-1005955201999",10081"-10083",10085"-10089"

Invoice Detail.Created date = 03/13/2024-04/07/2024

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	GL Account and Title
AMAZON.COM	112-3032967-1	(10) CASE BATH TISSUE	02/28/2024	442.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	112-3153964-8	(4) CASE PAPER TOWEL	02/28/2024	140.76	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	112-5882771-1	(2) CHERRY URINAL DEODORIZER BLOCKS	02/28/2024	29.64	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	112-5882771-1	SHIPPING & HANDLING	02/28/2024	12.09	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	112-7332100-7	DISCOUNT	03/11/2024	22.09-	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
AMAZON.COM	112-7332100-7	BROADCAST SPREADER	03/11/2024	208.85	100-52-55201-349 PARKS & REC-WORKING SU
AMAZON.COM	9631443	WILLOWBROOK WHITE COTTON FRESH SCENTS	02/28/2024	18.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	9631443	WILLOWBROOK LAVENDER FRESH SCENTS	02/28/2024	18.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501001 0228	02/01/24-02/28/24 ACCT 17501001 MTHLY CHG	03/05/2024	51.77	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501005 0301	02/01/24-03/01/24 ACCT 17501005 MTHLY CHG	03/08/2024	48.66	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501006 0301	02/01/24-03/01/24 ACCT 17501006 MTHLY CHG	03/08/2024	54.10	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501008 0228	02/01/24-02/28/24 ACCT 17501008 MTHLY CHG	03/05/2024	58.76	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501009 0228	02/01/24-02/28/24 ACCT 17501009 MTHLY CHG	03/05/2024	48.55	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501010 0301	02/01/24-03/01/24 ACCT 17501010 MTHLY CHG	03/05/2024	61.11	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	72327 1	INSECT REPELANT	03/13/2024	11.69	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
OPENTIP	5393841	(2) 1" REPLACEMENT SHACKLES AUDIE PLAYGROUND	03/07/2024	20.28	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
OPENTIP	5393841	SHIPPING	03/07/2024	19.89	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
POINT & PAY LLC	9669 03202024	FEBRUARY 2024 57 CAMPSITE CHARGES	03/20/2024	84.50	100-52-55201-290 PARKS & REC-POINT & PAY
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	8102	MONTHLY NETWORK REPEATER MARCH 2024	03/01/2024	125.44	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	8102	CALLBOX DISPATCH RADIO	03/01/2024	35.84	100-52-55201-225 PARKS - COMMUNICATIONS
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930001281459	DECEMBER 2023 FORESTRY SHOP	11/25/2023	53.36	100-61-56111-216 FORESTRY- CONTRACT SER
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930001281459	DECEMBER 2023 CAMPGROUND	11/25/2023	233.04-	100-52-55201-216 PARKS & REC-CONTRACTE
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930001291482	JANUARY 2024 FORESTRY SHOP	12/25/2023	63.50	100-61-56111-216 FORESTRY- CONTRACT SER
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930001300662	FEBRUARY 2024 FORESTRY SHOP	01/25/2024	63.50	100-61-56111-216 FORESTRY- CONTRACT SER
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930001309201	MARCH 2024 FORESTRY SHOP	02/25/2024	63.50	100-61-56111-216 FORESTRY- CONTRACT SER
VERIZON WIRELESS	9958369442	02/05/24-03/04/24 ACCT 983216421-00001 MTHLY CHRGS 995836	03/04/2024	45.47	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO
XCEL ENERGY	865359901	01/03/24-02/04/24 ACCT 52-6703448-6 MTHLY CHRGS 109042323	02/15/2024	162.48	100-61-56111-229 FORESTRY- SHOP/ UTILITIE
Grand Totals:				1,686.61	