Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Monday February 8, 2016.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were: Arian Knops, Bob Nawrocki, Phil Schneider. Pete Boss arrived at 8:30 a.m., Jerry Biller absent.  
Also present: Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator, Pat Zimmer - DNR Liaison Forester and Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester.

Present from the Public: 
Bob Grunseth, George Sishman, Don Mansky

Approval of Minutes: 
Motion by Knops/Nawrocki to approve January 11, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment: 
Discussion on ATV use in Audie Lake Campground.

Derrick Jochimsen has accepted the DNR Liaison position and will replace Pat Zimmer who is now the regional DNR manager.

Timber Sale Contract, Closeout and Renewals: 
No Closeouts.

Gave a report on Active Timber Sales in Rusk County and update on Verso Corporation.

Timber sale #2425 – Kafka Forestry Product was sent a register letter informing him of the Forestry Committee’s decision on January 11, 2016 to close out, conduct a damage appraisal and confiscate bond for damages. Registered letter was returned by the post office undeliverable.

Discussion on the interest in Rusk County Timber Sale Contract. The DNR recommends the County’s timber sale contracts contain contradictory language regarding late payment of stumpage invoices. Section 9.E. states “Rusk County will charge 1 ½ % interest compounded monthly on all past due timber stumpage bills after 30 days. Line 57 states after each scaling payment for all timber scaled shall be made to the Seller at the office of the County Forestry Department within 10 days of said scaling. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement, and time is of the essence as to all payments required under this contract. Committee recommended taking the Timber Sale Contract to Rich Summerfield Corporation Council for review.

Paul presented two reports to the Committee, Stumpage report that affects the County Levy and a Timber Sale Activity report. Both reports have good information and the Committee would like the reports to be forwarded to the County Board.
2015 County Forest Annual Report:
The 2015 County Forest Annual Report was revised to include the Swanke Land Acquisition.

Motion by Knops/Nawrocki to approve the revised 2015 County Forest Annual Report and forward it to the County Board. Motion carried.

Forestry Technician Position:
Forest Technician Jon Henk has given a 2 week notice and will be leaving on February 12, 2016. Paul would like Committee approval to advertise and fill the position.

Motion by Nawrocki/Knops to advertise and fill the position for a Forestry Technician. Motion carried.

Swanke Land C.F. Block Road Maintenance:
Paul has been notified about the maintenance at the end of Dotson Road which is a private driveway. The cost of the maintenance was split by the land owners in the past. The Committee would like Paul to talk with all the land owners and Rich Summerfield, Corporation Council and put it back on the Agenda in March for discussion.

2015-2016 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Agreement:
Bruce Snowmobile Club has opened a new trail North of Bruce. Paul would like Committee approval to sign the Snowmobile Trail Grooming and maintenance Contract with the Bruce Club.

Motion by Nawrocki/Knops to sign the Snowmobile Trail Grooming and maintenance contract with Bruce Bluehills Trailblazers. Motion carried.

Serley Camp ATV Salvage Timber Sale:
Paul would like to clear Serley Camp ATV trail before breakup to extend the Trail. The Salvage Timber Sale will also include 2 loads of Oak Wilt trees from Contract #2425 sale. Lionel Klein is interested in cutting the Salvage Sale.

Motion by Knops/Schneider to Direct sell the Serley Camp ATV Salvage Timber Sale to Lionel Klein. Motion carried.

Review and Approve Bills:
Motion by Knops/Nawrocki to review and approve the bills. Motion carried.

Adjourn:
Motion by Boss/Knops to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be March 14, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.