The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:30 A.M., Monday, May 13, 2013.

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were:** Phil Schneider, Bob Nawrocki, Tony Hauser, Pete Boss and Jerry Biller. **Also present:** Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator: Terry Tappon – DNR: Randy Tatur – Rusk County Board Chairman: **Present from the Public:** Bob Grunseth, George Sishman, Lyndon Schance

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting and Adjustment of Agenda:**
Motion by Nawrocki/Boss to approve the Rusk County Land and Forestry April 8, 2013 meeting minutes and adjust the agenda as necessary. Motion carried.

**Review Bills:**
Motion by Boss/ Biller to review the bills. Motion carried.

**East Block ATV Trail Development Project:**
A meeting is scheduled for June 3rd with Dave Kafura DNR Water Regulation person, Carmen Hardin – DNR Forest Hydrologist, the Army Corp of Engineers and Paul Teska to go over Permits on the East Block ATV Trail Development. They will discuss storm water permits and the best way to route the trail to have the least amount of impact on the Wetlands.

**Public Comment:**
George Sishman – (Rusk Riders ATV Club) informed the Committee that the opening and closing date signs on the ATV Trails need to change to “Open the Friday of Memorial Day”. Discussion was held on the metal signs and what will be the most efficient way to change to the existing signs. Sishman placed an order with the Sign Shoppe and will put the signs up as soon as they arrive.

**Forestry Committee Minutes Protocol:**
Tony Hauser would like the Minute Protocol to include un-approved minutes posted on the Rusk County Website after the Chairman of the Committee approves them. Discussion on other Departments posting them on the County Website and reporting the minutes inaccurately when they are posted on the website without Committee approval.

Motion by Hauser/Boss to change the minute’s protocol to include un-approved minutes posted on the Rusk County website after Paul and the Chairman of the Forestry Committee approval. Motion carried.

**Timber Sale Bid Opening 9:00 a.m.:**
Motion by Hauser/Nawrocki to close the Timber Sale Bids at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Boss/Nawrocki to accept the apparent high bidders for all May 13, 2013 Timber Sale Bids received subject to Paul’s approval on Tract #5-13.

Motion by Nawrocki/Biller to Table the previous motion. Motion carried.
Timber Sales Contracts, Closeouts and Renewals:
Motion by Nawrocki/Biller to Close out and Cancel letter of Credit on Contract 2329 – Mike Olson and Contract 2368 – Ted Strzok after road is fixed. Motion carried.

Motion by Boss/Hauser to take motion off the table. Motion carried.

Original motion was defeated. Boss – no, Schneider – no, Nawrocki - no, Biller – no, Hauser – no.

Motion by Hauser/Boss to approve Timber Bids for May 13, 2013 individually. Motion carried.

Tract# 5-13 – Motion by Hauser/Boss to reject the bid because they did not follow bid specification (No liability Insurance on file). Biller – no, Nawrocki – no, Schneider – yes, Boss – yes, Hauser – yes. Motion carried.

Tract # 7-13 – Motion by Nawrocki/Hauser to accept Ted Strzok as the highest bidder. Motion carried.

Tract #8-13 – Motion by Hauser/Nawrocki to accept Vacho Trucking as the highest bidder. Motion carried.

Tract #9-13 – Motion by Hauser/Nawrocki to accept Ted Strzok as the highest bidder. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed direct sale policy on Tract# 5-13. Policy includes Timber Sales which have been advertised at least twice for Public Sale in separate bid openings, at least 30 days apart. They must be sold at or above current appraised value.

Recess: 9:42 a.m.
Re-convene 9:56 a.m.

Motion by Boss/Hauser to allow the Paul Teska the Forest Administrator to negotiate a direct sale per the Timber Sale Handbook and meet the policy on Tract #5-13 and sell direct to New Page Corporation. Motion carried.

Forestry Department Staff Vacancies/Resolution:
Paul informed the Committee that Personal has agreed to the wage increase as well as an increase in hours per week increased from 38.75 to 40 hours. A wage study was given to the Committee due to the turnover in the Forestry Department and an increase in wages would help Rusk County compete and keep employees. Pete Boss stated this proposal fits the realignment of the Personal wage study. Paul informed the committee that the Personal has signed the Resolution and Stumpage Revenue is being proposed to take care of budget issues. There would be a 1% increase for the Secretary/Bookkeeper position only on July 1st of this year.
Motion by Boss/Hauser to approve and forward the Realignment and Wage Adjustments for the Forestry Department Resolution to the County Board. Nawrocki requested roll call. Schneider – yes, Boss – yes, Biller – yes, Nawrocki – yes, Hauser – yes. Motion carried.

The Committee agreed to have Pete Boss and Tony Hauser serve on the Interview Committee.

**County Forest Gravel Pits: (Town of Wilkinson Request):**
The Town of Wilkinson has requested 7000 yards of Pit Run crushed for the use on their Town roads.

Motion by Nawrocki/Boss to approve Town of Wilkinson request for 7000 yards of Pit run. Motion carried.

**Contract 2331 – Stanley Nitek:**
Paul informed the Committee that Ernie Gerber from the Community Bank of Ladysmith and Stanley Nitek are attending the meeting concerning contract 2331 which is a four year old contract. This sale is 74 total acres with 50 acres of marked hardwood and 24 clear cut. Stanley has completed an estimate of 60 percent of the job and it is a winter only job with an estimated value of $23,725.00 which $16,535.00 has been cut. Stanley has requested that the Committee approve a Contract renewal at the original Contract price. A letter of credit has been issued by the Community Bank in Ladysmith in the amount $5,931.25. The Committee discussed the cost to re-advertise, the labor to re-mark the timber. Boss states that the County has a policy and that they should stick to it and not deviate from policy. Hauser suggests confiscating the Bond which would bring us closer to the estimated value of the Contract.

Motion by Boss/Hauser to deny Stanley Nitek’s request to renew Contract #2331 at the original stumpage amounts and to closeout Contract #2331, confiscate the bond from Community Bank of Ladysmith. Motion carried.

Ernie Gerber, Community Bank of Ladysmith stated he would have a check for $5,981.25 to Paul by the end of the month.

**Summer Parks Caretaker Position:**
Jim Knoll has been our caretaker at Josie for the last 5 years and would like to remain as caretaker for the 2013 summer at Josie Creek Campground.

Motion by Hauser/Nawrocki to have Jim Knoll remain the caretaker at Josie Creek Campground for 2013. Motion carried.

**Summer Intern Position:**
Drew Czyscon is the Summer Intern that Roy Zubroud - Parks Supervisor is recommending for 2013. He will be a 2nd year student at UW-Stevens Point studying Forestry.
Motion by Hauser/Boss to hire Drew Czyscon for the 2013 Summer Intern Position. Motion carried.

Paul reported that we received the Counties portion of the 2013 Sustainable Forestry Grant in the amount of $52,399.17 for the Serley Camp Trout.

Next month's Forestry Land and Water Committee meeting will have to be changed to June 7th.

**Adjourn:**
Motion by Hauser/Boss to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Motion carried.