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 Jasperson, 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 form 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.
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 10:21 a.m.

Motion by Nawrocki/Biller at 10:31 a.m to come out of Closed Session into Open Session. Motion carried.
Motion by Nawrocki/Biller to forward the Memo of Agreement for the Stewardship program Resolution and Stewardship Grant Application Resolution to the County Board. Motion carried.

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

**Adjourn:**
Motion by Knops/Biller to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.