The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:30 A.M., Monday August 12, 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, Phil Montwill – Rusk County Highway Commissioner, Pat Zimmer – DNR, Randy Tatur – Rusk County Board Chairman:

Present from the Public: Bob Grunseth, George Sishmann and Don Mansky

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:
Motion by Hauser/Boss to approve the Rusk County Land and Forestry July 8, 2013 meeting. Motion carried.

Adjustment of Agenda:
Motion by Hauser/Nawrocki to adjust the Agenda as necessary. Motion carried.

Public Comment:
Bob Grunseth reported the positive comments about the Rusk County ATV Trails at the Midwest Regional Meeting held on August 3rd in Weyerhaeuser.

Dave Williams and Bob Grunseth also attended the 2nd Annual WATVA meeting.

A letter was submitted by Bob Grunseth on behalf of the H.A.W.K. ATV Club withdrawing the request for the East Block ATV Trail Development Project. Discussion was held on the inaccurate statements in the letter that was submitted by Lyndon Shancer – President of the H.A.W.K. ATV Club and Bob Grunseth – Vice President of the H.A.W.K. ATV Club.

County Forest Roads/Gravel Projects:
Paul read off the following Gravel Quotes/Estimates:

**Weigor Road Gravel:** 1100 yards of Gravel Hauled and Spread
- Highway Department Estimate: $11.50 - per yard Total - $12,663.02
- Olynick: $8.47 – per yard Total - $9,317.00 (does not include grading)

**Perch Lake Gravel:** 400 yards of crush gravel
- Highway Department Estimate: $8.13 – per yard includes grading $3.15 – Stumpage Total - $11.28
- Golat: $10.00 – does not include grading

Paul’s recommendation is the Highway Department does both gravel jobs.
Discussion was held on the difference between bids and proposal. Boss would like the Committee to consider the track record of the current Commissioner and the Highway Department’s total bills have been lower than the estimate. Hauser has received complaints from contractors about the Highway Department getting the Counties jobs.

Motions by Boss/Schneider to have the Rusk County Highway Department do Weigor Road and Perch Lake Road County Forest Gravel Projects. Motion carried. Hauser – No

Paul gave an estimate to the Committee on crushing gravel for 5 years maintenance on the ATV trails that would save money. Currently there is 23 miles of existing trail that would need approximately 31,484 yards of crushed gravel. Paul would like to crush 7000 yards of Primary (2-4 inch breaker) and 12,000 yards of (1¼ crush gravel) for an estimated cost of $47,000.00 out of the Murphy Pit. This will serve the North and East part of the ATV trail. Paul is proposing we set this Non-Lapsing carry forward account from $30,000.00 from other County Forest Revenue. The Highway Department crushed from the W pit in 2013. Also transfer $17,000.00 from the County Forest Road Aid Levy for the Serley Camp Project. Paul got a 2013-2014 Sustainable Forestry Grant for this project. The gravel crushing account would be reimbursed at $10,000.00-$11,000.00 per year over the next 5 years when we put the material on the ATV Trail by ATV Trail Maintenance Grant. He would like to submit a request for the money to finance and approval by the County Board. Nawrocki would like to use the 2-4 breaker for the primary and 1 ¼ for crushed. Committee approved by consensus.

Motion by Nawrocki/Hauser to set up an account and Resolution for crushed gravel and submit it to the Finance Department and County Board. Motion carried

**ATV Trail Closing Dates:**
Paul suggested to the Committee to change the ATV Trail Closing Date from November 30th to December 31st or once the trail is groomed for snow, then the ATV’s can no longer run on the trails. Hunting season is a prime time for people to use their ATV’s and they no longer can run the trails due to the date. Paul and Bob feel that the ATV and the Snowmobile club should work together to figure out what the best closing date will be. The Date will be discussed with the Snowmobile Clubs and be brought back to the Committee for further discussion.

**Forestry Department Truck Bid Opening:**
Motion was made by Nawrocki/Boss to close out the truck bids. Motion carried

- Toycen of Ladysmith: 2014 ½ Ton 4x4 Extended Cab 6.5 Box Chevy Silverado
  - Buy - $27,606.16
  - Lease - 3 lease payments of $10,028.74.

- Link Ford & RV in Rice Lake: 2013 Ford F-150 Super Cab STX 5.0 L V-8
  - Buy - $25,482.00
  - Lease - 3 lease payments $9,184.83
  - Title, License or DOC fee $199.50 not included
Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
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Break: 9:55 A.M.
Return: 10:13 A.M.

Discussion was held on Lease or Buy and where the extra money would come from in Forestry’s Budget if the Committee would buy a Truck. If they Lease it would cost approximately an extra $2,400.00 over the bid to buy outright. If the Committee decides to buy a truck outright they would be approximately $7,000.00 short on funds in the Equipment/Truck Budget. The decision was to buy the truck and take the extra money needed to cover the purchase of the Truck from 2013 Stumpage Revenue.

Motion by Hauser/Biller to reject Link Brothers bid because they did not meet bid requirements. Motion carried.

Motion by Biller/Hauser to buy a 2014 ½ Ton Chevy Silverado 4x4 Extended Cab 6.5 Box from Toyen’s of Ladysmith and take money from Stumpage Revenue to cover extra money needed to cover the purchase. Motion carried.

2013 Camping Revenue:
The Committee was given a spreadsheet showing the 6 month revenue for all campgrounds for a total of $15,687.00. Paul reported theft going on at Audie Lake and Perch Lake. A total of $575.00 was stolen from the Campgrounds. A letter was given to the Committee complimenting the Josie Creek Campground and what a great job Jim Knoll the host is doing.

County Highway D Boat Landing Bid Opening:
one bid was submitted by VW Dock for $4,950.00, a 20 foot Steel dock with wood decking.

Motion by Biller/Hauser to accept VW Docks bid for $4,950.00. Motion carried.

Josie Creek Rifle Range Improvement Project Grant Application Resolution:
The project is for improvements for the Rifle Range to put in new covers and pour concrete. The grant is a ¾ grant and the total project cost is $20,000.00. September 1st is the deadline for the grant application.

Motion by Hauser/Biller to recommend the Josie Creek Range Improvement Project Grant Application Resolution to the County Board. Motion carried.

Bob Nawrocki was excused at 10:45.

National Forest Health
Paul informed the committee that this Resolution is to encourage proper Forest Management in the National Forest.
Motion by Hauser/Biller to send the National Forest Health Resolution it to the County Board. Motion carried.

**Timber Sales Contracts, Closeouts and Renewals:**
None

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

**2013/2014 Forestry Department Budgets**
Paul gave the Committee a copy of the Forestry Balances from the previous years. End of July Stumpage Revenue is at a litter over $650,000.00. 2013 is the poorest summer that the Forestry Department has had in Stumpage Revenue in a while.
The Following Changes to the Forestry Budget were made:
- 611 – State Aid Forestry – 810/Equipment (2014) $20,000.00 to $27,000.00
- 620 - Parks and Rec. - Line 216/Contracted Services (2013 estimate) $9,500.00 to $7,500.00
- 620 – Parks and Rec. – Line 216/Contracted Services (2014) $12,000.00 to $10,500.00
- 620 – Parks and Rec. – Line 229/Utilities (2013 estimate) $4,500.00 to $6,500.00

Motion by Hauser/Biller to recommend proposed Forestry Budget to Finance. Motion carried.

**Summer Tour Date:**
Summer Tour Date is set for September 25th at 8:00 a.m. at the Forestry Shop.

**Adjourn:**
Motion by Hauser/Biller to adjourn at 12:06 p.m. Motion carried.