The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:30 A.M., Monday, August 14, 2012.

Present from the committee were: Phil Schneider, Tony Hauser, Pete Boss, Bob Nawrocki and Jerry Biller. Also present were: Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator: Terry Tappon – DNR Forester, Rusk County Board Chairman - Randy Tatur.

From the public: Don Mansky, George Sihsman and Bob Grunseth.

Motion by Hauser /Biller to approve July 9, 2012 minutes with amendments. Motion carried.

Discussion held on how to record the Forestry Minutes. Pete Boss recommends that Phil Schneider and Paul Teska should address County Clerk Denise Wetzel about her concerns. Hauser recommends that Personnel should take a look at the situation. Bob Nawrocki wants minutes taken the way Forestry has been taking them so when the public reads them they know what’s going on. This same discussion was held on December 12, 2011 at a Forestry Committee meeting and the Committee wants Paul Teska to continue the way they have been done in the past. Paul Teska read the letter from County Clerk and voiced his concerns with the changes to the minutes.

Motion by Hauser/Biller to adjust the agenda as necessary. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

ATV Trail: George Sihsman reported that they are running out of ATV maps and the maps also need to be updated. Discussed conditions of the trails and what type of equipment is needed for repairs of ATV trail North of Weyerhaeuser. Bob Grunseth reported the biggest complaint from ATV riders is the sharp rock. Paul Teska recommended taking Phil Montwill, Rusk County Highway Commissioner, to get his recommendation on maintenance. October 8, 2012 is a tentative date to have a meeting with Carmen Hardin – DNR Forest Hydrologist, regarding ATV trail. Bob Grunseth gave the committee a copy of a map of the East Block proposed trail. Discussion held.

Opening Dates of the Trails: Jerry Biller would like to see the trails opened up 1 week earlier, Memorial Day Weekend, instead of June 1st. Paul Teska recommends to leave the date as is, due to traffic on the logging roads and spring weather. Bob Grunseth is recommending the Friday before Memorial Day weekend to open the trails. Paul Teska stated that if we follow Sawyer County and their opening dates we are becoming less restrictive. Grunseth/Sihsman in the past have noticed that most of the people that are going off the trails start in April and do not want to follow the rules. Discussion held.
Serley Camp ATV Trail/Road: Route rules need to be implemented before anything can be done. Paul Teska feels that ATV funds need to help with some of the expense.

George Sihsman: During “Leave it to Rusk” the end of September; their club will be giving guided ATV tours on the Bluehills ATV trail

ATV Spring Opening Date should be put on next month’s agenda.

Bob Nawrocki is concerned with the camping rates during the week being too high. In addition people have expressed concerns with campsites without electricity being too high. He would like to lower the fee during the week to get people to use the campsites. Paul Teska feels it might bring more people but may be hard to Administer with the reservation system and confuse the Public.

Campground rates should be put on next Agenda for next month.

Summer Tour: Paul Teska recommends the beach at Josie Creek should be closed as a beach and used for docking boats due to the beach being unfit. Phil Schneider is concerned with the water being safe.

Forestry Committee Summer Tour: On September 20, 2012, Paul Teska will be taking the committee on a tour of all sights that are of concern. Areas they will be looking at are ATV damage, parks and some Timber sales.

Access Permit: Doris Pickens SWSW 3-34-9 requested an access permit to her property off of W using logging roads. The permit grants her permission to upgrade the logging road at her expense. The permit is good until the County revokes her permit. The only time the road will be closed is March 15 thru June 1st of every year. Discussion held.

Motion by Hauser/Biller to grant the Access Permit to Doris Pickens SWSW 3-34-9. Motion carried.

Discussion on 2013 Forestry Budget.

Land Acquisition: Discussion held on the Land Acquisition Fund and the purchasing of County Forest Land in the Forest block.

Motion by Boss/Hauser to put 1% of gross stumpage revenue from the previous year into the Land Acquisition Account as a reserve fund which would not be a restricted fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Biller/Hauser to amend the 2013 ATV Trail Budget line c, to $29,226.00.
Motion by Schneider/Boss to amend line y in the Parks and Rec Budget from $41,248.12 to $42,219.88. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on Josie Creek Rifle Range Road/parking lot being blacktopped. Phil Schneider is concerned about putting a good base down to prevent the road breaking up due to water drainage.

Paul Teska brought to the Committee’s attention development of a beach, bathroom and a Pavilion at Community Park and the money the development is going to take. Discussion was held.

Discussed the bathrooms on Amacoy Lake and how they are kept up.

Paul Teska stated the Roy Zubroud our Parks Supervisor and the summer Intern Brent Sisko have done a great job this summer maintaining our Park Facilities including the bathrooms at Amacoy Lake.

Motion by Hauser/Biller to approve bills. Motion carried.

Motion by Hauser/Biller to adjourn.