The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Monday, August 18, 2015.

**Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were:** Phil Schneider, Arian Knops, Bob Nawrocki and Pete Boss. Jerry Biller - Absent

**Also present:** Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator, Steve Runstrom – DNR Forestry Specialist, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant County Forest Administrator

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

**Approval of Minutes:**
Motion by Knops/Nawrocki to approve July 6, 2015 meeting minutes and July 24, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**
None

**Timber Sale Contracts, Closeouts and Renewals:**

**TIMBER SALE #2425:**
July 6, 2015 – Letter went out
Timber Sale activities were suspended for the following Contract violations.
1. Ruts in violation of BMPs.
2. Operation in or near wetlands rutting or skidding in wet soils.
3. Gully or rut 6 inches deep and is resulting in channelized flow to wetland or stream.
4. Gully or rut that is 10 inches deep or more and is 66 feet long or more.

Tim agreed to build a new haul road South of Weigor road and a rock Ford across stream that has channelized flow to a wetland. This road and Ford would eliminate the damage occurring to the Weigor gravel County Forest Road.
As of July 28, 2015 it was dry enough to level ruts and build a new logging road.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTRACT #2425:**
Give Kafka until September 4, 2015 to correct all Contract Violations.
1. Level all Ruts
2. Stop the channelized flow/sedimentation into the small stream/wetland on the South side of the Weigor Road.
   (Rusk County will provide agreed upon fabric for Ford)
If Contract Violations are not corrected by September 4, 2015, Rusk County will closeout Contract #2425, do a damage appraisal and confiscate Bond for damages.

Motion by Knops/Schneider to support staff recommendation to Kafka Forestry LLC. Motion by Nawrocki/Knops to amend the first motion and change the deadline from September 4, 2015 to September 11, 2015. Motion carried. Original motion with amendment passed with Boss opposed.
Timber Sale Close outs:
- 2379 - Joe Dick/Ted Strzok, Close out and Cancel Letter of Credit.
- 2388 – S & S Forestry, Close out and Cancel Letter of Credit.
- 2414 – Tim Vacho, Close out and Cancel Letter of Credit.
- 2431 – Lionel Klein, Close out and return $3185.25 cash bond.
- 2438 – Hershey Forestry, Close out and Cancel Letter of Credit after final payment.
- 2442 – B & M Logging, Close out and return $2,000.00 cash bond.
- 2466 – Allen Suzan Logging, Close out and Cancel Letter of Credit.

Motion by Boss/Knops to close out contracts and return letter of credit/cash bond. Motion carried.

Contract #2486, Tract #16-15- Direct Salvage Sale – Lionel Klein to cut trees along the Serely Camp Road.

Motion by Boss/Knops to sell Direct Salvage Sale Contract #2486 to Lionel Klein. Motion carried.

Public Input/Information on Land Acquisition/County Forest Withdrawal:
Land Acquisition from Swanke Timberland LTD- 9:00 a.m.:
Paul informed the public (3 people) of the land Acquisition. They are in favor of the Land Acquisition.

Withdrawal of 200 acres of County Forest Land in Townships Murry and Wilkinson - No objection from the Public to the 200 acre withdrawal.

Hervas County Forest Road Project:
The County has a $110,000 grant from the State for the Hervas County Forest Road Project. The State has given Paul a letter of intent for an additional $40,000.00. The first $20,000.00 would be in grant form for 2015 and the second $20,000.00 would be in 2016. The County would have to front the money on the 2nd $20,000.00 if necessary and be reimbursed.

Motion by Boss/Nawrocki to accept 2 payments of $20,000.00 if necessary from the DNR for repairs of roads to the Township of South Fork and Cedar Rapids on or after July 2016. Motion carried.

Oak Wilt on Rusk County Forest Update:
No new Oak Wilt areas have been found in the County. The Oak Wilt trees on the Vacho Sale #2401 will be cut under the current Timber Sale Contract. The other area with heavy Oak Wilt is along the Moose Ear Creek. Paul is recommending a Direct Timber Sale to whoever he can find to cut. The Oak Wilt stumps will be sprayed with a herbicide to stop the spread of Oak wilt after the processor cuts the trees. Paul would like to sell a Direct Sale to help clean up Oak Wilt in any areas that Oak Wilt is found.

Motion by Knops/Boss to sell Direct Sales with Oak Wilt for the price Paul negotiates. Motion carried.
ATV Trail Rehabilitation Project Update:
7.39 miles of the ATV Trail Rehabilitation project has been finished and there is 2.35 miles East of F to do yet.

The ORV council meeting is August 25, 2015 in Weston, WI. Bob Grunseth, George Sishman and Mike Zimmer will be attending to present the Rusk County ATV projects.

2015-2016 Budget:
Discussion and changes were made on 2015-2016 Budgets.

Motion by Knops/Boss to forward 2015-2016 Budget to Finance. Motion carried.

WCFA Fall Meeting:
The WCFA Fall Meeting will be held in Trego WI on September 24 - 25, 2015. Phil Schneider and Paul Teska will be attending.

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

Adjourn:
Motion by Knops/Schneider to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 17, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.