

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AUGUST 27, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Chair Randy Tatur at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call. Present – 18. Excused – 0. Present: Boss, Biller, Hauser, Nawrocki, Knops, Lieffring, Swoverland, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Mai, Hulback, Willingham, Freeman, Platteter, Tatur. Corporation Counsel: Rich Summerfield.

Invocation by Ron Freeman of Keystone New Life Alliance Church.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Biller, District #2 Supervisor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gierke, second by Schmitt to approve minutes of July 30, 2013. Motion carried by aye vote.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Review and Approve Updated Joint Management Library Agreement: Motion by Platteter, second by Lieffring to approve. Discussion on what's been approved in past meetings, exceeding budget, funding and code book language needing revision. Roll call. Voting yes - 15. Voting no - 3. Voting yes: Swoverland, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hulback, Mai, Willingham, Platteter, Biller, Hauser, Knops, Lieffring, Tatur. Voting no: Freeman, Boss, Nawrocki. Motion carried by roll call vote.

PRESENTATIONS

CeCe Tesky, Land Conservation and Development Director updated board on current success of department consolidation and goals she has been working towards. RFP's have been sent out for surveyor to do remonumentation. WRA projects have been completed.

RESOLUTION #13-26 TO ALLOW ATTENDANCE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

WHEREAS, the County Board and Committees have meetings where individual members cannot attend physically due to personal commitments, but would like to participate; and

WHEREAS, the public expects and deserves representation of their elected County Board Supervisor at all Board and Committee meetings, especially when deliberating and voting on major issues effecting County residents and government; and

WHEREAS, the use of various electronic means of communication has become not only common practice in business and government, but accepted in the legal system as a means of conducting business; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is meant to address only those periodic unpreventable circumstances where Supervisors are unable to attend meetings, electronic attendance may only be used when approved by both the County Board Chair and Vice-Chair, with a tie vote constituting permission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that County Board members may attend all meetings via electronic means after having obtained approval as prescribed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk or recorder of the minutes at a committee meeting shall announce the nonphysical presence of a member using an electronic medium to participate at said meeting. The County Clerk or recorder of the minutes will have the minutes reflect the presence of the Supervisor as they come and go as if physically present. The voice of the absent member must be heard by all Board members present and the absent member must be able to hear all Board members present at the meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Supervisor attending a meeting by electronic means will not receive a per diem for the meeting.

Authority to amend Chapter 2 of the County Policies is hereby granted.

Submitted by the Finance Committee: S/Tatur.

Motion by Platteter, second by Knops to adopt. Discussion on advantages and disadvantages and confidentiality of closed sessions. Roll call. Voting yes - 5. Voting no - 13. Voting yes: Schmitt, Fisher, Platteter, Boss, Knops. Voting no: Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Hulback, Mai, Willingham, Freeman, Biller, Nawrocki, Hauser, Lieffring, Swoverland, Tatur. Resolution failed by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #13-27 PER DIEM FOR MONTHLY AMBULANCE SQUAD MEETINGS

WHEREAS, EMTs and Emergency Medical Responders are paid a per diem to attend their individual Squads monthly or quarterly meetings and;

WHEREAS, the Committees involved do not feel that the current per diem of \$6 is adequate, and;

WHEREAS, the adjustment to the 2014 Ambulance (250) budget will not affect the Levy, and has already been submitted to Committee for approval, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors, that the per diem for all Ambulance Department personnel to attend regular monthly Squad meetings be set at \$24.00.

Submitted by Emergency Services Committee: S/Knops, Pedersen, Willingham.

Motion by Pedersen, second by Lieffring to adopt. Discussion on low attendance at meetings due to current per diem and problems keeping qualified personnel. Schneider abstained. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #13-28 NATIONAL FOREST HEALTH

WHEREAS, Rusk County recognizes the tremendous importance of the lands contained within the 1.6 million acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) as an exceptional natural resource capable of producing a sustainable supply of timber products on an annual basis to provide forest health, economic, social, and biological benefits to the State of Wisconsin, as well as the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the health of the forest across the landscape has a direct effect on the sustainability of the communities in our County and across the Nation. The declining harvest on our National Forest lands has led to an array of forest health concerns. Forest health issues on National Forests often spread to adjacent lands including tribal forests, state forests, county forests and privately owned forestlands. Fire, forest pests and diseases do not adhere to ownership boundaries so reduced management on our National Forests increases forest health issues on adjacent forestland and endangers people who may live there; and

WHEREAS, declining forest health has resulted in huge costs associated with wildfire response as well as loss of value from degradation of timber quality and mortality of timber assets across our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the science of silviculture, through proven studies, has developed management strategies which provide for maintenance of forest health, forest value and forest quality through active forest health management (including timber programs); and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has forest data available to utilize the science of silviculture to determine the amount of timber that can be harvested from a forest on an annual and sustainable basis. This amount is known as the annual allowable harvest; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service currently utilizes the term Annual Sale Quantity(ASQ) which defines harvesting levels as determined by funding and staffing availability rather than utilization of scientific forest data; and

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WHEREAS, since there has been a Forest Plan on the CNNF the Forest has never sold the ASQ in the Forest Plan because of the complex analysis process the Forest Service must go through; and

WHEREAS, the CNNF has significantly reduced forest health treatments (including timber harvesting) over the past 10 years. Last year the CNNF harvested less than one half of the timber required to maintain forest health. Harvesting levels on the Nation Forest lands in both Softwood and Hardwood stands has been reduced significantly nationwide. For example, on the CNNF in Wisconsin with an ASQ of 131 million board feet per year, they have only averaged harvesting 58% of the ASQ. This translates to a long term impact on forest health and wildlife, reduced revenue to local communities from direct Forest Service payments and a significant reduction in raw materials needed to sustain our forest industry and local economy; and

WHEREAS, every 20,000 board feet of timber harvested provides enough raw material to sustain 1 job in our forest industry. Last year the CNNF failed to harvest 88 million board feet of timber available for harvest which could sustain 4,400 Wisconsin jobs; and

WHEREAS, Federal appropriations is a funding source that is utilized to meet forest health goals as well as other forest plan goals, and

WHEREAS, the percent of Federal appropriations utilized for active forest health management (including timber program) utilized on the CNNF is less than 30% of the total appropriations budget; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship contracting authority, as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill is an additional funding source that can be utilized to meet forest health goals as well as other forest plan goals; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship contracting authority is due to expire in 2013; and

WHEREAS, to formally research these issues the development of an AD Hoc research committee formally known as the Federal Sustainable Forest Committee (FSFC) was formed to make recommendations as well as develop solutions. This committee is comprised of members with a unique, diverse, experienced background including forest professionals from local, county and tribal governments as well as economic, industry, trade and environmental groups; and

WHEREAS, the FSFC Committee has proposed some initial solutions to improve forest health and benefit local economies which are hereby supported by this resolution, as follows

Therefore be it resolved, that by County Board Action, Rusk County, Wisconsin request the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to:

1. Change United States Forest Service (USFS) policy to maximize the health of forest at the landscape level by requiring USFS harvesting levels at the annual allowable harvest as determined through silvicultural prescriptions that can be supported by scientific means; and
2. Require forest health management (including timber programs) to be the highest priority in all management areas and change USFS policy to require forest units to provide detailed plans on how forest health management (including timber programs) will be funded through appropriations and the use of Stewardship Contracting receipts. This funding plan shall prioritize spending; and
3. Change USFS appropriation percentages earmarked for forest health management (including timber programs) to be at least 60% of the budget by 2015 with the requirement to harvest at least 80% of the annual allowable harvest in each forest; and
4. Take action to extend or make permanent Stewardship Contracting Authority; and
5. Change USFS policy to shift funding for non-forest health management programs (recreation, fire, wildlife, etc.) to Stewardship Contracting receipts or user fees by 2015; and
6. Require Forest Plan revisions to meet the directives listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this Resolution be presented to President Barack Obama, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Chief of the Forest Service Thomas Tidwell, U.S. Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson, Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator Ronald Johnson, Congressman Sean Duffy, Congressman Reid Ribble, Representative Dan Benishek, Senator Tom Casperson, Governor Scott Walker, each legislator in the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly who represents constituents from Rusk County, Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin County Forests Association, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and Nicolet College. We respectfully request that all entities that rely on the National Forest for recreation, commerce, employment, and energy production, approve and forward the same or similar resolution to your representatives, to safeguard the health and productivity of the natural resources and land that we all utilize.

Submitted by Land and Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Biller, Boss, Hauser.

Motion by Hauser, second by Nawrocki to adopt. Paul Teska, Forestry Administrator spoke on goal to encourage large national forests to practice good forest management. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #13-29 JOSIE CREEK RIFLE RANGE GRANT

WHEREAS, Rusk County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and;

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the project; and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Rusk County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition; and;

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Paul Teska, Rusk County Forestry Department to act on behalf of Rusk County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;

Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date;

Submit signed documents; and

Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisor's will comply with state or federal rules for the programs to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Submitted by Land and Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Biller, Boss, Hauser.

Motion by Boss, second by Schneider to adopt. Teska spoke on needed improvements and grant funding. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #12-32B AMEND 2013 BUDGET TO CREATE A FOREST GRAVEL CRUSHING ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, Rusk County maintains and develops ATV trails in the Rusk County Forest; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County could save money by pre-crushing gravel in the Murphy Gravel Pit; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Forestry department would receive ATV grant money to reimburse this account; and

WHEREAS, gravel revenue and funds originally levied for Serley Camp Road Repairs could be used as start-up funds for this account until reimbursement is available from the ATV grant to purchase this gravel; and

WHEREAS, at its August 12, 2013, meeting the Rusk County Forestry Committee approved presenting a resolution to the Rusk County Board of Supervisors to establish the Forest Gravel Crushing Account.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approves establishing a non-lapsing continuing appropriation account called County Forest Gravel Crushing Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approves amending the 2013 Budget as follows to establish this account:

Budget Page 618	<u>Original</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
100-80-56114-370 Gravel Crushing	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00
100-80-46821-000 Gravel Revenue	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
100-80-49100-000 Serley Camp Rd. Levy	0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
100-80-49200-000 Trans. From ATV	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
100-80-49900-000 To Carry Forward	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(11,000.00)</u>	<u>(11,000.00)</u>
Total Revenues	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00

Budget Page 612	<u>Original</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
100-82-56113-367 Serley Camp Rd. Rep.	17,000.00	0.00	(17,000.00)
100-82-56113-910 Trans. To Gravel Crush.	0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00

Budget Page 617	<u>Original</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
204-62-56112-366 ATV Trail Maint.	13,200.00	2,200.00	(11,000.00)
204-62-56112-910 ATV Trans. To Gravel	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00

Submitted by Forestry Committee: S/Tatur.

Motion by Biller, second by Boss to adopt. Teska explained gravel will be added at forest entry to ATV trails. Discussion on cost savings, grant funding, gravel pits and hauling. Roll call. Voting yes - 17. Voting no - 1. Voting yes: Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hulback, Mai, Willingham, Platteter, Boss, Biller, Nawrocki, Hauser, Knops, Lieffring, Swoverland, Pedersen, Tatur. Voting no: Freeman. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #13-30 PETITIONING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT AID

WHEREAS, Rusk County, Wisconsin hereinafter referred to as the Sponsor, being a municipal Body Corporate of the State of Wisconsin, is authorized by law (sec. 114.11, Wis. Stats.) to acquire, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, maintain, and operate an airport, and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor desires to develop or improve the Rusk County Airport, Rusk County, Wisconsin,

"PETITION FOR AIRPORT PROJECT"

WHEREAS, airport users have been consulted in formulation of the improvements included in this Resolution, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held prior to the adoption of this petition in accordance with Chapter 114.33(2) as amended, and a transcript of the hearing is transmitted with this petition, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Sponsor that a petition for Federal and (or) State Aid in the following form is hereby approved:

The petitioner, desiring to sponsor an airport development project with Federal and State Aid or State Aid only, in accordance with the applicable State and Federal laws, respectfully represents and states:

1. That the airport, which it is desired to develop, should generally conform to the requirements for a General Aviation type airport as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration.
2. The character, extent, and kind of improvements desired under the project are as follows: **Acquire/replace snow removal equipment;** drainage improvements; conduct wildlife study; airfield electrical; relocate windsock; obstruction surveys and obstruction removal; feasibility study for runway extension; land acquisition for runway extension; clear and maintain runway approaches as stated in Transportation Administrative Code Chapter 55; and any necessary related work.
3. That the airport project, which your petitioner desires to sponsor, is necessary for the following reasons: to meet the existing and future needs of the airport.

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the improvements petitioned for as listed will be funded individually or collectively as funds are available, with specific project costs to be approved as work is authorized, the proportionate cost of the airport development projects described above which are to be paid by the Sponsor to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary) to be held in trust for the purposes of the project; any unneeded and unspent balance after the project is completed is to be returned to the Sponsor by the Secretary; the Sponsor will make available any additional monies that may be found necessary, upon request of the Secretary, to complete the project as described above; the Secretary shall have the right to suspend or discontinue the project at any time additional monies are found to be necessary by the Secretary, and the Sponsor does not provide the same;; in the event the sponsor unilaterally terminates the project, all reasonable federal and state expenditures related to the project shall be paid by the sponsor; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor is required by law (sec. 114.32(5), Wis. Stats.) to designate the Secretary as its agent to accept, receive, receipt for and disburse any funds granted by the United States under the federal Airport and Airway Improvement Act, and is authorized by law to designate the Secretary as its agent for other purposes.

"DESIGNATION OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AS SPONSOR'S AGENT"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Sponsor that the Secretary is hereby designated as its agent and is requested to agree to act as such in matters relating to the airport development project described above, and is hereby authorized as its agent to make all arrangements for the development and final acceptance of the completed project whether by contract, agreement, force account or otherwise; and particularly, to accept, receive, receipt for and disburse federal monies or other monies, either public or private, for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of the airport; and, to acquire property or interests in property by purchase, gift, lease, or eminent domain under chapter 32 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and, to supervise the work of any engineer, appraiser, negotiator, contractor or other person employed by the Secretary; and, to execute any assurances or other documents required or requested by any agency of the federal government and to comply with all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations relating to airport development projects.

FURTHER, the Sponsor requests that the Secretary provide, per Section 114.33(8) (a) of the Wis. Stats., that the Sponsor may acquire certain parts of the required land or interests in land that the Secretary shall find necessary to complete the aforesaid project.

"AIRPORT OWNER ASSURANCES"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sponsor agrees to maintain and operate the airport in accordance with certain conditions established in Chapter Trans 55, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or in accordance with Sponsor assurances enumerated in a Federal Grant Agreement.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE Rusk County Board Chair and Rusk County Clerk be authorized to sign and execute the Agency Agreement and Federal Block Grant Owner Assurances authorized by this Resolution.

Submitted by Property Committee: S/Platteter, Freeman, Swoverland, Hauser. Motion by Platteter, second by Hauser to adopt. Andy Albarado, Economic Development Coordinator explained purpose of resolution. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

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APPOINTMENTS

ICAA Transit: Randy Tatur, Dave Willingham and Sr Lucy Daniels. Motion by Pedersen, second by Hauser to approve. Motion carried by aye vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Knops commended Dave Willingham for the exceptional job he did with previous County Board Supervisor, Tom Costello's eulogy.
Tatur advised he has a book of resolutions for review that will be addressed at the WCA conference.
Albarado Advised of Hospital retreat this Thursday night.
Freeman thanked everyone who volunteered help at the Jr. Fair

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Pedersen, second by Hauser to adjourn. Motion carried by aye vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Next meeting September 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Denise Wetzel, Rusk County Clerk
Bonnie Stoneberg, Chief Deputy Clerk