The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Monday, January 9, 2012. Present from the committee were: Phil Schneider, Tony Hauser, Pete Boss and Bob Nawrocki. Absent was Svoma. Also present were: Paul Teska, County Forest Administrator; Terry Tappon, DNR Forester; Randy Tatur, County Board Chair. From the public; Don Mansky, Bob Grunseth –Hawkins ATV Club.

Motion by Boss to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and adjust the agenda as necessary, 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.

Public Comment - Discussion on the Elk proposal from the December meeting.

Timber sale contracts close outs and renewals - Motion by Hauser to close out Contract # 2357 – Chris Hershey and cancel the letter of credit when final stumpage payment is made, 2nd by Boss, carried. Teska reported that there is not a high level of timber cutting activity at this time.

Motion by Hauser to approve the Parks and Forest Amendment Resolution and present to County Board, 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.

Linda Rome Property in the Town of South Fork. Sec. 30 in the County Forest Block. Is for sale through a Realty Company. Discussion held on properties for sale within the County Block. Committee is in agreement that the county should be working to get Stewardship Funding for purchasing land within the County Forest Block with the understanding that the county has to do a 50/50 match with stewardship funds. Land within the County Forest Block is eligible for Stewardship Funds.

Gonsowski/Thorson Property in the Town of Wilson. Discussion held on this property at the previous meeting. Teska performed a timber cruise on the property. Committee is in agreement that the county should be working to get Stewardship Funding for purchasing land within the County Forest Block.

East Block ATV Trail – Teska stated that he does not have much to report. There is a meeting being set up with the ATV Club and the DNR for some time in early February.

2011 County Forest Report - Committee went over, discussion held. Motion by Hauser to accept and present to County Board for approval, 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.

Motion by Hauser to approve the 10% payment to the towns, 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.

Timber Sale Billing Program - Teska has checked with other counties on what they use for their programs. Also Finance Dept. as a program that may be capable of doing what we need. Teska also talked with Manley our IT person to see if our current Xcel system may be capable of doing the compounding of the interest programs. If Manley cannot come up with that in a program, Teska would like to try the program the Finance Dept. uses. Committee agreed that this would be implemented with new sales. 30 days out and to charge 1.5% compounded monthly after 30 days. Motion by Nawrocki to purchase the software program from Civic Systems at a cost of $2,000.00 unless Manley can come up with an Xcel Program that will do what is needed, 2nd by Hauser, carried.

Bills were reviewed by committee.
CLOSED SESSION – Announced by Chair of Forestry Committee
For considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, WI Stats 19.85 (1) (c).

- Filing of Position of Assistant Forest Administrator
- Review other Dept. Staffing Concerns

Motion by Boss to go into closed session 2nd by Hauser: Boss – Yes, Hauser - Yes, Nawrocki – Yes, Schneider – Yes, Carried. Also in attendance, Randy Tatur.
CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Hauser to Return to open session, 2nd by Boss: Boss – Yes, Hauser – Yes, Nawrocki – Yes, Schneider – Yes, Carried. OPEN SESSION

Discussion on Crooked Creek Snowmobile Bridge.

Motion by Hauser to adjourn at 11:15 A.M. 2nd by Boss, Carried.