The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday January 16, 2019.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were: Phil Schneider, Jerry Biller, Lyle Lieffrin, Al Rathsack and Terry Dusell.

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager and Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester.

Present from the Public:
Bob Grunseth, Don Mansky, Rick Cote, George Sihsmann, Tony Hauser, Owen Martin, Jeff and Dana Eby.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Biller/Rathsack to approve December 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Tony Hauser spoke about bid specs on Snowmobile Bridge.

Parks Report:
Mike, Parks Manager gave an update on the following:
- The Rusk County Forestry Department was awarded $249,362.00 for the Wilson Meadow Trail ATV Grant.
- Aerators were started at Audie Lake
- Pavilion at Audie Lake will be demolished and rebuilt this summer.
- There is a meeting with Lisa Banker from DMI Studio’s on the Campground Reservation system.

Timber Sale Report:
Jerrad, Assistant Forest Administrator gave an update on active Timber Sales in the County.

Administrators Report:
Jeremy, Administrator gave an update in the Forestry Department:
- Marking has been going well with no snow.
- 15 year plan are due in 2020, changes in the plan.
- DNR time standard has been updated and hours have increased.
- USDA will be sending a beaver contract for 2019.
- Four wheeler has been purchased.
- Drone has been purchased with a Grant.
- Tracks are purchased and on.
- Jerrad’s truck is on its way to Milwaukee.
- Timber Sales that are 4 years old will have to be discussed in the spring.
- Yearend numbers for Timber Sales are just over 1.8 million, 1.09 million in levy reduction along with 600+ thousand dollars in recreation grants.
- Samples were sent in and tested negative for Oak Wilt pathogen.
Betty Lake Gravel Bid Opening 8:15 a.m.:
Rusk County Forestry Department received 5 bids for the Betty Lake Gravel Bid project. Bids are as follows:
- Russ County Highway $12.01 per yard $21,378.00
- Russ Thompson $8.03 per yard $14,285.00
- Olynick $7.63 per yard $13,581.40
- Jeff Antczak $9.25 per yard $16,465.00
- Ringer Bulldozing $9.42 per yard $16,767.60

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to accept Olynick Bid for $7.63 per yard $13,581.40. Motion carried.

Snowmobile Bridge, Main Creek, Bid Opening 8:30 a.m.:
Rusk County Forestry Department received 4 bids for the Main Creek Snowmobile Bridge project. Bids are as follows:
- Eby’s Welding $69,500.00
- CWI $68,000.00
- Anderson Bridges $56,000.00
- Custom Manufacturing Bridges $66,100.00

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve Anderson Bridges for $56,000.00 pending reference check. Motion carried.

Snowmobile Trails:
Potential Reroute – Discussion held on Hawkins reroute back to the original trail. Mike spoke with Ed Slaminiski, Grant coordinator from the State for guidance on project.

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to approve the Hawkins reroute. Motion carried.

Opening – County Forest Logging roads are open to snowmobiles when snow covered.

Review 2019 Forestry Budgets:
Reviewed the Budget

Review and Approve Bills:
Motion by Lieffring/Biller to review and approve the bills. Motion carried.

Adjourn:
Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to adjourn at 8:51 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be February 20, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.